



# 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

## 19<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

In the afternoon of May 5, 2020, Chief Judge Diane E. Winter received confirmation from a member of the judiciary that he had tested positive for novel coronavirus COVID-19. The judge was on the bench in T-110 Bond Court the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> and last served in the courtroom on May 1<sup>st</sup>. While the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court has been operating under emergency operations only during this crisis, daily Bond Court is an essential proceeding necessary to address those arrested and charged the preceding day.

In the afternoon of May 1st, the judge began feeling ill and sought testing over the weekend. After the positive test result was brought to the attention of the Court, everyone in that courtroom was notified and contact tracing begun by the Lake County Health Department.

Offices or individuals who received notification include:  
19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judiciary, including Court Reporters, Court Interpreters, and Domestic Violence Advocates;  
Lake County Circuit Clerk’s Office;  
Lake County Public Defender’s Office;  
Lake County Sheriff’s Office;  
Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office; and  
Private Attorneys

Some individuals from the above listed groups are self-quarantining and are seeking testing based on their exposure and the guidance received by the Health Department.

In addition to contact tracing and notification, all spaces that the judge occupied received a deep clean. The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continues to follow all CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Lake County Health Department guidelines. The Court also continues to enforce mask wearing and social distancing when in the building. Additionally, remote hearing options continue to be available to allow cases to proceed and to minimize the number of people in the courthouse.

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