



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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ORTIZ RE-ELECTED TO SECOND TERM AS CHIEF JUDGE

A unanimous vote by the circuit judges has granted Jorge Ortiz a second term to serve as Chief Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit. On January 1, 2017, Judge Ortiz will have completed his first year as chief judge and, as of January 2, 2017, he will begin his second term. "It has been a busy and interesting six months of my first term," said Ortiz, "and I am honored to have the confidence of the other circuit judges to continue to serve in the leadership role as chief judge."

Included among his goals during his term as Chief Judge, Judge Ortiz refers to access to justice. "If we are to provide true and meaningful access to justice for all, courts must adapt to societal changes and emerging trends. In addition, we must provide appropriate facilities, implement a state-of-the-art case management system and apply use of cutting-edge technology," Ortiz commented. "I am happy to report that some of these projects are currently in progress, for example, the construction of the new criminal courts tower and the improvements at the court facility at the Depke Juvenile Complex located in Vernon Hills. Other projects are forthcoming."

Judge Ortiz was appointed associate judge in 2002. In August 2008, he was appointed circuit judge by the Illinois Supreme Court, and was successfully elected circuit judge of the sixth subcircuit in the 2010 general election.

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Pursuant to local court rules, the election of a chief judge shall occur on or before the 30th day of June in the year preceding the year that the circuit judge begins his/her term. The term commences on the first Monday of January and is for one year. The election of Judge Ortiz as Chief Judge for a second term took place earlier this week.

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