

Press Releases of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer, Diane Flory at (847) 377-3818

2015

Veterans Day Observed at the Courthouse

October 19, 2015: Chief Judge John T. Phillips announced that the Lake County legal community will again participate in the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project. At 9:00 a.m., on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2015, approximately 30 veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War will meet at the Lake County Courthouse for a reception and ceremony and to have their oral histories recorded by official court reporters. The typed transcripts will be archived at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from the veterans...

Chief Judge Phillips receives Judicial Icon Award

September 22, 2015: Judge John T. Phillips, Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, was recognized recently as one of three recipients who received a "Judicial Icon" award from the Illinois Judges Foundation. In very good company, the two other recipients included Honorable Diane P. Wood, Chief Judge of the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis...

Lake County Court Reporters named Officers of ILCRA

September 21, 2015: Vernita Allen-Williams and Deborah Cohen-Rojas, Official Court Reporters for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, have been elected as officers of the Illinois Court Reporters Association (ILCRA). ILCRA is a professional organization for court reporters and is the state arm of the National Court Reporters Association. Vernita will serve as President and Deborah as Secretary. Their term of office is for two years which began on September 12, 2015...

Mediation Program Saves 19th Judicial Circuit Homes from Foreclosure: Study Finds AG-Funded Programs are Effective

August 27, 2015 - In 2014, Lake County homeowners were subject to over 2,300 foreclosure filings. While the consequences of the mortgage crisis and recession still loom large, a new program is providing homeowners in the area the opportunity to work with lenders to save their homes. Established in December 2013, the Lake County Residential Real Estate Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program served 155 homeowners in its first year. The program, administered by Chicago-based Resolution Systems Institute ("RSI") through funding from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, is based in the Waukegan Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, located at 415 W. Washington Street. It was established to assist homeowners struggling to navigate the court system with a fair and efficient process for resolving foreclosure cases outside of the courtroom...

Jorge L. Ortiz elected next Chief Judge

June 19, 2015: At a meeting Wednesday of the Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Jorge L. Ortiz was unanimously elected to serve as the next Chief Judge. Judge Ortiz's term will commence on January 4, 2016 and will end on January 1, 2017...

VTAC Mentoring Program Earns National Achievement Award

June 15, 2015: Chief Judge John Phillips is pleased to announce that the Veteran's Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC) Mentoring Program of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit has been recognized recently with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards are presented to honor innovative and effective county government programs that enhance services for its county residents...

2015 Liberty Bell Award Honorees

March 13, 2015: Chief Judge John T. Phillips is pleased to announce that the 2015 Liberty Bell Awards will be presented to Rita Pennington (individual award) and to the Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County (organization award)...

2015 High School Mock Trial Invitational

February 21, 2015: Several Lake County and collar county high school students were given a great opportunity to show off their debate and lawyering skills recently in courtrooms of the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan. This year marked the 11th annual high school mock trial invitational. On Saturday, February 21st, the students competed for a first, second and third place standing in a regional mock trial competition, which may help make the ultimate decision whether to compete in the state competition next month...