Collin County
Going the **E**xtra **M**ile (**GEM**) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Lori (First Name) K. (Middle Initial) Belyus (Last Name)

Honoree's Job Title: Court Coordinator

Department: 429th District Court

Years of Service with the County: 14

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

Lori has instituted a new procedure for our jury trial dockets to further improve the Court's efficiency. At the 6 week mark and 3 week mark prior to the jury trial week, Lori contacts each case with reminders about the TRCP's and the Court's pretrial requirements, and she inquires about the details of mediation, including the date, the mediator, and the results. She provides a copy of our pretrial worksheet so that attorneys know precisely how to prepare for the upcoming conference. This has proven to be an effective tool for the Court as it compels the attorneys to better prepare for their setting and to keep the Court informed of the case status. Just Lori's reminder of an upcoming trial setting often provides the motivation for parties to settle their case. To illustrate, of the 8 cases that Lori contacted on 9/2/2026 about their upcoming trial, 5 of those cases announced settlement between the date of that email and their pretrial conference. This allows the Court to focus more time on those cases that absolutely need a trial setting.

Approved by elected official or department head on the 29th day of September ,20 26

Jill Renfro Willis
Signature of Elected Official
Or Department Head

Judge Jill Renfro Willis
Printed Name