

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Marcia Travis
Court Resource & Program Specialist
Oakland County Circuit Court
Phone: 248-858-0296

Oakland Circuit Court's Erin O'Brien Named as Coach of the Year

Oakland County, MI (July 12, 2007) – Erin O'Brien of the Oakland County Circuit Court has been chosen as the *2006 Age Group Developmental Coach of the Year* by the USA Synchro (United States Synchronized Swimming, Inc.). The award is given to a coach of a swim club who develops athletes into final events for the U.S. Age Group. Erin, who guided the Troy Synchro Sharkettes to compete in U.S. Age Group meets, was presented the award at the 2007 Synchro Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships in Oxford, Ohio, on June 26.

"I am truly honored to receive the 2006 Age Group Developmental Coach of the Year Award from USA Synchro Swimming," Erin stated. "Much of our club's success is due to very supportive parents, dedicated and driven athletes, as well as talented coaches. We are very fortunate."

The Sharkettes swim club, founded in 2003 by Coaches Erin O'Brien and Olga Kouznetsova, draws swimmers from Troy, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Grosse Pointe, and Detroit. Girls between the ages of 11-16 practice at the Troy Athens High School through a class offered by Troy Continuing Education. This year, nine swimmers from the club qualified to compete at the 2007 Esynchro U.S. Age Group National Championships in four age groups: 11-12, 13-15, 16-17, and 18-19. The event was held in Oxford, Ohio, from June 23 through June 30. Erin's Sharkettes took 1st place in the nation for the 13-15 age group in solo and figures, 7th for duet, and 8th in trio. The club has been selected to represent the United States at the 2007 Comen Cup in Geneva, Switzerland, in August.

- more -

Erin began synchronized swimming at the age of seven and has had a successful career as a swimmer ever since. As a junior athlete, she competed in the U.S. Age Group Nationals and the A.A.U. Junior Olympics where she earned medals in duet, trio, and team events. She went on to swim for the University of Michigan where her team came in 4th in the U.S. Collegiate Championships in 1992. Over the past 7 years, she has continued to swim at the Masters level in the Michigan Synchro Masters and placed in the top three in figures, solo, duet, trio, and team at the U.S. Masters Championships.

Erin has been actively involved with United States Synchronized Swimming, Inc. as the Administrative Chairperson, Michigan Association (2003-04, 2005-07); Official Chairperson, Michigan Association (2002-03); and Certified Judge, Region B (Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois); Troy Athens High School as head coach to the Women's Varsity Synchronized Swimming Team (2002-present), MHSAA State Championships – Second Place Overall Team (2003-04); and Troy Continuing Education as Instructor – Synchronized Swimming (2004-present) and Counselor – Synchronized Swimming Summer Day Camp (2004-05).

Erin, a graduate of Michigan State University College of Law (formerly Detroit College of Law) and new mother to baby Charlotte Elizabeth, born this past May, has 11 years experience working for the Oakland County Circuit Court. She currently serves as judicial staff attorney to the Honorable Joan E. Young.

###

An electronic photograph of Erin O'Brien is available. For a copy, please contact Marcia Travis at travism@oakgov.com