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Dear Human Rights Commission and The Norman City Council,

I would like to nominate The Honorable Michael Tupper for the 2023 Human Rights Award. Judge Tupper is the presiding Judge for the Cleveland County Adult Treatment Court.

He also presides over graduation ceremonies for the program. At the most recent graduation, held in May of this year, the five graduates totaled eighteen hundred days of sobriety, avoided forty two years of prison and saved taxpayers \$748,000. Since the Cleveland County Adult Treatment Court's inception in 2000, the Court has graduated one thousand clients.

Judge Tupper coordinates services with The Virtue Center, The Community Mental Health Center, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and probation and law enforcement officers to provide individualized, evidence based treatment plans for the clients in the Adult Treatment Court. The Cleveland County Adult Treatment Court's program is designed to be completed in fifteen months but participants can remain up to thirty six months if they experience setbacks, such as failed drug tests or missed court dates.

Every Saturday, Michael Tupper takes Wellness Court clients jogging around Andrew's Park. Their participation affords them points toward their advancement through the treatment program. This experience is not a requirement but an opportunity for participants to be held accountable for their choices and to participate fully in their own recovery.

The Honorable Judge Michael Tupper knows that the Cleveland County Adult Treatment Court is not an easy program for the participants. He offered these words of inspiration to the runners . . .

"This is a hard program. There is no guaranteed cure. You just have to work at it. Many events such as this are run on roads but this race is not, rather this course follows grassy, hilly trails for a reason. Recovery from addiction is very much like the course we are about to follow – ups and downs with possibility of losing one's footing along the way. We might stumble but the challenge is to overcome such obstacles and finish the race."

My nominee, The Honorable Judge Michael Tupper, provides inspirational leadership and dedication of his time and resources to the clients of the Cleveland County Adult Treatment Court both in his role as presiding judge and as a personal advocate for their success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.