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STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ) SS  
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NOV 24 2025

*Eva Cantarut Weinstein*  
CIRCUIT CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 25-15

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIRCUIT COURT OF LAKE COUNTY

**JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Administrative Order 25-04 is vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subject to the authority of the Chief Judge, the following judicial assignments are effective January 12, 2026.

**A. The Civil Division shall routinely hear the following types of cases:**

Arbitration (AR), Chancery (CH), Eminent Domain (ED), Eviction (EV), Foreclosure (FC), Law (L, LA), Law Magistrate (LM), Government Corporation (GC), Guardianship (GR), Miscellaneous Remedy (MR), Small Claims (SC), Tax (TX), Probate (P, PR) and Contempt of Court (CC).

The Civil Division judges are as follows:

**The Honorable Jorge L. Ortiz,  
Presiding Judge of the Civil Division**

C-201 Law Docket	Jorge L. Ortiz
C-202 Law Docket	Joseph V. Salvi
C-204 Law Docket	Luis A. Berrones
C-205 Law Docket	Charles W. Smith
C-301 Chancery Docket	Janelle K. Christensen
C-302 Chancery Docket	Daniel L. Jasica
C-303 Probate Docket	Donna-Jo R. Vorderstrasse
C-304 Arbitration Docket	Michael B. Betar
C-305 Back-up	John L. Joanem
C-403 Small Claims Docket	Christopher B. Morozin
C-404 Evictions Docket	R. Christopher Ditton
C-405 Back-up	Stacey L. Seneczko

**B. The Family Division shall routinely hear the following types of cases:**

Adoption (AD), Dissolution (D), Dissolution No Minor Children (DN), Dissolution with Minor Children (DC), Family (F, FA), Family (F-Confidential Intermediary Cases) and Contempt of Court (CC).

The Family Division judges are as follows:

**The Honorable Sharmila K. Manak  
Presiding Judge of the Family Division**

C-101 Family Docket	Bolling W. Haxall
C-102 Family Docket	Patricia L. Cornell
C-103 Family Docket	Sharmila K. Manak
C-105 Family Docket	Jacquelyn D. Melius
C-107 Back-up	Matthew J. DeMartini
C-401 SRL Docket	Veronica M. O'Malley
C-402 SRL & Adoptions Docket	Ruth H. Lofthouse

**C. The Criminal Division shall routinely hear the following types of cases:**

Felony (CF), Misdemeanor (CM), Major Traffic (MT), Traffic (TR), Domestic Violence (DV), Driving Under the Influence (DT), Quasi-Criminal (QC), Contempt of Court (CC), Miscellaneous Criminal (MX), Miscellaneous Remedy (MR), (Eavesdropping, Fugitive from Justice, Asset Forfeitures), Civil Law Violations (CL), Conservation Violations (CV), Ordinance Violations (OV), Order of Protection (OP) and Mental Health (MH).

The Criminal Division judges are as follows:

**The Honorable Victoria A. Rossetti, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division**

**The Honorable Mark L. Levitt,  
Presiding Judge of the Felony Division**

T-020 First Appearance Court	Rhonda K. Bruno
T-121 Detention Court	Michael G. Nerheim
T-510 Felony Docket	Patricia S. Fix
T-610 Felony Docket	James K. Booras
T-611 Felony DUI Docket	Christopher R. Stride
T-612 Felony Docket	D. Christopher Lombardo
T-710 Felony Docket	Victoria A. Rossetti
T-712 Felony Docket	Mark L. Levitt
T-812 Back-up	Ari P. Fisz

**The Honorable Christopher R. Stride,  
Presiding Judge of the Misdemeanor/Traffic Division**

C-207 CM/TR Docket	James K. Simonian
T-110 CM/TR Docket	James R.M. Newman
T-120 Back-up	Helen S. Rozenberg
T-511 CM Domestic	Stephen M. DeRue
T-512 CM/TR Docket	George T. Pappas
Mundelein Branch	Eric J. Kalata
North Branch	Deborah J. Menas
Park City A Branch	Gabriel J. Conroe

**D. The Restorative Justice Division shall routinely hear the following types of cases:**

Adoption (AD), Family (F-Confidential Intermediary Cases), Juvenile (J, JV), Juvenile Abuse and Neglect (JA), and Juvenile Delinquency (JD), Felony (CF), Misdemeanor (CM), Major Traffic (MT), Traffic (TR), Domestic Violence (DV), Driving Under the Influence (DT), Quasi-Criminal (QC), Contempt of Court (CC), Miscellaneous Criminal (MX), Miscellaneous Remedy (MR), (Eavesdropping, Fugitive from Justice, Asset Forfeitures), Civil Law Violations (CL), Conservation Violations (CV), Ordinance Violations (OV) Order of Protection (OP) and Mental Health (MH).

The Restorative Justice Division judges are as follows:

**The Honorable Christen L. Bishop,  
Presiding Judge of the Restorative Justice Division**

Specialty Courts & Fitness Docket	Paul B. Novak
T-711 Specialty Courts Docket	Christen L. Bishop
(C-1) VH Juvenile Docket	Marnie M. Slavin
(C-2) VH Juvenile Docket	Reginald C. Mathews, <i>Supervising Judge of Juvenile Justice</i>

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Ruth H. Lofthouse is assigned to the C-402. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Rhonda K. Bruno is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Ruth H. Lofthouse in Courtroom C-402, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Donna-Jo R. Vorderstrasse is assigned to Courtroom C-303. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable John L. Joanem is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Donna-Jo R. Vorderstrasse in Courtroom C-303, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Stacey L. Seneczko is assigned to Courtroom C-405. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Donna-Jo R. Vorderstrasse is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Stacey L. Seneczko in Courtroom C-405, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Rhonda K. Bruno is assigned to Courtroom T-020. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Helen S. Rozenberg and Stephen M. DeRue is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Rhonda K. Bruno in Courtroom T-020, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable James R.M. Newman is assigned to Courtroom T-110. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Ari P. Fisz is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable James R.M. Newman in Courtroom T-110, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Stephen M. DeRue is assigned to Courtroom T-511. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable James R.M. Newman is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Stephen M. DeRue in Courtroom T-511, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable D. Christopher Lombardo is assigned to Courtroom T-612. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable George D. Strickland in Courtroom T-812 is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable D. Christopher Lombardo in Courtroom T-612.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Eric J. Kalata is assigned to the Mundelein Branch Courthouse. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Gabriel J. Conroe is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Eric J. Kalata in the Mundelein Branch Courthouse, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Gabriel J. Conroe is assigned to the Park City (A) Branch Courthouse. The caseload currently assigned to the Honorable Matthew J. DeMartini is hereby reassigned and transferred to the Honorable Gabriel J. Conroe in the Park City (A) Branch Courthouse, excluding those cases pending hearing on post-trial motions or those matters currently under advisement.

## **E. GENERAL ORDERS**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judges shall assign judicial duties to the Circuit and Associate Judges regularly assigned by the Chief Judge and otherwise administer their respective divisions of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge of the Felony Division, or his designee, shall call Grand Juries.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applications for Reinstatement of Occupational Licenses (also known as Certificates of Relief from Disabilities), Expungement of Records, Sealing of Records, and the Fitness call shall be assigned to and heard by the Presiding Judge of the Restorative Justice Division or her designee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitions for Certificates of Innocence and Certificates of Good Conduct shall be assigned to and heard by the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division or her designee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitions for review of the denial of the issuance of FOID card applications by the Illinois State Police shall be assigned to and heard by the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division or his designee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the case reassignment monitoring system is updated to reflect the above stated assignments for the dates stated and that the judge assignment packets are changed at the earliest possible time to reflect the proper judge name.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all trial and motion dates for cases affected under this Order shall remain as scheduled unless otherwise ordered by Court.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

ENTERED:

  
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DANIEL B. SHANES,  
Chief Judge