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FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit of Illinois
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: June 19, 2024
Point of Contact: Kasey Dunn Morgan
847-377-3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

FOUR FINALISTS NAMED FOR TWO ASSOCIATE JUDGE VACANCIES

The Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit have chosen the finalists for the associate judge vacancies. These positions are available due to the retirements of the Honorable Raymond D. Collins and the Honorable Charles D. Johnson who will be retiring from the bench on July 12, 2024, both with nearly 20 years of service to the residents of Lake County. Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes is pleased to announce the names of the finalists: Gabriel J. Conroe of Highland Park, Matthew J. DeMartini of Antioch, Roderick A. Drobinski of Wauconda, and Sari W. Montgomery of Riverwoods.

All candidates were evaluated by Lake County Bar Association's Judicial Selection and Retention Committee members.

Mr. Conroe received his Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science and Law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001. In 2006, he earned his Juris Doctor from Chicago Kent College of Law. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006 and is a member of the Illinois Public Defender Association and the Lake County Bar Association. Mr. Conroe has been with the Lake County Public Defender's Office since 2006 and serves as a Principal Assistant Public Defender.

Mr. DeMartini received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Marquette University in 1999. In 2002, he earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois Chicago John Marshall Law School. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2002 and is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Justinian Society, and the Lake County Bar Association. Mr. DeMartini previously served as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, an associate at the Law Office of Rudolph F. Magna of Gurnee, an associate at the Law Office of Scott Gartner of Antioch, and is currently the owner of DeMartini Legal, Inc. of Antioch.

Mr. Drobinski received his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Notre Dame in 1998. In 2001, he earned his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and is a member of the Federalist Society, the Illinois Bar Association, and the Lake County Bar Association. Mr. Drobinski previously served as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, as Chief of Felony and Felony Review at the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, and is currently the sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Roderick A. Drobinski, P.C.

Ms. Montgomery received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago in 1991. In 1994, she earned her Juris Doctor from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and is a member of the American Bar Association, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, Illinois State Bar Association, Lake County Bar Association, Association of Women Attorneys of Lake County, Chicago Bar Association, and Chicago Council of Lawyers. Ms. Montgomery previously was Litigation Counsel at the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois, a Special Assistant Public Defender with the Lake County Public Defender's Office, an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago

School of Law, and currently an Adjunct Professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and a Partner at Robinson, Stewart, Montgomery & Doppke LLC.

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts will prepare the ballots containing the finalists' names and mail them to the Lake County Circuit Judges. Each Circuit Judge will cast a secret ballot, and after the votes have been tabulated in Springfield, Chief Judge Shanes will be notified of the results.

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