

News from the Judiciary: Fact Sheet

Last update: December 2015

On December 11th, Circuit Judge Margaret Mullen moderated a panel discussion at the Illinois State Bar Association/Illinois Judge Association Mid-Year Meeting at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers on **“Media Talk: How and Why Judges and Lawyers Should Speak on Legal Topics.”**

By Order of the Illinois Supreme Court, Circuit Judge Daniel B. Shanes has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the newly created Illinois Judicial College of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Separately, the Illinois Supreme Court also appointed Judge Shanes to its Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions for Criminal Cases. Judge Shanes regularly serves as faculty at new judge seminars and education conferences for Illinois judges. In 2015, he joined the National Judicial College as faculty, teaching judges from across the United States.

Circuit Judge Margaret J. Mullen was presented with the Presidential Service Award from the Illinois Judges Association this year.

On December 3rd, Lake County Judges Victoria Rossetti, Margaret Mullen, Christen Bishop and Elizabeth Rochford spoke The Lake Forest Club on the topic, **“Successful Women Lawyers: Paths Traveled, The Future and Diversity.”**

On November 11th, the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit held its **Fourth Annual Veterans History Project Program** at the Lake County Courthouse. The program is dedicated to thank and honor all servicemen and women who put their lives at stake for our country’s freedom. This year 26 veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War had their oral histories recorded by court reporters. Transcripts will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and for future generations to learn about the experiences of the veterans.

The month of November is Adoption Awareness Month. Currently, almost 1,500 children in Illinois wait to find a family and home. On November 20th, Chief Judge John Phillips and Presiding Judge of Juvenile, Judge Valerie Ceckowski, honored local agencies who work to facilitate adoptions to provide forever homes to children. Other presenters included Lake County Board Members Nick Sauer, District 17; Charles “Chuck” Bartels, District 10; and Jane Drew Waller, Circuit Judge (Ret.).

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit hosted the fall meeting of the Judicial Circuits of the Second Appellate District on October 1-2. Topics included “Reimagining Courts – A Design for the Twenty-First Century,” presented by members of the National Center for State Courts; “Technology and the Cloud,” presented by Microsoft staff; “Workforce of the Future;” and Roundtable discussions. The attendees included Chief Judges, Court Administrators and administrative staff from the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, and 23rd Circuits of Illinois.

Judge Jorge Ortiz was appointed this year by the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to serve as a member of the 2016 Ed Con Faculty. In October 2015, Judge Ortiz was presented with the Lake County Latino Leader of the Year Award from the Mano a Mano Family Resource Center.

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism presented Judge Christopher Stride with the Vanguard of the Year Award for his work in specialty courts and his commitment to help reduce recidivism. The event took place in October at the Coalition’s 12th Annual Luncheon in Waukegan.

This fall, Chief Judge John Phillips was recognized by the Illinois Judges Foundation as one of three recipients who received a “Judicial Icon” award. Judge Phillips was cited for his commitment to service, restorative justice and his leadership role and deep commitment to treatment courts in Lake County and throughout the State.

Circuit Judge Mitchell Hoffman was appointed as a member of the Judicial Education Conference Faculty this year. Judge Hoffman has also continued in a role as a Judicial Evaluation Facilitator for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Associate Judges are appointed by the Circuit Judges to a four year term. Thereafter, they are considered for reappointment every four years. In 2015, the term of office for the 24 Associate Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit began on July 1, 2015 and will terminate on June 30, 2019.

Chief Judge John Phillips received notification from the National Association of Counties (NACo) that the Veteran’s Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC) Mentoring Program of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit was a recipient of NACo’s Achievement Awards. The awards are presented to honor innovative and effective county government programs that enhance services for its county residents. VTAC’s Mentoring Program helps veteran offenders remain in compliance with court ordered rehabilitative treatment and other court conditions. The Achievement Award was presented at NACo’s annual conference held in North Carolina in July.

Judge Elizabeth Rochford began serving a one-year term as President of the Illinois Judges Foundation in June of 2015. She was appointed to, and is concurrently serving on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges Association. In 2013 she was elected to, and is currently serving a three-year term on the ISBA Board of Governors. Pursuant to the appointment of the LCBA President, she currently serves as the Chair of the Community Outreach Committee.

Circuit Judge Jorge L. Ortiz was unanimously elected Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit by the Circuit Judges at a meeting held on June 17, 2015. Judge Ortiz’s term commences January 4, 2016 and terminates January 1, 2017.

In May, Judges Jorge Ortiz, Margaret Mullen, Thomas Schippers, Helen Rozenberg, Nancy Waites and Luis Berrones received the “**Outstanding Volunteer Group Award**” from the United Way of Lake County for the judges’ participation in the United Way of Lake County’s Reading Success Program for the tutoring of two local second grade classes in reading.

As part of the Nineteenth Circuit’s Law Day program, Liberty Bell Awards are presented to an individual and also to an organization for their outstanding service and for their dedication to further the administration of justice. The 2015 Liberty Bell Awards were presented by Chief Judge John Phillips to Mrs. Rita Pennington who, individually, and together with her sew-in group, Quilts of Valor, has donated numerous quilts to veterans statewide, including graduates of the Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court and to returning military personnel at Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago. The Organizational Award was presented to the Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County (AHCLC). AHCLC is a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency that provides free and reliable housing counseling to homeowners in foreclosure. The Liberty Bell Awards were presented at a Lake County Bar Association meeting in April.

STATISTICS FOR CASE FILINGS

Case Filings: Lake County

LAKE COUNTY - 2013

	1ST QUARTER				2ND QUARTER				3RD QUARTER				4TH QUARTER				YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS					
Code	Filed	Renewate d	Label Filed & Renewate d	Dispos ed	Filed	Renewate d	Label Filed & Renewate d	Dispos ed	Filed	Renewate d	Label Filed & Renewate d	Dispos ed	Filed	Renewate d	Label Filed & Renewate d	Dispos ed	Filed	Renewate d	Label Filed & Renewate d	Dispos ed		
AD	35	1	36	25	34	0	34	22	25	0	25	34	22	0	22	29	116	1	117	110		
AR	469	55	524	468	326	51	377	473	393	26	419	406	373	34	407	367	1,581	166	1,727	1,714		
CH	1,082	84	1,166	1,733	898	65	963	1,935	764	62	826	1,613	807	39	846	1,360	3,551	250	3,801	6,641		
D	597	26	623	615	602	27	629	730	585	18	603	593	519	17	536	594	2,303	88	2,391	2,532		
ED	1	0	1	21	26	2	28	7	0	0	0	10	1	1	2	9	28	3	31	47		
F	239	7	246	287	299	4	303	325	276	4	280	248	251	4	255	269	1,065	19	1,084	1,129		
L	67	8	75	130	69	3	72	167	68	5	73	132	73	6	79	147	277	22	299	576		
L	159	17	176	152	174	13	187	124	202	9	211	140	165	10	175	130	700	49	749	546		
LM	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	6		
LM	798	33	831	782	727	15	742	787	791	29	820	800	715	16	731	740	3,031	93	3,124	3,109		
MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
MH	15	0	15	13	16	0	16	16	27	0	27	23	10	0	10	18	68	0	68	70		
MR	711	4	715	502	576	4	580	878	480	4	484	523	449	4	453	461	2,216	16	2,232	2,364		
OP	443	1	444	400	467	2	469	509	609	2	611	563	453	1	454	503	1,972	6	1,978	1,975		
P	246	38	284	207	269	37	306	216	255	40	295	202	258	26	284	239	1,028	141	1,169	864		
SC	2,014	60	2,074	2,095	1,446	78	1,524	1,898	1,735	35	1,770	1,754	1,725	41	1,766	1,709	6,920	214	7,134	7,456		
TX	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	0	4	1	5	11		
CC	7	0	7	6	4	1	5	7	2	0	2	1	5	1	6	4	18	2	20	18		
CF	854	156	1,010	807	990	172	1,162	878	968	153	1,121	786	984	122	1,106	734	3,796	603	4,399	3,205		
CM	1,319	185	1,504	1,914	1,530	181	1,711	2,109	1,474	191	1,665	1,949	1,315	162	1,477	1,882	5,638	719	6,357	7,854		
J	7	0	7	3	12	0	12	8	5	0	5	3	5	1	6	8	29	1	30	22		
JA	56	1	57	74	61	7	68	35	34	1	35	53	32	2	34	61	183	11	194	223		
JD	205	23	228	224	173	16	189	202	240	21	261	218	209	14	223	275	827	74	901	919		
CV	48	4	52	117	196	2	198	117	729	2	731	532	138	1	139	355	1,111	9	1,120	1,121		
DT	604	42	646	728	726	47	773	758	765	49	814	781	677	31	708	722	2,772	169	2,941	2,989		
OV	1,343	30	1,373	1,553	1,810	49	1,859	1,577	1,853	20	1,873	1,924	1,334	25	1,359	1,690	6,340	124	6,464	6,744		
TR	31,704	1,051	32,755	33,823	36,723	1,104	37,827	36,259	34,127	1,138	35,265	35,601	30,834	933	31,767	33,014	133,388	4,226	137,614	138,697		
																	Lake's Totals:		178,944	7,007	185,951	190,943

Case Filings: Civil

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE FILINGS AND REINSTATED CASES CIVIL DIVISION*

LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Law Over \$50,000	1,350	1,313	1,130	1,076	1,048	-3%
Law \$50,000 or less	3,131	2,999	3,245	2,974	3,126	5%
Arbitration	3,015	3,330	2,184	1,772	1,727	-3%
Chancery	6,447	7,264	6,082	6,354	3,801	-40%
Probate	1,217	1,188	1,172	1,257	1,169	-7%
Other***	2,055	2,385	2,391	2,238	2,336	4%
Small Claims	12,553	12,217	8,516	7,617	7,134	-6%
TOTAL CIVIL	29,768	30,696	24,720	23,288	20,341	-13%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

***Includes Miscellaneous Remedy, Eminent Domain, Tax, Municipal Corporation and Mental Health.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE DISPOSITIONS CIVIL DIVISION*

LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Law Over \$50,000	1,305	1,316	1,318	1,129	1,122	-1%
Law \$50,000 or less	3,101	2,968	3,187	3,105	3,115	0%
Arbitration	2,711	3,183	2,704	1,792	1,714	-4%
Chancery	4,190	4,915	5,364	6,392	6,641	4%
Probate	1,351	1,451	1,234	978	864	-12%
Other***	1,957	2,390	2,438	2,188	2,493	14%
Small Claims	12,081	12,400	9,005	7,673	7,456	-3%
TOTAL CIVIL	26,696	28,623	25,250	23,257	23,405	1%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

***Includes Miscellaneous Remedy, Eminent Domain, Tax, Municipal Corporation and Mental Health.

Case Filings: Criminal

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE FILINGS AND REINSTATED CASES CRIMINAL DIVISION*

LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Felony	5,993	5,139	5,024	4,493	4,399	-2%
Misdemeanor	9,311	7,754	6,658	6,629	6,357	-4%
Contempt of Court	39	24	42	15	20	33%
TOTAL CRIMINAL	15,343	12,917	11,724	11,137	10,776	-3%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE DISPOSITIONS CRIMINAL DIVISION*

LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Felony	4,615	3,955	3,599	3,537	3,205	-9%
Misdemeanor	11,235	10,142	8,081	8,045	7,854	-2%
Contempt of Court	39	30	41	22	18	-18%
TOTAL CRIMINAL	15,889	14,127	11,721	11,604	11,077	-5%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

Case Filings: Family

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE FILINGS AND REINSTATED CASES FAMILY DIVISION*						
LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Divorce	2,692	2,612	2,544	2,526	2,391	-5%
Family**	3,244	3,189	3,281	3,598	3,179	-12%
Juvenile	1,050	1,033	1,057	2,012	1,125	-44%
TOTAL FAMILY	6,986	6,834	6,882	8,136	6,695	-18%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

**Includes Family, Adoptions and Orders of Protection

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE DISPOSITIONS FAMILY DIVISION*						
LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Divorce	2,563	2,645	2,510	2,686	2,532	-6%
Family**	3,265	3,124	3,198	3,599	3,214	-11%
Juvenile	1,156	1,028	997	1,088	1,164	7%
TOTAL FAMILY	6,984	6,797	6,705	7,373	6,910	-6%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

**Includes Family, Adoptions and Orders of Protection

Case Filings: Traffic

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE FILINGS AND REINSTATED CASES TRAFFIC/ORDINANCE/CONSERVATION DIVISION*						
LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Traffic**	178,690	175,763	152,716	142,071	140,555	-1%
Ordinance	9,241	9,038	8,052	7,468	6,464	-13%
Conservation	2,052	2,050	1,298	1,269	1,120	-12%
TOTAL	189,983	186,851	162,066	150,808	148,139	-2%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

**Includes Traffic and DUI.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF CASE DISPOSITIONS TRAFFIC/ORDINANCE/CONSERVATION DIVISION*						
LAKE COUNTY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2012-2013
Traffic**	180,730	174,392	154,151	144,428	141,686	-2%
Ordinance	9,292	9,140	8,199	7,407	6,744	-9%
Conservation	2,119	2,039	1,306	1,274	1,121	-12%
TOTAL	192,141	185,571	163,656	153,109	149,551	-2%

*Figures provided by the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

**Includes Traffic and DUI.