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

Date of Release: January 17, 2024
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

LAKE COUNTY COURT PROFESSIONALS APPOINTED TO ILLINOIS JUDICIAL COLLEGE COMMITTEES

The Illinois Supreme Court has recognized the excellence and leadership of two Lake County Court professionals, Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent Dennis McMahon and attorney Kathryn Gordon, a guardian *ad litem* for minors in Juvenile Court, by appointing them to committees of the Illinois Judicial College.

Established in 2016, the Illinois Judicial College provides education and professional development to improve the skills, knowledge, and competencies of judges and justice partners across the Illinois Judicial Branch. The Illinois Judicial College has made Illinois a national leader in collaborative, multi-disciplinary, branch-wide education.

"I am grateful to the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois Judicial College for recognizing our Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent Dennis McMahon with an appointment to the Committee on Probation Education, and Kathryn Gordon with a reappointment to the Committee on Guardian *ad Litem* Education," said Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes. "Dennis and Kathy have decades of knowledge and experience in their fields and will be valuable members of their respective committees."

Superintendent Dennis McMahon began his career as a juvenile counselor with the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in 1997, becoming involved with restorative justice solutions for court-involved youth. In 2012, Dennis became a Unit Manager, planning and coordinating daily operations within the facility. In 2015, he was promoted to Deputy Superintendent, where he was charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Detention Center and FACE-IT. In 2018, Dennis became the Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center. With his appointment to the Committee on Probation Education, Dennis will work to direct, deliver, and provide oversight for Illinois statewide probation and court services education consistent with evidence-based practices. This will include identifying emerging legal, sociological, cultural, and technical issues that may impact decision-making and court administration; this committee shall recommend and develop continuing education and training for new and experienced probation officers and court services staff.

Kathy Gordon has been a Guardian *ad Litem* and an attorney representing abused and neglected children for 25 years. In addition to her work representing children, Kathy is also the primary handler for the first and only facility dog assigned to a public defender's office in the nation. With the Judicial College, Kathy works to promote comprehensive education and educational opportunities for new and experienced Guardians *ad Litem* in the State of Illinois, including identifying opportunities to enhance the effective and efficient administration of justice in a way

that promotes public integrity, trust and confidence, and considers the legal, sociological, cultural, and technical issues that may impact decision making and court administration.

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