



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

CIRCUIT JUDGE DIANE E. WINTER TO RETIRE

Circuit Judge Diane E. Winter will retire, effective January 21, 2022. “Twenty-one years have flown by. I have been blessed to work with so many talented and dedicated people in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. I will treasure the collaborations I had with my judicial colleagues, both present and retired. Serving as a judge is a unique and rewarding experience; and I am proud of the services, programs, and collective legal ability we provide to the citizens of Lake County,” said Judge Winter.

Judge Winter received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from DePaul University in 1978 and earned her Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University in 1981; she was then admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois. Judge Winter began her career in private practice with Kolb & Grotto, Ltd. of Glen Ellyn before joining Fuqua, Winter & Stiles, Ltd of Waukegan. She remained in private practice, engaged in general law, until her appointment to the bench as an Associate Judge on July 1, 2000.

On December 1, 2008, Judge Winter was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Circuit Judge for the Fifth Subcircuit of Lake County. She then retained her position after she was elected in November of 2010. While serving as a Judge she notably fulfilled the roles of Supervising Judge of the Family Division, 2008; Presiding Judge of the Misdemeanor/Traffic Division 2008-2010; Presiding Judge of the Family Division 2016-2018; and most recently Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit from January 2, 2020, until January 2, 2022.

Judge Winter proudly was a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Lake County Bar Association, DuPage County Bar Association, Association of Women Attorneys- Lake County, Jefferson Inn- Lake County, Lake County Bar Foundation, and The Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel.

“Back in 2010, when Judge Winter and I were sworn in on the same day as Circuit Judges, never could I have envisioned I would be standing here today congratulating her on her retirement. Judge Winter’s service has assisted and guided our Circuit and the people of Lake County. Her knowledge of the law and her strong leadership, especially through a pandemic, made her a well-respected judge to attorneys and her peers on the bench. She will be missed, we wish her the best,” said Chief Judge Mark L. Levitt.

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