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

THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GOES VIRTUAL FOR THE 17th ANNUAL GIRL-WISE CONFERENCE

Originally scheduled for April of 2020, the 17th Annual Girl-Wise Conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Committee continued to forge on and adapted with current health and safety restrictions to host the Conference virtually over the week of September 27th.

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit and the Lake County Juvenile Justice Council continued to partner with agencies in the community to present the Annual Girl-Wise Conference. The planning committee of this Conference included representatives from Court Administration, Juvenile/Probation Services, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, Omni Youth Services, Lake County Regional Offices of Education, the College of Lake County, and women leaders in the community.

The theme of this year's Conference was "Empowerment." Daily workshops, electronically featured with pre-recorded videos on the [Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's YouTube page](#), offer middle school and high school young women an opportunity to hear messages that promote creativity, healthy bodies, healthy minds, and taking charge of one's own life. Videos will be uploaded every morning throughout the week and can be replayed or accessed at any time.

Day one features Ms. Karli Butler. Ms. Butler speaks on the topic of overcoming trauma as a survivor of a kidnapping and an acid attack. She shares her personal story of strength and forgiveness and provides the viewers with 10 tips to help overcome trauma.

Days two through seven feature, Julie Crowe-McCarthy from the College of Lake County, Girls on the Run, A Safe Place, Pamela Fullerton, a licensed professional counselor and educator, Adult Probation employee Gina Schostok, and Judges from the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

"Thank you to our 17th Annual Girl-Wise Conference committee and to all our presenters. This Conference and our partnership with local organizations over the years have proven to be invaluable for young women. Adapting to a virtual conference this year was something we felt was important to do, and this year's theme of empowerment has encouraged our presenters to share their stories and give young women the strength and tools to be successful in their own lives. We hope all enjoy our week of Girl-Wise 'Empowerment', " said Chief Judge Diane Winter.

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