



## 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 UPCOMING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

The Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit are proud to announce the following events, which will take place in 2026:

**High School Mock Trial:** On February 28, 2026, the 19th Judicial Circuit will host teams from Lake County, as well as the Chicagoland area, to participate in the High School Mock Trial Invitational. The rules and procedures of the Illinois State Bar Association govern the invitational. This program receives sponsorship from the Lake County Law-Related Education Initiative (LCLREI), in partnership with the Circuit Court of Lake County and with support from the Lake County Bar Association/Foundation and the Lake County Juvenile Officers Association.

**Page It Forward:** In conjunction with February's celebration of the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, Lake County Judges will be among the many in Illinois to read a book to grade school students. Judges will travel to your classroom, dressed in their black robes, read a book, and discuss its intersection with history and the law. Books, a gavel, and bookmarks will be donated to the school library and/or classroom.

**Law Merit Badge Seminar:** On March 14, 2026, the Judges and staff will welcome the Scouts for Law Merit Badge Day, whereby the Scouts earn their Law Merit Badge. The Judges and staff address the difference between civil and criminal laws, the origin of the law, the development of the jury system, the Justinian Code, the Magna Carta, and famous trials in history. The Scouts will also receive a tour, and then actual judges will preside over a mock trial with the Scouts serving as members of the jury.

**Law Day:** This year, Law Day will occur on April 30, 2026, and the 19th Judicial Circuit will have a coloring contest for K–3rd grade, a poster contest for grades 4 – 6, an essay contest for grades 7 – 12, and an illustration contest for 6 – 12. The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit holds a ceremony for the winners and hands out prizes, which will occur **on May 1, 2026**. Stay on the lookout for more information to ensure that your students can participate in this wonderful program!

**Educators – STAY TUNED for additional information so your students can participate!**

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

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