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

Date of Release: November 21, 2019
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

ASSOCIATE JUDGE MICHAEL J. FUSZ RETIRES

Chief Judge Jay W. Ukena announced that Associate Judge Michael J. Fusz is retiring, effective November 30, 2019, after over 15 years on the bench.

"As Judge Fusz retires from public service, I would like to acknowledge his admirable legal and judicial career spanning over 42 years. He has provided exemplary service to the citizens of Lake County during his tenure on the bench. His knowledge of the law, disposition, and his fairmindedness made him an excellent jurist. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors," said Chief Judge Ukena.

Fusz is a graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology and Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he graduated with honors. After having been admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1977, Judge Fusz began his legal career as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Howard Ryan, later serving in the McHenry County State's Attorney Office, and then the Lake County State's Attorney's Office. While at the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Fusz successfully tried numerous high-profile cases and was named Chief of the Felony review Division. In 1996, he went into private practice, until his appointment as an Associate Judge in 2004.

Judge Fusz honorably served our Country as a member of the United States Navy Reserve from 1987 until 2007, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He worked on projects in support of the Global War on Terrorism. His legal career was interrupted for a year in 2002 while he served on active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his time as an Associate Judge, he served in the Civil, Family, and Traffic & Misdemeanor Divisions and presided over 185 Civil and Criminal trials. He served on the Docket Editorial Board for the Lake County Bar Association and was one of the driving forces behind the success and enthusiasm of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project in Lake County.

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