



News Release

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO ILLINOIS JUDICIAL COLLEGE COMMITTEES

The Supreme Court of Illinois' Judicial College Board of Trustees appointed Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Christen L. Bishop to the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Probation Education (COPE) and Assistant Director of Adult Probation Tina Johnston to the Committee on Pretrial Education (CPTE).

Established on January 1, 2016, the Illinois Judicial College, consisting of a Board of Trustees and six standing Committees, serves as the governance structure to provide educational training and professional development programs to improve the skills, knowledge, and competencies of the judges and employees of the Illinois Judicial Branch. This program has made Illinois a national leader in collaborative, multi-disciplinary, branch-wide education as the College is not only responsible for providing education and training for judges but also justice partners, including probation officers, court clerks, guardians ad litem, trial court administrators, and members of judicial branch staff.

"I am very grateful to the Illinois Supreme Court and incredibly proud of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's Judge Bishop and Adult Probation's Assistant Director Johnston for being recognized as leaders. With their incredible knowledge and expertise in the probation and pretrial service fields after decades of experience in their respective roles, they will provide invaluable contributions to their Illinois Judicial College Committees," said Chief Judge Mark L. Levitt.

Circuit Judge Bishop was appointed to the bench in 2012 and serves in the felony division as Presiding Judge of the Restorative Justice Division. The Restorative Justice Division hears juvenile, felony, and misdemeanor matters, including Therapeutic Intensive Monitoring (TIM) Court: drug court, mental health court, and Veteran's Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC). With her committee appointment, Judge Bishop and COPE shall direct, deliver, and provide oversight for Illinois statewide probation and court services education consistent with evidence-based practices, including identifying emerging legal, sociological, cultural, and technical issues that may impact decision-making and court administration. COPE shall recommend and develop continuing education and training for new and experienced probation officers and court services staff.

Assistant Director Johnston began her career with the Division of Adult Probation Services in Lake County in 1989. For 23 years, she supervised and monitored offenders sentenced in the sex offender division. In 2012, Tina became a unit manager of the problem-solving courts. In that role, she managed probation services for veteran's court, mental health court, and drug court, as well as intensive probation supervision and the Supervised Treatment Opioid ("STOP") program. In 2022, she was again promoted to Assistant Director and currently oversees the sex offender, domestic violence, general

field probation, pretrial investigations, pretrial field, and enhanced supervision divisions. With her committee appointment, Tina and CPTE will work to promote comprehensive pretrial education as an aid to the Illinois judicial branch in its preparedness and readiness to interpret and apply the law, including Public Acts [101-652](#) and [102-1104](#), effective September 18, 2023, and develop ongoing continuing education and educational opportunities to overview and discuss the substantive and procedural law, rules, materials and pretrial resources.

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