



## News Release

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

Date of Release: 12/04/08

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois



New signage, "*A Force for Positive Change*," will soon be displayed around the courthouse identifying a need for greater awareness of the positive role of community corrections in Lake County. The 19th Judicial Circuit Court in conjunction with the American Probation and Parole Association is launching the new identity program as part of a national initiative aimed at educating communities about proven ways to reduce crime. "We need people to understand the important role probation plays in the criminal justice system," said Frank Kuzmickus, Director of Adult Probation for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

"I think community corrections is misunderstood by the general public," said Frank Morelli, Adult Probation Officer for the 19th Judicial Circuit and President of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association. "The general perception is that we are soft on crime and that offenders should just be locked up. But studies show that using evidence based practices which focus on assessment, treatment and supervision techniques is more effective in reducing recidivism and is more cost efficient to the public."

"As a former practicing attorney and assistant state's attorney, and, currently, the chief judge of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, I know that we have a hard-working and dedicated probation staff who are actively committed to serving the best interests of the citizens of Lake County," said Chief Judge James Booras. "They continue to challenge themselves to initiate new programs and are recognized as one of the best probation departments in the state and nationwide."

If you would like additional information about this program or any other probation programs, you may contact Adult Probation at 847.377.4504.

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<http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>