



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: 11/09/09
Point of Contact: James K. Booras
Diane Flory
Telephone: 847.377.4500
847.377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

COURT'S WEBSITE GETS FACELIFT *Redesign makes information easier to find*

"The 19th Judicial Circuit takes great pride in announcing the release of the Court's newly redesigned website," said Chief Judge James Booras. "It's not that there is anything wrong with the old site; however, after ten years there have been changes and improvements that have been made." The purpose of the site's reconstruction was to improve content and to make it more user friendly and interesting so that users will want to return to our website where they know they will be able to get the information they are seeking.

The vision of the Court is to serve as a portal to citizens – providing them with information and data not just about the justice system but additional information regarding services in the community, probation programs, self-help programs for pro se litigants, publications that can be downloaded, reports and statistics, maps and directions, and numerous links to additional resources. One of the new upgrades to the website offers prospective jurors the opportunity to interactively complete their juror questionnaires and profiles online. Previously, juror information was limited to a view only application of written text regarding juror guidelines, parking, and frequently asked questions.

The Court and its staff are continuously seeking ways to improve and provide services that best meet the needs of the people they serve. Bob Zastany, executive director of

the 19th Circuit, said, “the enhanced website is more pleasing to the eye, has less clutter, and is much easier to navigate.” “We appreciate the support and many hours over the last several months that Winnie Webber, director of the circuit’s IT division, and staff worked to not only present a totally new look to the website but also for the improvements made in functionality.”

The Court’s original web page was developed in 1999 and was the first dedicated judicial website in the state. At that time the site included over 500 pages of information and over 200 external links to other websites. Within a short period of time it became recognized as a model for other judicial websites throughout the country. In 2002, the contents of the site were expanded with additional features and resources. That same year, the number of hits had tripled to over 170,000. At the Court Technology Conference (CTC) in 2005, the 19th Circuit’s upgraded website was judged the 4th best in the court community. Although web users throughout the U.S. account for the majority of hits, the site has had visits from several countries including Japan, Australia, Russia, the UK, India and others. In 2008, over 1,500,000 page views of the circuit’s site had been recorded.

The website address is <http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us> and remains the official domain of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. We encourage everyone to visit the new website, and will welcome any comments you may like to make. Please send your comments to Courts@lakecountyil.gov. Thank you.

###