



# News Release

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

Date of Release: 9-8-17  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

## LAKE COUNTY PROBATION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM HOLDS ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER

The annual Lake County Probation Volunteer Program Recognition Dinner took place on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Café Willow in the College of Lake County. Probation volunteers from the community work with both the Adult Division and the Juvenile Division of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit's Department of Court Services. Volunteers serve as mentors to individual clients or as support staff for the court.

Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz attended the event and addressed the group. Chief Judge Ortiz commented: "We are so lucky to have the support of the volunteers in Lake County. They lend a hand or a kind word where it is needed, and the community is safer and better because of their work."

At this year's event, volunteer Nancy Albarran was acknowledged for her 40 years of service. Johanna Blockinger was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for 2017. Overall, nearly 75 volunteers serve Lake County and its citizens through this program, interacting with thousands of clients each year.

Rose Gray, Director of Adult Probation said: "Our volunteer program has been an integral part of probation services. We are very lucky to have this group of individuals who are so dedicated to helping people. They are instrumental in providing a positive role model for people who need it."

Nicole Totoni-Melendez is the Court Services Coordinator for the Lake County Probation Volunteer Program, and she administers the program. Contact Ms. Totoni-Melendez at [ECD941@CLCILLINOIS.EDU](mailto:ECD941@CLCILLINOIS.EDU) if you are interested in serving as a Probation Volunteer.

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