



News Release

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

JORGE L. ORTIZ ELECTED NEXT CHIEF JUDGE

According to local Circuit Court rules, an election of a Chief Judge shall occur on or before the 30th day of June in the year preceding the year that the Circuit Judge begins his/her term. The term commences on the 1st Monday of January and is for one year.

At a meeting Wednesday of the Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Jorge L. Ortiz was unanimously elected to serve as the next Chief Judge. Judge Ortiz's term will commence on January 4, 2016 and will end on January 1, 2017.

"I am honored to be elected to serve as chief judge and grateful for the expression of confidence and support from my fellow circuit judges. I look forward to working with all of our judges, the many wonderful employees of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, and all of our justice partners in the administration of justice and service to the people of Lake County," said Judge Ortiz. "I will do my best to continue the excellent leadership provided by my predecessors."

The Honorable Jorge Ortiz became the first Hispanic judge in Lake County when he was selected as associate judge by the circuit judges in 2002. He served as associate judge until his appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 as circuit judge and was successfully elected as circuit judge of the sixth subcircuit in 2010. Currently the Presiding

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Judge of the Civil Division, Judge Ortiz previously served as Presiding Judge of the now titled Consolidated Family Division.

Well known as an authority on child support and family law topics, Judge Ortiz has lectured for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), the Illinois State Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, Loyola University School of Law and several other agencies. Involved in several professional and community organizations, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges Association, the Illinois Judges Foundation and the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County. He is a member of the Illinois State and Lake County Bar Associations.

Last December he was appointed to the Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood by then Governor Pat Quinn. In October he was presented with the inaugural Outstanding Jurist of the Year Award by the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association.

Born and raised on Chicago's West Side and in the Logan Square community, Judge Ortiz graduated from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School. He received his undergraduate degree in 1985 from Loyola University and earned his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School in 1989. He began his legal career as an assistant state's attorney in Lake County working in the traffic and misdemeanor division. In 1990 he joined the Fox Lake law firm of Soffietti, Johnson, Teegen & Phillips, Ltd. as an associate in the general practice of law and four years later was named a partner of the firm.

Judge Ortiz and his wife Meg have two grown daughters and reside in the Antioch community.

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