



News Release

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

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MICHAEL J. BURKE ADMINISTERS CIRCUIT JUDGE OATH OF OFFICE TO MICHAEL G. NERHEIM

"Mr. Nerheim brings a wealth of knowledge, an abundance of legal experience, and an in-depth understanding of the community from his years of dedicated public service and his two-terms as the Lake County State's Attorney. He will make an excellent addition to the bench, and I would like to congratulate him on his appointment from the Illinois Supreme Court," said Chief Judge Diane E. Winter as she welcomed guests to the Oath of Office, in-person and virtually.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Michael J. Burke administered the Circuit Judge Oath of Office to Michael G. Nerheim for the 2nd Subcircuit of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit on February 1, 2021; his term will conclude on December 5, 2022. Judge Nerheim filled the position that was previously held by the Honorable Valerie Boettle Ceckowski who retired from office on January 29, 2021. To maintain his position as Circuit Judge after December 5, 2022, he must be nominated in the 2nd Subcircuit in the March 2022 primary and elected in the November 2022 general election.

"I am honored to be here today to administer Judge Nerheim's Oath of Office. Mike is a true public servant. He brings courtroom experience, an incredible work ethic, and has the perfect demeanor for this position. He is joining an incredible group of judges and I look forward to seeing the positive impact he will continue to make here in Lake County," said Justice Burke.

After taking his Oath of Office, Judge Michael G. Nerheim stated, "I would like to acknowledge Judge Ceckowski, I know I have huge shoes to fill, as I had the privilege of working with her when I was a young Assistant State's Attorney in the Juvenile Division. She was an outstanding jurist, and she is a wonderful person. Justice Burke, thank you for recommending me to your colleagues at the Illinois Supreme Court, I am incredibly humbled, honored, and I will not let you down. To my fellow judges within the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, I am very fortunate to be able to work with you, I am looking forward to learning from all of you, and I am ready to begin this new journey. And finally, to my family, thank you for always being by my side and supporting me."

Judge Nerheim earned his Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and psychology from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, and his Juris Doctor, Cum Laude from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He began his legal career in 1999 as a Lake County Assistant State's Attorney and eventually went into private practice. With his experience and perspective on both sides of the law, Judge Nerheim has more than 20 years of practice, including complex prosecution, civil litigation, criminal defense, and municipal law. He was elected Lake County State's Attorney in 2012 and served two terms, concluding in December of 2020; in 2014 and 2018 he was awarded State's Attorney of the Year by the Illinois State Crime Commission. As a life-long Lake County resident, Judge Nerheim is deeply involved in the community.

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