



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Juvenile Delinquency Judge, Detention Superintendent Appointed to Juvenile Detention Practices Task Force**

*Judge Sandra Parga and Superintendent Michael Davis appointed to task force making recommendations to the Illinois Supreme Court*

*January 24, 2025 – Kane County, Illinois – Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Sandra Parga has been named Chair of the Juvenile Detention Practices Task Force which reports to the Illinois Supreme Court. Kane County Court Services Juvenile Justice Center Superintendent Michael Davis has been appointed to serve on the committee as a subject matter expert. Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis made their appointments.*

The Juvenile Detention Practices Task Force was formed as part of the Court’s strategic plan to strengthen juvenile detention practices. Illinois has a complex system of juvenile detention oversight and accountability as set forth in Illinois law and policy. The focus of this initiative is to develop recommendations for improving the administration and accountability of care provided by detention facilities across Illinois.

The Juvenile Detention Practices Task Force is expected to study the current system and make recommendations to the Supreme Court no later than October 2025 on the following:

- Developing a juvenile detention system map identifying authority/requirements for funding, administration, monitoring, and oversight
- Studying best/promising/evidence-based practices in detention care from admission, screening, behavioral health care, education services, and PREA compliance to disciplinary policy and practice, etc.
- Exploring different models of detention, including community-based models, and their potential implementation or expansion in Illinois
- Recommending other strategies for making system improvements and supporting consistent practices across the state in collaboration with state and county partners.

Judge Parga is the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division and has served as Chair of the New Judge Committee for the College of Judicial Education, co-chair of the Biennial Juvenile Conference, and a member of the Juvenile Benchbooks Editorial Committee. Additionally, she continues to serve as faculty for juvenile justice courses. Judge Parga remarked, “I am honored and humbled by the trust placed in me by Chief Justice Theis and the Illinois Supreme Court. The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit has consistently endeavored to be at the forefront of juvenile justice issues with a constant goal of finding and adopting the best evidence-based practices for our children in detention. I’m looking forward to working with the many experts across the state

who share the same concern for the balance of public safety with the well-being of the children detained.”

Superintendent Michael Davis is widely regarded as a leader in the field of county juvenile detention and has participated in several committees reviewing programming in detention services. He stated that, “The Kane County Juvenile Justice Center has worked very hard to implement evidence-based programming and create a safe and nurturing environment for the youth we care for. It is an honor to be appointed to the task force in recognition for the work we have done. For several years, I have worked alongside and fostered relationships with oversight agencies, advocacy groups, and those seeking to reform juvenile detention. Many of their members have also been appointed to this task force. I am excited to be a part of the collaboration with the judiciary to develop recommendations to improve the care and outcomes for the youth we serve.”



Kane County Court Services Juvenile Justice Center Superintendent Michael Davis



Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Sandra Parga

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