



News Release

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

ORTIZ APPOINTED CIRCUIT JUDGE

"I learned this morning from the Illinois Supreme Court that Associate Judge Jorge Ortiz has been appointed Circuit Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit," said Chief Judge James Booras. "Jorge is an outstanding jurist and is an excellent selection as the 19th Circuit's next Circuit Judge," commented Booras. "I am very happy for Jorge and his family." Ortiz will fill the Circuit Judge post recently vacated by Mary Seminara Schostok who was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court, Second Judicial District.

The appointment of Ortiz is effective next Monday, August 25, 2008 and terminates December 6, 2010. To maintain his position as Circuit Judge, Ortiz will have to be nominated in the February 2010 primary and elected in the November 2010 general election.

Appointed in December 2002, Ortiz was assigned to branch courts Lakehurst and Mundelein where he heard a voluminous number of traffic and ordinance violation cases. On non-traffic court days he heard misdemeanor and DUI cases in the main courthouse. Since early 2005, he has served in the family division where he has handled divorce prove-ups, contested divorce hearings, child custody cases, support matters, adoptions, orders of protection, and involuntary admission and treatment cases.

Ortiz is on the Board of several community organizations, including Mano a Mano, which is dedicated to serving the Hispanic community, the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Illinois, and NICASA. He speaks Spanish fluently and is proud of his Hispanic heritage. He serves on the Board of the Illinois Judges Association and is a member of the Lake County Bar Association.

After working as an Assistant State's Attorney in Lake County, Ortiz joined the Fox Lake firm of Soffietti, Johnson, Teegen & Phillips, Ltd. as an associate in the general practice of law in late 1990. In 1994 he became a partner and his name was added to the firm's name.

Judge Ortiz received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985 from Loyola University and he earned his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School in 1989.

Judge Ortiz and his family reside in the Antioch community.

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