



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

VICTORIA A. ROSSETTI ELECTED CHIEF JUDGE

Elected unanimously by the Circuit Judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge Victoria A. Rossetti will take over the helm as the Circuit's Chief Judge on May 1, 2010. She is the circuit's current acting chief judge and has held the position since 2008.

"I am truly honored by my fellow judges who have selected me to be the next chief judge of the 19th circuit," said Judge Rossetti. "I thank them for their confidence and I look forward to their continued support during my term as chief judge."

In 2002, Rossetti was appointed by the Supreme Court as a circuit judge. She ran and was successfully elected circuit judge in the 2006 general election. She has served as the first female presiding judge of the juvenile division, presiding judge of the felony division, and presiding judge of the misdemeanor/traffic division. She is currently one of three sitting circuit judges assigned to the felony division.

Rossetti was first appointed to the bench as an associate judge in June 1990. She presided over several types of cases including traffic, DUI's, misdemeanors, domestic violence, and felonies as a back-up judge to the felony division. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she had worked in the Lake County State's Attorney's Office since 1983. Her assignments included serving as lead prosecutor in several high profile felony cases, and as supervisor of the juvenile division, and supervisor of the misdemeanor division. She had also worked as an assistant state's attorney in DuPage County from 1979 to 1983.

In 1974, Rossetti received a bachelor of social work from St. Louis University and a master's degree of social work from the same university in 1975. She earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1979 from Lewis University College of Law (now known as Northern Illinois University College of Law). Coincidentally, while attending law school, she met and eventually married her attorney husband, Douglas Zeit. They have two sons and are residents of the Lake Forest community.

Judge Rossetti has been the recipient of several awards during her judicial career. Some of these awards include the Distinguished Career Award from the Northern Illinois University College of Law Alumni Council; the Benedict J. Ori Award; the Fred L. Foreman Criminal Justice Award; and the Impresa Award presented by the Women's Division of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans. She has participated as faculty in several law related and educational programs and has served as a member of several committees. She is a member of the Illinois Judges, the Illinois State Bar, and the Lake County Bar Associations; the Lake County Association of Women Attorneys; and the Justinian Society.

The election of Chief Judge took place at a Circuit Judges Meeting at the courthouse on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

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<http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>