

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Probation officer to be honored for work to prevent domestic violence

MINNEAPOLIS (May 16, 2011) WATCH will honor Hennepin County probation officer Jahmal Mattson with its 2011 Sheila Wellstone Gold WATCH.

When: Wednesday, May 18, 5 p.m. Program at 5:30

Where: Bar Lurcat, 1624 Harmon Place, overlooking Loring Park, Minneapolis

Every year the court-monitoring and research organization, WATCH, gives the Sheila Wellstone Gold WATCH award to an individual or organization demonstrating extraordinary leadership in the effort to end domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse.

The award is named for Sheila Wellstone, the wife of Senator Paul Wellstone, who died with him and others in a plane crash in 2002. Sheila was an early recipient of the Gold WATCH award and an ardent supporter of WATCH and other efforts to end domestic violence.

This year's recipient is Jahmal Mattson, a career probation officer for Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections, Adult Field Services Division.

Mr. Mattson began his career with the Community Corrections department in 1996, and has been a probation officer since 1998. In 2008, Mattson was selected to be the first felony agent to supervise a domestic violence caseload. He has served as a peer trainer and also on the Domestic Fatality Review Committee, where his knowledge and experience brought depth to the discussions about the supervision of offenders, issues around interaction with victims, and first hand knowledge of various domestic treatment providers.

He was nominated for the award by his supervisors, with enthusiastic support from others, including Hennepin County Public Defender, Jeanette Boerner, who wrote, "I have practiced criminal defense law for almost 20 years and I have rarely come across such an effective, diligent and dedicated probation officer. . . . Intense probation supervision has been proven to curb domestic violence and Mr. Mattson consistently provides this level of supervision. His commitment to preventing future domestic violence by providing clients with quality supervision and services is remarkable."

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Founded in 1992, WATCH's mission is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence against women and children, and to create a more informed and involved public. <http://www.watchmn.org>