

NEWSRELEASE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS GREG ABBOTT

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Attorney General Abbott Recognizes Austin Attorneys For Dedication To Texas Children

Dawn Baardsen and Martha Fitzwater named Assistant Attorney General of the Year

AUSTIN – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today recognized Dawn Baardsen and Martha Fitzwater for their commitment to Texas children. Baardsen, an assistant attorney general in the Child Support Division’s North Austin office, was named “Assistant Attorney General of the Year” for the 42-county region based in Austin. Fitzwater was selected “Assistant Attorney General of the Year” for the division’s main office also in Austin. Both Baardsen and Fitzwater received the honor Monday at the Statewide Assistant Attorneys General Conference in Austin.

“Through hard work and dedication, both Dawn and Martha have helped ensure thousands of young Texans have the child support they need to grow healthy and strong,” Attorney General Abbott said. “Dawn and Martha are committed and selfless public servants that stand out among their peers. We are grateful to both Dawn and Martha for their commitment to Texas children and the State of Texas.”



Deputy Attorney General for Child Support Alicia Key selected one assistant attorney general from each of the state’s eight child support regions and the main office in Austin. Recipients are chosen based on recommendations from their peers and supervisors, with a particular focus on employees who are willing to go beyond their normal duties to serve Texas children. Each recipient demonstrated a desire to help others and enhance the Attorney General’s Child Support Division.

Baardsen, who joined the Office of the Attorney General in 2005, is a graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law. She was chosen to be the region’s “Assistant Attorney General of the Year” because of the stellar customer service she provides to her co-workers and child support customers. She frequently receives kudos from both.

Baardsen's colleagues praise her passion for providing young Texans the financial and medical support they need and deserve.

"Dawn can always be counted on to get the job done in a competent and professional manner," said Rolando Ramirez, senior regional attorney. "Because of her integrity, intelligence and work ethic, she has progressed rapidly in the agency."

Fitzwater, who joined the Office of the Attorney General in 2006, graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law. She was chosen to be "Assistant Attorney General of the Year" because of her professionalism and helpful attitude. She can always be counted on to help out whenever there is a need.

Fitzwater's peers and supervisor commend her dedication to helping ensuring Texas children have the resources they need and deserve.

"Martha is the consummate professional and consistently places her clients' needs and schedules before her own," said Joe Fiore, managing attorney.

The Attorney General's Child Support Division offers an array of services to help families, including locating absent parents; establishing paternity for children born to unmarried parents; establishing, enforcing, and modifying child and medical support orders; and collecting and distributing child support payments.

For more information about the Office of the Attorney General and the child support services it offers, call (800) 252-8014 or visit the agency's Web site at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.