



News Release

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

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO STATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Illinois Judges Association (IJA) recently elected its new officers and Board of Directors for the 2016-17 term of office. The installation of these officers and board members took place during the Association's annual meeting in early June.

Circuit Judge Margaret J. Mullen was installed as IJA's 3rd Vice President and will serve a one-year term. She previously served the Association as Treasurer during the 2015-16 term. She has been active for many years with the Association and was previously a member of its Board of Directors. On the bench in Lake County since 1992, Judge Mullen has served as Chief Judge, Presiding Judge of the Consolidated Family Division, Presiding Judge of the Law Division, and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division. She currently sits in the Civil Division. Judge Mullen graduated with distinction from the John Marshall Law School in 1980.

Circuit Judge Christen L. Bishop was elected to IJA's Board of Directors and will serve a three-year term. Judge Bishop was appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in February 2016. Prior to her appointment, she served as an associate judge in the Misdemeanor/Traffic Division at the Mundelein Branch Court from October 2012 to July 2014. In 2014, she was assigned to bond court in the Felony Division. Currently, Judge Bishop sits in the Felony Division where she serves as a backup judge to try criminal felony cases. Judge Bishop earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1994.

The Honorable Charles W. Smith, another Circuit Judge appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court this year, was recently added to the Illinois Judges Foundation Board for a three-year term. Judge Smith's appointment was effective as of February 22, 2016. Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Smith was President of the law firm, Smith LaLuzerne and Hartman, Ltd. with concentration in government law, personal injury, and civil and criminal litigation. Judge Smith is currently assigned to the Family Division. Judge Smith is a graduate of Boston College where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, and he graduated in 1975 from St. Louis University School of Law.

Judge Elizabeth M. Rochford is also a member of IJA's Board of Directors. She is currently serving her second year of a three-year term. In addition, she recently concluded a term as President of the Illinois Judges Foundation and will serve as ex-officio for the next year. Also a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), Judge Rochford was re-elected (unopposed) this spring to serve on the Board for a second three-year term. Since her appointment as a Lake County Associate Judge in December 2012, Judge Rochford has served in traffic court in Park City and is currently assigned to the Family Division. Judge Rochford received her J.D. degree from the Loyola University School of Law.

The Illinois Judges Association's Board of Directors consists of approximately 50 Board members. Judges Mullen, Bishop, Smith and Rochford will join Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz, a member of IJA, who currently serves on both the Illinois Judges Association and the Illinois Judges Foundation Boards of Directors. The Association's annual meeting was held at the Chicago-Kent College of Law on June 3, 2016.

Circuit Judge Diane E. Winter was appointed this spring to the 2016 Child Support Advisory Committee for the State of Illinois. Judge Winter received notice from Felicia Norwood, Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The committee was created to review child support policies and operational topics related to the statewide child support program. The committee consists of members representing the legislature, state's attorneys, attorney general, clerks of the courts and community-based groups. Members are appointed by the Director of Healthcare and Family Services and serve one-year terms.

Judge Winter was elected Circuit Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Fifth Subcircuit in the 2010 general election. Serving on the bench since 2000, Judge Winter has served in the Misdemeanor/Traffic Division handling a high volume caseload of traffic and misdemeanor matters and also served as a backup judge to hear domestic violence cases. Judge Winter, who is currently assigned to the Civil Division, also serves as the Presiding Judge of the Family Division. She is a former President of the Lake County Bar Association and has also served as President of the Jefferson Inn. Judge Winter received her Juris Doctorate from Northern Illinois University School of Law in 1981.

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