



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

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS JUDGE REGINALD C. MATHEWS AS CIRCUIT JUDGE

Chief Judge Diane E. Winter is pleased to announce that Associate Judge Reginald C. Mathews has been appointed Circuit Judge in the 1st Subcircuit of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit by the Illinois Supreme Court effective March 2, 2020, and terminating December 5, 2022.

“Congratulations to Judge Mathews. Reggie is an outstanding jurist and a highly respected member of the legal profession and Lake County community. He possesses outstanding qualities of experience, fairness, and regard for all,” said Chief Winter.

Mathews will fill the position previously held by Judge Jay W. Ukena, who retired from his post as Circuit Judge on January 30, 2020. To maintain his position as Circuit Judge after December 5, 2022, Mathews must be nominated in the 1st Subcircuit in the March 2022 primary and elected in the November 2022 general election.

Mathews attended Western Illinois University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement Administration. He later earned his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University and was then admitted to practice law in Illinois in November of 2001. Before being appointed Associate Judge in June of 2018, Mathews was the Division Chief of the Gang and Narcotics Division with the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office.

“To whom much is given, much is required. I am blessed. I am honored. I am humbled. I was born and raised in Waukegan and North Chicago, and was a paperboy for the Waukegan News-Sun. I served as an adult probation officer before becoming a prosecutor for the people of Lake County. Being named a Circuit Judge is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I am guided by the law and my faith; dedicated to providing all who enter our courtrooms with an opportunity to be heard. I would like to thank Justice Robert Thomas and his colleagues on the Illinois Supreme Court for their confidence by appointing me to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Judge Ukena. Judge Ukena was a fair-minded, experienced, and knowledgeable jurist, and tremendous leader. I also would like to thank our current Chief, Judge Diane Winter, and all my fellow judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit for their professionalism, friendship, and advice throughout my legal career. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my family and my church for their unwavering love and support throughout my life,” said Judge Mathews.

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