



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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Date of Release: March 1, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

VOLUNTEER JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN ONE BOOK, ONE JUDGE, ONE GOAL

In continuance of the Illinois Judges Association's (IJA) literacy initiative, spearheaded by Associate Judge Elizabeth M. Rochford, and in conjunction with the annual February celebration of the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, the Lake County Judges participated in a judicial reading project; focused on K-4 classrooms across the county. The program sent judges into classrooms to read *Abe Lincoln's Hat* with the students. One Book, One Judge, One Goal was started by Second District Appellate Court Justice Mary S. Schostok during the term of her IJA presidency, and has enjoyed growing momentum over the past five years.

One Book. *Abe Lincoln's Hat*, by Martha Brenner, is a delightful account of the personality and adventures of Abraham Lincoln and reveals a secret about what he stored inside his famous, tall black hat. The book reminds the judges and the students that Lincoln continues to be relevant, human, and inspiring.

One Judge. Participating judges made one-time appearances in classrooms across Lake County as guest readers in their judicial robes. The engaging story served as a perfect launch to discussions about history, law, and books.

One Goal. The goal was simple, engage the members of the judiciary with primary grade students, to promote literacy and education. It has proven to have a powerful impact on the education of students across the county and state.

During the month of February, the 19th Judicial Circuit had 13 volunteer judges distribute 750 books to classrooms around Lake County. The books were purchased by the Illinois Judges Foundation; approximately 5,000 books have been distributed since the program's inception in 2014.

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