



News Release

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

CHARLES W. SMITH APPOINTED CIRCUIT JUDGE

“It is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Charles W. Smith, Attorney at Law, as a Circuit Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit,” said Judge Ortiz, Chief Judge. “Mr. Smith is an excellent selection and possesses outstanding qualities - experience, fairness and is highly respected in the legal community. He has had an illustrious career as a Lake County Assistant State’s Attorney and in private practice. He brings many strengths to the circuit bench.”

Smith will fill the position now held by the Honorable George Bridges who will retire from his post as Circuit Judge, Judicial Sub-Circuit Number One (1), effective January 25, 2016. The Supreme Court appointment is effective February 22, 2016 until December 3, 2018. To maintain his position as Circuit Judge after December 3, 2018, Smith will have to be nominated in the March 2018 primary and elected in the November 2018 general election.

“I am extremely honored and gratified that the Illinois Supreme Court has appointed me to succeed Judge Bridges as a judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit. As a former prosecutor with the Lake County State’s Attorney’s office, I prosecuted cases that were investigated by Detective George Bridges. To now succeed him as a judge is a great honor. I look forward to working with all the judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit to bring justice and fairness to those who appear in court,” said Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith is the owner and president of Smith, LaLuzerne and Hartman, Ltd., a law firm employing 5 attorneys. He concentrates his practice to government law, personal injury, civil and criminal litigation.

He is a 1972 graduate of Boston College where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with majors in English and Philosophy. He attended St. Louis University School of Law graduating in 1975 and is one of the founding editors of *Symposium* magazine.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Lake County Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Florida Bar and is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He is the past Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association Traffic Laws and Courts Section Council as well as past President of the Lake County Bar Association.

Mr. Smith is active in church and community activities. He and his wife Michele are the parents of Lt. Commander Megan Donnelly, USN, and Brian G. Smith, an attorney with the firm Smith, LaLuzerne and Hartman Ltd.