



# News Release

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

Date of Release: August 26, 2024  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

## THE LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PARTNERS WITH CANINES 4 COMFORT

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court's newest employee has four legs, curly apricot-colored hair, a fuzzy tail, and an uncanny ability to make almost everyone smile. Desi is a one-year-old purebred standard poodle raised and trained by [Canines 4 Comfort](#) of Round Lake, Illinois, and donated to the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit as the Court's first Facility Dog, one of the only designated courthouse facility dogs in the state of Illinois.

Desi's training equips her to perform a wide range of specific skilled tasks in the courthouse, from helping victims, petitioners, and defendants in court to welcoming and spending time with jurors, visiting children in Kids' Korner, and even supporting employees and our justice partners including judges and attorneys throughout the workday. Desi's training and skills make her an invaluable and unique addition to the courthouse, bringing hope and positivity to all she interacts with.

"Desi has already made a significant impact on our community. We are incredibly fortunate and grateful to Canines 4 Comfort and their volunteers for finding and training a facility dog that is a wonderful addition to our Nineteenth Judicial Circuit family. Desi has already shown us that she can make a positive impact on court participants and employees alike. Facility dogs like Desi are trained to lessen stress, anxiety, and trauma. Her job is to provide support and affection; when you see her around the building, ask her handlers if you can pet her, she will brighten your day," said Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes.

Canines 4 Comfort is a 501(c)3 that provides trained dogs to support mental health and wellness; the dogs provide life-changing comfort, stability, and purpose for those who are privileged to interact with them. Desi began her career with the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit full-time two weeks ago. She is destined to have a long career that positively touches lives in Lake County.

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