

News from the Judicial Operations Division: Fact Sheet

Last update: May 2017

The Judicial Operations division focuses on the daily operations of the court. The division provides support and guidance in the areas of trial court operations including alternative dispute resolution, caseload management, court reporters, court interpreters and general office support. Other key areas of the division include the jury commission, law library and children's waiting center.

- ◆ Lake County offered an early retirement option (ERO) at the end of 2016 and several Judicial Operations employees took advantage of that option. As a result, several vacancies occurred and some still remain vacant at this time.

One of the individuals taking the ERO was the former Kids' Korner Coordinator. Mary (Sue) Hrycyniak who had worked in Kids' Korner for the past ten years applied for the vacancy and took over as the new Coordinator at the beginning of the year.

Sue's promotion to Coordinator left a vacancy in the Kids' Korner staffing which was subsequently filled by Stacy Dahms. Stacy had been working as a part-time staff person in Kids' Korner for the past four years.

To fill Stacy's position, Monica Parra was hired and began as the part-time staff member in Kids Korner in February of 2017.

Sarah Diaz joined the Judicial Operations team as a full-time member of the Interpreters unit in March 2017. Sarah was previously a contract interpreter for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit and was hired after the previous interpreter retired in December of 2016 under the County's ERO.

The Assistant Director of Judicial Operations also took advantage of the ERO and retired in mid-March. That position currently remains vacant.

Additional personnel changes occurred not related to the ERO. At the of 2016, Lorena Hernandez, the former Administrative Assistant in Arbitration was hired as the new Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge. She replaced the former Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge who retired in November. In January 2017, Carolyn Williams started as the new Administrative Assistant in Arbitration.

Another personnel change occurred, this time in the Law Library, and was likewise unrelated to the ERO. One of the Law Library Administrative Assistants took another position in the Juvenile Division creating a vacancy in the Law Library. In February, Viviana Mendez was hired as the new full-time Administrative Assistant in the library and joined the Judicial Operations team.

- ◆ The month of January was celebrated with two anniversaries. Candace Sartwell has served with the Nineteenth Circuit for 39 years. Marion Radjenovic was honored with a plaque for her 25 years of service.
- ◆ In February, a reception was held in honor of National Court Reporters Association week. The Nineteenth Circuit now has 17 full-time official court reporters and one per diem court reporter, after two retirements occurred during 2016.
- ◆ Kids' Korner opened their doors in 1994 and is a very special way the Lake County Courthouse shows its concern for children and families. We anticipate that during the summer of 2017 we will reach the milestone of having served 50,000 children and will commemorate this memorable event with special activities.

- ◆ Kids' Korner is honored to have 10 volunteers regularly giving their time to the children of Lake County and during **National Volunteer Week**; April 23-29, 2017 we will be showing our appreciation to these special people.
- ◆ Continuing with our efforts to encourage our families to read together, Kids' Korner celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday during the month of March 2017. Every child visiting Kids' Korner chose a Dr. Seuss book to take home as well as a Dr. Seuss themed pencil and stickers.
- ◆ Progress on the new court tower continues at a steady pace. The new eight-story building will have approximately 200,000 square feet of space and includes courtrooms, a new jury assembly room and administrative space. Located on the southwest corner of County Street and Washington and adjacent to the Lake County Jail, the tower courtrooms will be used for criminal cases. It is anticipated that the final structural beam will be erected in early April 2017 and the exterior will be finished sometime by mid-summer 2017. The occupancy date is anticipated to be summer of 2018.

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