



# News Release

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois



On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, the judges of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will be honoring the Guardians Ad Litem from both the private bar and from the Lake County Public Defender's Office, for safeguarding minor children through the adoption process. CASA Lake County and Juvenile Probation Services will be honored as well.

Chief Judge Jorge L. Ortiz said: "We are acutely aware of the importance of the contribution and dedication that Guardians Ad Litem provide during the adoption process. We are also grateful for CASA Lake County's assistance in serving the abused and neglected children of Lake County, and Juvenile Probation Services, for its work providing factual data for the court."

Adoption Awareness Month is observed annually in the month of November. Courts and communities all over the country will participate in finalizing thousands of adoptions of children from foster care during this month.

The first major effort to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in the foster care system occurred in Massachusetts. In 1976, then-Governor Mike Dukakis proclaimed Adoption Week and the idea grew in popularity and spread throughout the nation. President Gerald Ford made the first National Adoption Week proclamation, and in 1990, the week was expanded to a month due to the number of states participating and the number of events.

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During the month, states, communities, public and private organizations, businesses, families, and individuals celebrate adoption as a positive way to build families. Across the nation, activities and observances such as recognition dinners, public awareness and recruitment campaigns, and special events spotlight the needs of children who need permanent families. It also includes National Adoption Day, traditionally a Saturday, which is observed in courthouses across the nation as thousands of adoptions are finalized simultaneously.

The event will take place at the Depke Juvenile Justice Center located at 24647 North Milwaukee Avenue in Vernon Hills, IL at 2:00 p.m.

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