16th Judicial Circuit
County of Kane
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT K. VILLA
KANE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Alexandra Tsang Receives the 2026 Liberty Bell Award

St. Charles, IL – November 11, 2026 – Dr. Alexandra Tsang, Director and Chief Psychologist of the Kane County Diagnostic Center (KCDC), received the Kane County Bar Association's (KCBA) prestigious Liberty Bell Award on November 4, 2026, at the Awards & Architecture event held at the Kane County Courthouse. Dr. Tsang was first announced as this year's recipient at the KCBA Annual Dinner on June 18, 2026.

This nationally recognized award is bestowed on a non-attorney individual or community organization who has promoted a better understanding of the law, encouraged greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, and contributed to good government within the community. The Liberty Bell Award was endorsed by the American Bar Association in 1964 for local and state bar associations to present nationwide.

Dr. Tsang said upon receiving the distinction, "I am honored and humbled to receive the Liberty Bell Award. Although my name is on the award, the contribution it recognizes is shared by the KCDC staff. Forensic psychology work usually happens behind the scenes, and this award brings visibility to the vital role it plays in our court system."

Dr. Tsang was nominated for the award by 16th Judicial Circuit Judge Christine Downs. "In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of Dr. Tsang and the KCDC, Dr. Tsang has made herself available in big and small ways to educate the community, the judiciary, attorneys, and the public about the intersection of mental health and the justice system," Judge Downs said. "She is an active part of specialty courts. She is an excellent role model for all those who work for her, and encourages their participation in the justice system as a whole."

Established in 1975, KCDC is a team of forensic psychologists who work directly with the 16th Judicial Circuit, and it is one of the only court-embedded diagnostic centers of its kind. Its work is ordered by a judge to help the court understand the people coming through the system. By identifying issues such as unaddressed trauma or addiction, KCDC can recommend specific treatments to the judge, like EMDR for trauma.

Dr. Tsang's impact extends well beyond the courthouse. She is a certified Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) instructor and has presented to local police departments since 2010. She has also served on the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force and Hostage Negotiations Team. She consults with Judges, the State's Attorney and Public Defender's Offices, and members of the private bar, and has presented to the Illinois State and Kane County Bar Associations.

KCDC recently earned accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA), a seven-year effort that Dr. Tsang calls the "gold standard" for the field. The center now plans to expand regionally, growing its internship program and physical space so it can provide evaluations for neighboring communities that lack these resources.

"Dr. Tsang's dedication to our justice system and community makes her an ideal recipient of the Liberty Bell Award," says Judge Downs.

To learn more about KCDC, visit https://diagnosticcenter.kanecountyil.gov/.

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Captions (photos attached to email):

Kane County Diagnostic Center Director Dr. Alexandra Tsang is presented with the 2026 Liberty Bell Award by the Kane County Bar Association's immediate past president, Robert Kuehl, at the Awards & Architecture event on November 4, 2026.

Dr. Alexandra Tsang, Kane County Diagnostic Center Director, pictured with the 2026 Liberty Bell Award. The award is given each year by the Kane County Bar Association to a non-attorney who has helped promote a better understanding of the law and contributed to good government within the community.