



News Release

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

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGE BETAR RECEIVES LIFETIME ADVOCATE AWARD

This month, Lake County Associate Judge Michael B. Betar received the 2024 Arab American Bar Association (AABAR) of Illinois Lifetime Advocate Award presented by Jawad Shalabi, Vice President of AABAR.

"I am very proud to be the recipient of the Lifetime Advocate Award. I was a founding member of this organization 32 years ago, and I have enjoyed my membership ever since. This bar association does meaningful and important work for the Arab American community, and I am honored to be recognized," said Judge Betar of the 19th Judicial Circuit.

The Arab American Bar Association of Illinois is a professional association of attorneys dedicated to the rule of law, equal justice, fellowship, legal education, and community service. They are committed to quality legal representation for all, regardless of background. Membership is open to any licensed attorney or law student sharing in the organization's goals, regardless of ancestry, race, color, or creed.

After high school, Judge Betar served in the United States Marine Corps. He then attended American University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he earned his undergraduate degree. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the Northern Illinois University College of Law. After admission to the Illinois Bar, he practiced civil litigation in the private sector until he was appointed Associate Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in 2008.

"I am very proud that my friend and colleague, Judge Betar, was honored and recognized with this award," said Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes. Judge Betar received his award on Wednesday, May 8th, at the 2024 Judicial Reception in Chicago.

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