



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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Point of Contact: Kasey Dunn Morgan
847-377-3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FORMS TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFELY RESUMING JURY TRIALS

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit has formed a task force of criminal and civil judges to make recommendations as to how jury trials will resume, and what protocols will need to be put into place in light of Coronavirus health restrictions. The task force is studying best practices from the National Center for State Courts, as well as consulting state and national jury trial experts in order to develop appropriate procedures to meet the current health crisis.

Task force members include co-chairs Circuit Judge Victoria Rossetti and Circuit Judge Mitchell Hoffman, Circuit Judge Daniel Shanes, Associate Judge David Brodsky, and Associate Judge George Strickland.

“Promoting public trust and confidence is paramount for the courts. Jury trials are the cornerstone of our democracy, and therefore we want to assure our citizens that we are and will continue to consider their health and safety before we issue any future jury summonses,” said Circuit Judge Victoria Rossetti.

The task force will develop temporary policies for jury trials that will safeguard due process, while also ensuring the safety of all parties involved including jurors, attorneys, court staff, and members of the public. Potential procedures will be reviewed with the guidance of state and local health department officials.

Additionally, the task force is reviewing the timeframe for the resumption of jury trials. Presently, no jury summonses are being issued. Consideration will be given to the unique challenges of each type of trial during the evaluation and recommendation process.

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