



News Release

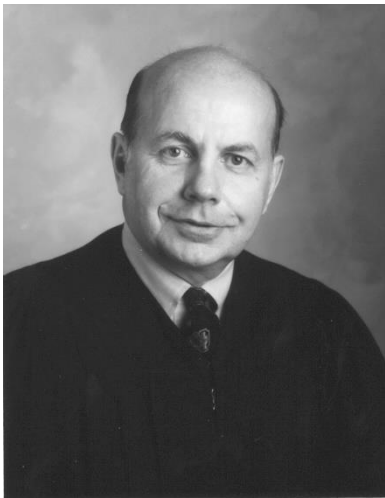
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Lake County
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Waukegan, Illinois

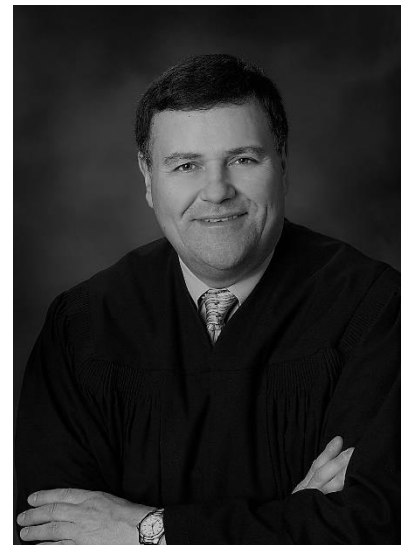
CHIEF JUDGE'S STATEMENT ON RECENT PASSING OF TWO RETIRED 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGES

I regret to announce the recent passing of former Chief Judge Bernard E. Drew, Jr. and retired Associate Judge Michael J. Fritz on November 1 and October 23, respectively.



Judge Drew was appointed Associate Judge on July 15, 1975 and was elected Circuit Judge on December 3, 1984. He served as Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, which was then comprised of Lake and McHenry Counties, from December 1988 until November 1990. Judge Drew retired from the bench on December 31, 1999. Bernie was a respected jurist, dedicated family man, and loved coaching youth football. He was also known for his wry wit and dry sense of humor. [Please read Judge Drew's obituary here.](#)

Judge Fritz was appointed Associate Judge on October 14, 1986 and served the people of Lake County until January 5, 2007. Mike was a hard-working, knowledgeable, and fair jurist. He was a committed family man and an active member of his church and community. [Please read Judge Fritz's obituary here.](#)



Judges Drew and Fritz will be greatly missed, and we are grateful for their service. On behalf of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Drew and Fritz families.

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