



## News Release

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the implementation of the Illinois JusticeCorps program, which began offering services at the courthouse this month. The event will provide the general public an opportunity to learn more about JusticeCorps, its volunteers and what services they can provide. Chief Judge John Phillips invites the public to attend the ribbon cutting that is planned to take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the atrium of the Lake County Courthouse.

The Illinois JusticeCorps program consists of one full-time and four part-time student volunteers who serve visitors to the Lake County Courthouse. Visitors will be able to identify these volunteers by their Illinois JusticeCorps blue shirts and badges. Volunteers are stationed at different locations throughout the courthouse, including the Law Library and multiple court entrances. They can escort people to courtrooms and other court-related facilities, help them gain access to legal information, and help them complete basic court forms. JusticeCorps members do not provide legal advice, but are able to answer general and procedural questions, connect patrons with web-based resources, and make referrals to legal aid and social services.

Chief Judge Phillips said, "We are very pleased to welcome JusticeCorps to Lake County. A courthouse is an intimidating place. Our hope is that these volunteers with their blue shirts and friendly faces help our citizens feel more comfortable moving around the court complex and better able to present their matters to the judge."

Launched by the Chicago Bar Foundation [CBF] as a pilot project in Chicago in 2009, the Illinois JusticeCorps program was expanded to Bloomington in 2012 with AmeriCorps funding from the Serve Illinois Commission and additional funding and significant in-kind support from the CBF and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. The Illinois Bar Foundation will administer the expansion into seven additional courthouses around the state including those in Rockford, Kankakee, Champaign, Galesburg, Macomb and Edwardsville.

From September 2013 to March 2014, JusticeCorps members provided assistance more than 11,000 times to visitors at three Illinois courts. The number does not include volunteer assistance at the newly-opened Circuit Court of Cook County Self-Help Resource Center. Further information about the program is available at [www.illinoisbarfoundation.org](http://www.illinoisbarfoundation.org).

If you have questions regarding the JusticeCorps program at the Lake County Courthouse, contact Joanne Vandestreek, Law Librarian for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, at 847.377.2267.

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[www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us](http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us)