

# Employee Recognition



Debra Bingham



Benjamin Machado



Daniel Duann



Mike Horn



Don Turklay



Wilson Gonzalez



Jim Williams



Anitra Wheeler

During the past year, the staff of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) showed dedication to Ohio's residential utility consumers even when faced with the challenges of budget and staffing reductions. The commitment of the employees in case work, outreach and consumer assistance continues to drive the agency in fulfilling its mission and vision while adhering to its core values.

In addition, the giving attitude never wavered with the OCC staff, as was evident in the success achieved during the annual Combined Charitable Campaign, Operation Feed and a variety of other charitable events throughout the year.

The executive staff of the OCC selected employees monthly from September through August in an effort to recognize those who performed exceptional work on behalf of the consumers the agency represents. In addition, OCC staff selected one employee of the year from the employees of the month.

## 2011 Employee of the Year

### Debra Bingham

As the case team coordinator for the Electric and Water teams, Deb schedules meetings for the teams, formats legal briefs, filings, discovery, pleadings, testimony, and organizes case work for the teams. Deb, who joined the OCC in September 2005, was selected Employee of the Month for April 2011 and was selected Employee of the Year for 2010 – 2011.

### Benjamin Machado

Benjamin was the administrative assistant for the Operations Department until June 2011. As administrative assistant he assisted the director of Operations and the department with administrative responsibilities, including coordinating travel and training for all staff. Benjamin is bilingual and speaks fluent Spanish. He joined the OCC in February 2001 as a compliance investigator and was promoted to outreach & education specialist in August 2001. Ben was selected Employee of the Month for September 2010.

### Daniel Duann

Daniel is a principal regulatory analyst at the OCC where he analyzes and reviews utility applications and prepares testimony on various issues presented in electric, natural gas and water cases and other regulatory proceedings and legislation in Ohio. Daniel was conferred by the Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts in April 2011 as a certified rate of return analyst and is OCC's main resource on financial issues for cases. He joined the OCC in January 2008. Daniel was selected Employee of the Month for October 2010.

### Mike Horn

As the network engineer, Mike is responsible for ensuring the OCC staff is able to perform their work on agency computers and have access to the technology they need to help utility consumers. He joined the OCC in April 1999 as the network administrator and was promoted to network engineer in July 2001. Mike was selected Co-Employee of the Month for November 2010.

### Don Turklay

Don was the network administrator for the OCC until August 2011. He was responsible for network maintenance, desktop and software support, database administration, software development and he is a certified OnBase administrator. He joined the OCC in January 2008. Don was selected Co-Employee of the Month for November 2010.

### Wilson Gonzalez

Wilson, a senior energy policy advisor, provides the OCC with extensive expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy, distributed generation and smart grid technologies. He has given expert testimony in many electric and natural gas cases on the benefits of resource planning. Wilson also serves as the leader of the Resource Planning Team. Wilson joined the Ohio Consumers' Counsel in 2004. He was selected as Employee of the Month for December 2010.

### Jim Williams

Jim serves the OCC as the senior consumer protection research analyst. In his role, Jim is responsible for researching consumer protection issues and advocates for improvements in proposed laws, tariffs and company procedures. He

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Bill Ferriot



Wade Kinney



Jody Kyler



Mack Thompson



Justine Wasmus



Bruce Hayes



Greg Slone

also specializes in researching segments of Ohio's residential population including low-income, seniors and others to ensure utility rules adequately protect those clients. Additionally, Jim provides expert testimony and serves the agency as a witness in litigation as needed. He joined the OCC in 1996 as a compliance specialist, was promoted to consumer services division manager in 2000 and moved to his current position in November 2008. Jim was selected as Employee of the Month for January 2011.

## Anitra Wheeler

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Anitra was a compliance investigator with the OCC until June 2011. In her position she educated consumers about various issues regarding regulated utilities, investigated and resolved consumer complaints and concerns, identified consumer issues, made recommendations for action, and negotiated informal resolutions with utility companies. She joined the OCC in June 2010. Anitra was selected Employee of the Month for February 2011.

## Bill Ferriot

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Bill is the communications graphic design coordinator where he oversees the design of the agency's internal and external publications, relying on his extensive background in graphic design and marketing where he has received numerous awards from the Business Marketing Association. He also takes many of the photographs used in OCC publications. Bill joined the OCC in October 2009. He was selected Employee of the Month for March 2011.

## Wade Kinney

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As an inventory control specialist, Wade is in charge of all inventory at the OCC. He also is responsible for mail, pick-up and deliveries, including PUCO filings and for ordering supplies. Wade joined the OCC in 1984. He was selected as Employee of the Month for April 2011.

## Jody Kyler

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Jody was an assistant consumers' counsel where she focused primarily on federal electric cases until June 2011. She began as a legal intern at OCC in April 2009 after completing an internship through The Ohio State University Federal Work-Study Program that started in October 2008. Jody was selected as Co-Employee of the Month for May 2011.

## Mack Thompson

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Mack Thompson was a senior energy policy analyst until September 2011. In his position he advised the OCC in federal electric cases, including matters before the U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional transmission organizations (PJM and MISO). He was the federal electric team leader, a member of the electric team and a resource for the federal gas and resource planning teams. He joined the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel in December 2010. Mack was selected as Co-Employee of the Month for May 2011.

## Justine Wasmus

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As the administration manager, Justine is responsible for managing accounts payable, telecommunication issues and the office's fleet of vehicles. In addition, she purchases equipment for the OCC and prepares budget reports. She joined the OCC in May 2010. Justine was selected Employee of the Month for June 2011.

## Bruce Hayes

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Bruce works as a principal regulatory analyst for the OCC. In this role he represents the OCC at meetings of state and federal agencies and at hearings and conferences. He also prepares written reports, presents speeches and oral reports, and organizes, directs and conducts studies, analytical work and special investigation regarding utility issues. He joined the OCC in February 2002. Bruce was selected as Employee of the Month for July 2011.

## Greg Slone

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Greg is a senior energy analyst at the OCC. He participates on the electric, natural gas and resource planning industry teams, provides technical assistance regarding various energy issues and represents the OCC at meetings of federal, state and local agencies. He also prepares written reports, organizes and conducts studies, analytical work and special investigations regarding utility issues. He joined the OCC in May 2010. Greg was selected as Employee of the Month for August 2011.