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

Date of Release: March 10, 2023
Point of Contact: Kasey Dunn Morgan
Telephone: 847-377-3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

RUTH H. LOFTHOUSE AND JAMES R.M. NEWMAN NAMED ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Chief Judge Mark L. Levitt was notified on March 10, 2023, by Marcia M. Meis, Director of the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, that Ruth H. Lofthouse of Highland Park, and James R.M. Newman of Lake Villa received the majority number of votes cast from the Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Circuit and are eligible for appointment to serve as Associate Judges in Lake County. These vacancies are the result of Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford's election to the Illinois Supreme Court and Judge Christopher M. Kennedy's election to the Illinois Appellate Court effective December 5, 2022.

"Ms. Lofthouse and Mr. Newman will be excellent additions to the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. They will bring a considerable amount of skill and understanding to their new roles. I congratulate them on their appointments and look forward to Ms. Lofthouse and Mr. Newman joining us as Associate Judges," said Chief Judge Levitt.

Ms. Lofthouse received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Florida in 2001. In 2006, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois Chicago John Marshall Law School. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006 and is a member of the Lake County Bar Association and Jefferson Inns of Court. In 2016 she earned her master's degree in Business from DePaul Kellstadt School. Ms. Lofthouse previously was a partner at Grund & Leavitt, P.C. of Chicago and Highland Park, and currently serves as a Principal State's Attorney with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office prosecuting criminal felony cases.

Mr. Newman received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa in 1996 and 1999, respectively. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2003 and is a member of the Lake County Bar Association, Jefferson Inns of Court, and McHenry County Bar Association. Mr. Newman previously was an associate at Kathryn Barnhill Associates in West Des Moines, Iowa, an Assistant State's Attorney with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office prosecuting criminal cases, adjunct faculty teaching criminal law and criminal procedure at the College of Lake County, and currently serves as the Chief of the Criminal Division at the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office.

Chief Judge Levitt will administer the oaths of office to Ms. Lofthouse and Mr. Newman on April 3, 2023.

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