



## News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### THIRD LAKE COUNTY JUDGE TO RETIRE IN JANUARY

"I was informed of yet another judicial retirement, that of Circuit Judge Christopher Starck," said Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz. "I want to thank him for his many years of service on the bench, and I am very happy for him and his family. He, too, will be sorely missed by the entire Lake County legal community."

Just shy of celebrating his 27<sup>th</sup> year on the bench, Circuit Judge Christopher Starck announced that he also has decided to move on to the next phase of his life. "While retirement brings some sadness and a few tears, it is something that we all look forward to and have worked very hard to achieve," said Judge Starck. As a former chief judge, he coined the phrase, "We are all in this together;" however, he has amended the phrase now to say, "YOU are all in this together."

Born in Chicago, Christopher "Kip" Starck grew up in Lake County attending grammar and high schools in Deerfield. He graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha and received his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1979. He worked in Waukegan and Chicago before he and Tom Smoker, a former associate judge now deceased, formed their own Waukegan firm, Smoker and Starck, where Judge Starck specialized in civil litigation.

Appointed associate judge in April 1989, his primary assignment was felony back-up where he heard several high profile and capital cases. In March 2000, he was appointed circuit

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judge by the Illinois Supreme Court and elected circuit judge in the 2002 general election. “Probably one of the highlights of my career include being elected chief judge and serving three terms in that position from December 1, 2004 to November 30, 2007,” said Judge Starck.. He was the last chief judge to preside over the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit as a two-county circuit, comprised of Lake and McHenry Counties. McHenry County became known as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit in 2006. “Another highlight was being appointed in 2000 as chair of a special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases. The committee proposed recommendations to the Supreme Court on the way death penalty cases were to be prepared and tried.” In addition, Judge Starck was recognized by the Supreme Court for his commitment to excellence in the delivery of numerous educational programs.

Other appointments by the Illinois Supreme Court included serving on the Judicial Conference of Illinois Automation and Technology Committee, the Committee on Strategic Planning, and the Executive Committee on the Supreme Court Business Policy Board. He was reappointed to the Judicial Conference Executive Committee and the Judicial Conference Study Committee on Complex Litigation. He has taught at the national level and has been certified to teach classes for the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts (NCCMC) and at new judge seminars for almost 20 years. Judge Starck has lectured at numerous seminars and conferences on topics including trial court standards, criminal law, and court security, and has been invited as a special guest to appear on radio stations WGN, WBBM and WKRS to discuss legal issues.

Judge Starck’s last day at the courthouse will be Friday, January 29, 2016. His future plans include spending time with family, traveling, and completing some projects he hasn’t found time to complete. He also plans to do mediation and continue working with Supreme Court committees and initiatives regarding technology.

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