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FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HOSTS SELF REPRESENTED LITIGANT PROGRAM

Members of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) Access to Justice Division's Court Navigator Network spent the day in Lake County to learn about Self Represented Litigant (SRL) programs and initiatives. Guests observed the SRL family law courtroom and SRL guardianship court call and engaged in discussions about access to justice. Attendees consisted of other circuit court and state employees from the northern half of Illinois who share a commitment to access to justice, including Illinois Justice Corps fellows, court navigators, circuit clerk staff, trial court administrators, and law librarians.

This program was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Lake County Circuit Court and the AOIC, including Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes, Deputy Chief Judge Patricia S. Fix, Circuit Judge Jorge L. Ortiz, Circuit Judge John L. Joanem, Associate Judge Veronica M. O'Malley, employees of the 19th Judicial Circuit, and the AOIC Access to Justice Division, and was further supported by the Illinois Justice Corps and Prairie State Legal Services.

"Thank you to all participants in this wonderful SRL program. Your work is vital to the fair and effective administration of justice. Collaborating with justice partners and outside agencies allows the Court to continue to problem-solve challenges SRLs experience and develop additional strategies to ensure the guarantee of access to justice," said Lake County Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes.

The group was welcomed by Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford and Judge Ortiz, who serves as Chair of the Access to Justice Commission. They expressed the importance of access to justice and thanked the attendees for their commitment to SRL programs. The guests observed court proceedings, attended presentations from Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator Frances Paparigian, Justice Corps Fellow Sammy Leib, and Prairie State Legal Services Attorneys Megan Brady and Amy Weiss, gathered for lunch with Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Judges to hear about SRL initiatives in various courtrooms, toured the Waukegan courthouse, and were provided with a day of networking to share ideas and resources.

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