



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: 8/25/17
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

JUVENILE JUDGE SWEARS IN NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS TO LAKE COUNTY'S JUVENILE COURT



From left to right: JoAnne Williams, Amanda LeGrand, Bridget McManus, Marion Smith, Judge Ceckowski, Cindy Sievers, Julie Sexton, Katie Shorr, and Jeff Gallichio.

Supervising Juvenile Judge Valerie Boettle Ceckowski swore in eight CASA volunteers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, at the new Robert W. Depke Juvenile Justice Complex, in Vernon Hills. This is the first class to be sworn in since the opening of the new complex. The new CASA advocates are JoAnne Williams (Vernon Hills), Amanda LeGrand (Chicago), Bridget McManus (Lake Forest), Marion Smith (Highland Park), Cindy Sievers (Gurnee), Julie Sexton (Arlington Heights), Katie Shorr (Arlington Heights), and Jeff Gallichio (Des Plaines).

Judge Ceckowski said: "CASA advocates are a real benefit to the children of Lake County. A CASA on the case means another pair of hands to monitor the child's home life, to offer insights into the child's strengths and needs, and to help the court serve the child's best interests. Thank you for help serving Lake County's neediest citizens." Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz added: "CASA's are one of the unsung heroes of our Juvenile Court. We are a better court system because of their work. We thank CASA Lake County and we thank these new CASA advocates."

(more)

CASA advocates receive 40 hours of training and take an oath promising to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in Lake County's Juvenile Court. CASA volunteers meet with the child regularly, interview people in the child's life, attend court hearings and make a written report to the judge. CASA's must be at least 25 years of age, clear an extensive background screening and successfully complete 40 hours of training. Terri Zenner Greenberg, director of CASA Lake County explained: "Our volunteers pledge to stay with each child until the case is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. The advocate is often the only consistent adult presence in the child's life."

CASA Lake County was founded in 1993 and began serving Lake County's Juvenile Court in 1994. CASA Lake County currently has more than 260 volunteers serving nearly 500 children involved with Lake County Juvenile Court. CASA volunteers serve without pay and CASA Lake County operates without taxpayer funding. CASA is a national movement, which began in the juvenile courts of Seattle Washington in 1977. CASA organizations now serve juvenile courts across the nation. The next advocate training session for Lake County begins October 11, 2017. For more information, visit: <http://casalakecounty.com>

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