



# News Release

1  
9  
th  
**J**  
**U**  
**D**  
**I**  
**C**  
**A**  
**L**  
**C**  
**I**  
**R**  
**C**  
**U**  
**I**  
**T**

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

Date of Release: January 17, 2025  
Point of Contact: Kasey Dunn Morgan  
Telephone: 847-377-3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

## **TWO FINALISTS NAMED FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE VACANCY**

The Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit have selected two finalists to fill the current associate judge vacancy. This opening results from the retirement of Associate Judge Theodore S. Potkonjak last October after 22 years of dedicated service to the people of Lake County. Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes is pleased to announce that these finalists are Deborah J. Menas of Libertyville and Sari W. Montgomery of Riverwoods.

Ms. Menas received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Chicago in 1990. She earned her Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University School of Law in 1994 and was admitted to practice law in Illinois that year. Ms. Menas is a member of the Jefferson Inn-American Inns of Court, the Lake County Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association of Lake County. She previously served as a Principal Assistant Public Defender with the Lake County Public Defender's Office, as a sole practitioner, as a Principal Assistant State's Attorney with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, and is currently an Illinois FOP Labor Council attorney.

Ms. Montgomery received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago in 1991. In 1994, she earned her Juris Doctorate 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 Lake County Bar Association's Judicial Selection and Retention Committee evaluated and recommended both finalists. Each Nineteenth Circuit Judge will cast a secret ballot, with the results to be tabulated by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in Springfield. Chief Judge Shanes is then notified of the results.

###

[www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us](http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - "X" Formerly Twitter - [YouTube](#)