



News Release

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

CIRCUIT JUDGE MARGARET J. MULLEN RETIRES

Chief Judge Jorge L. Ortiz announced that Circuit Judge Margaret J. Mullen is retiring, effective December 31, 2017, after over 25 years on the bench.

“It has been a privilege serving the people of Lake County with the finest judges in the State,” said Judge Mullen.

Judge Mullen was appointed as an Associate Judge on March 1, 1992, until her appointment as Circuit Judge by the Supreme Court on December 12, 1997. She was then elected as a Circuit Judge in the November 1998 general election. During her tenure, she served as Chief Judge for a two-year term, commencing December 1, 2002 to November 30, 2004. Over the years, Judge Mullen served as Presiding Judge over Juvenile, Family, Chancery, and the Law Divisions, where she currently sits.

“Judge Mullen has had an illustrious judicial career spanning nearly 26 years. She not only served as Chief Judge and as Presiding Judge of most of our Divisions, but she assumed many other administrative responsibilities. Sometimes these less than glamorous duties that she managed went unnoticed, but proved to be indispensable to a well-managed court. Judge Mullen is an exemplary, committed, and indefatigable public servant, mentor, and beloved colleague who will be greatly missed,” said Chief Judge Ortiz.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Judge Mullen grew up in Lake Bluff and graduated from Woodlands Academy. In 1977, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois State University. She then earned her Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School where she graduated with Honors in 1980.

Judge Mullen has been recognized for her commitment to excellence and outstanding service by several non-profit organizations and civic groups. She is a founding member and past president of the Collar and Cook County Juvenile Judges Association; assisted in establishing peer jury court diversion programs for the Round Lake Area, Warren Township, and the Lake Forest / Lake Bluff Teen Courts; was an integral part of establishing Court Appointed Special Advocates

(CASA); served as President of the Illinois Judges Foundation from 2011 – 2012; and is the 2nd Vice President of the Illinois Judges Association.

Prior to being appointed a judge, Margaret J. Mullen was a DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney assigned to handle traffic, misdemeanor, and juvenile matters. She became a Lake County State's Attorney in 1982, working for in the Civil Division and the Felony Division, and then served as the Chief of the Juvenile Division in 1987. In August of the same year, she joined the firm of Tressler, Soderstrom, Maloney & Priess where she practiced civil litigation. She opened her own private law practice in 1991, focusing on civil litigation.

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