



## 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 NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes is pleased to announce that Karl Walldorf will join the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit as Executive Director on April 29, 2024.

Mr. Walldorf has extensive experience in local government leadership and public safety. He began his career as a patrol officer with the Lake Forest Police Department in 1994, ultimately rising to Chief of Police in 2016. In that role, he managed a diverse staff with an annual budget of \$14 million. In addition, Karl regularly engaged with local elected officials on topics ranging from budgets, operational issues, facilities, and capital projects. As part of those duties, Karl successfully negotiated and administered four separate collective bargaining contracts.

"The Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit conducted a nationwide search for an Executive Director over several months. Our Court's many successes are due to the talents and dedication of the outstanding professionals who work for our Circuit Court. Mr. Walldorf's proven track record of successful organizational administration and effective leadership made him the clear choice to help lead our Circuit Court in the years ahead. Karl has experience, strong managerial skills, and an exceptional understanding of our judicial system. He recognizes the importance of building and maintaining trust and confidence in the courts with the public, justice partners, and employees. We look forward to Karl joining the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit," said Chief Judge Shanes.

Mr. Walldorf received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Master of Science in Public Administration from the Keller Graduate School of Management, emphasizing public/private partnerships. He also holds an Executive Management Certificate from Northwestern University.

In addition to his duties in Lake Forest, Karl has been called upon to serve in various leadership positions, including on the boards of directors of several local and state organizations, including the statewide board of government administrators, social justice advocates, and academics. The board reviews the state's various data collection practices and recommends to the Illinois General Assembly to improve the program's accuracy and ensure equitable policing statewide.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as the new Executive Director of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. Working alongside the respected Judges and dedicated staff, I am eager to continue serving the residents of Lake County with such a talented and committed team," said Mr. Walldorf.

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