



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

Chief Judge Fred Foreman to Retire January 2014

Chief Judge Fred Foreman has announced he will be stepping down as Chief Judge on January 6, 2014 and retiring on January 20, 2014. "Judge Foreman's service to the 19th Judicial Circuit and its citizens is unparalleled," said Judge Phillips, "and he will be sorely missed." Judge John Phillips was elected Chief Judge by his fellow Judges on December 2, 2013 and will succeed Foreman on January 6, 2014.

Judge Fred Foreman was elected as a circuit judge in 2004. He presided over the felony call in Courtroom 204 from 2004 - 2012 and served as Presiding Judge of the Felony Division from 2008 - 2010. Judge Foreman was unanimously elected as Chief Judge on December 1, 2011 for a term to commence on May 1, 2012 and re-elected for a second term on December 17, 2012 to commence on May 1, 2013.

Prior to his election to the Circuit Court of Lake County in 2004, Judge Foreman had 30 years of experience in civil and criminal litigation in State and Federal courts. Judge Foreman's experience includes trials involving antitrust, securities, RICO, environmental, constitutional law, civil rights, fraud and murder. Judge Foreman has extensive experience in advising clients on matters pending before State and Federal regulatory agencies and has successfully assisted clients in passing legislation before the State Legislature and the United States Congress. He has supervised numerous corporate internal investigations and represented clients throughout the world on matters of espionage and electronic intrusions and theft of intellectual property.

As United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois from 1990-1993, Judge Foreman supervised the prosecution of major frauds, public corruption, environmental and complex litigation and defended the United States in complex civil matters. Judge Foreman's experience includes the prosecution of organized crime, terrorism and narco-terrorists. As State's Attorney of Lake County from 1980-1990, Judge Foreman was elected to three terms and supervised the prosecution of major civil and criminal matters. Judge Foreman was also the lead outside counsel on behalf of the State in *State of Illinois v. Philip Morris et al.* and has served as special counsel in representing the Governor and other State Officials and State Agencies. His experience included representation of witnesses before Federal and State grand juries as well as several high profile public corruption investigations.

“The 19th Judicial Circuit and Citizens of Lake County are fortunate to have a Chief Judge with Judge Phillips experience and management skills. He enjoys an excellent reputation in the legal community,” said Judge Foreman.

Judge Phillips inherits a full agenda of projects started or completed during Judge Foreman’s term as Chief Judge. They include:

- The approval of a new Criminal Courts Tower adjacent to the Courthouse in downtown Waukegan, scheduled for completion in 2017;
- The implementation of Intensive Case Management (ICM) in the Criminal Division to reduce the number and length of continuances in felony cases, provide for expedited DNA and scientific testing of evidence and reduce the time an offender is housed in the Lake County Jail;
- The establishment of the Executive Justice Council (EJC) chaired by the Chief Judge and composed of all the stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System designed to address funding, case management, jail population, technology, court security and related issues;
- The implementation of the Illinois Supreme Court’s Project for Cameras in the Courts in Lake County;
- In conjunction with the Circuit Clerk, the commencement of E-Filing of court documents in civil cases, public access to court records and the implementation of a new case management system for the courts;
- A reorganization of the Chancery Division and Family Division to expedite the disposition of cases;
- The expansion of mediation in mortgage foreclosure, small claims and civil cases;
- The completion of a new Jury Orientation Video to assist citizens called to perform jury service.

“The Lake County Courthouse has been a second home for me since I started working as a law clerk in the Lake County Public Defender’s Office in 1973. As Lake County State’s Attorney I was part of the team that planned the Babcox Justice Center in the 1980’s and look forward to the construction of the new Criminal Courts Tower. These projects are an economic boost to Waukegan and Lake County and will ensure further development of the business and legal community on our lakefront,” stated Foreman.

“I am confident Judge Phillips and my fellow Circuit Judges will continue the excellent working relationship we have had with the County Board, Sheriff, State’s Attorney, Circuit Clerk and other stakeholders in Lake County’s system of justice.”

“Whether you are the Chairman of a Lake County business or an indigent defendant, you should expect the same access to justice and fair treatment when you have to attend court.”

Judge Foreman will continue to reside in unincorporated Gurnee with his wife Stephanie. He will continue to be involved in charitable and pro bono legal projects and spend more time with their three grandchildren.

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