



News Release

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

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE MARK L. LEVITT RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

Lake County Chief Judge Mark L. Levitt is the recipient of the 2023 Honorable Richard J. Elrod Public Service Award. "I am honored to be recognized by the Jewish Judges Association of Illinois. I could not be more humbled by the comparison of my career of service to Judge Elrod's lifetime dedication to being a public servant, distinguished by his integrity and professionalism. Judge Elrod's legacy is one to aspire to," said Chief Judge Mark Levitt of the 19th Judicial Circuit.

Judge Elrod dedicated his entire life to public service. After graduating from Northwestern University Law School in 1958, he began his legal career as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago. Seven years later, he was the City's chief prosecutor. In 1969, Judge Elrod was elected as a state representative. He served four terms as the Cook County Sheriff, from 1970 to 1986. In 1988, he joined the judiciary as a Circuit Court of Cook County judge, a position he held until his 2014 death.

Judge Levitt was elected Circuit Judge for the Fourth Subcircuit of the 19th Judicial Circuit in the November 2010 general election. When he began his career on the bench, he was assigned to preside over the domestic violence courtroom; he then served as the criminal felony backup judge and was appointed the Presiding Judge of the criminal misdemeanor and traffic division. Currently, Levitt is serving in the role of Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. Before his election to the bench, Levitt worked in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, serving in the Office's Homicide Task Force.

Judge Levitt earned his undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1987 and 1990, respectively. Judge Levitt teaches in various settings and was appointed by the Supreme Court as Vice-Chair of the Circuit Court Clerk Education Committee of the Illinois Judicial College. He is a member of the Illinois Judges Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the Lake County Bar Association. He is a member of the Deerfield Rotary, the Deerfield Lions, and a former Deerfield Public School District 109 School Board member. Judge Levitt volunteers for various charitable organizations and was a former league president of the Deerfield Youth Baseball Association.

Chief Judge Levitt was presented with his award on Wednesday, October 18th, at the 19th Annual Jewish Judges Association of Illinois Justice, Lifetime Achievement, and Public Service Awards and Installation Dinner.

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