



For Immediate Release

Date: February 6, 2025

TWO FINALISTS FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE VACANCY ARE ANNOUNCED

Chief Judge Robert K. Villa is pleased to announce that following a meeting of the Circuit Judges of the 16th Judicial Circuit, Ericka J. Thomas and Thomas E. St. Jules have been selected as the finalists to fill a 16th Circuit Associate Judge vacancy. The vacancy is the result of Judge Sandra Parga being elected as a Circuit Judge, effective November 6, 2024.

Ericka J. Thomas, J.D.: Valparaiso University, School of Law, Valparaiso, Indiana, 1992

Admitted to practice law in 1992, Ms. Thomas is currently a Partner at Ottosen, DiNolfo, Hasenbalg & Castaldo Ltd. and focuses her practice on local government law, including civil rights and harassment defense litigation, commission work, police and fire pension work, and local prosecution. Prior to joining Ottosen DiNolfo in 1998, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Divisions of the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office, and the Macon County State's Attorney's Office. Ms. Thomas is currently a member of the Kane County Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, and Illinois State Bar Association. She has been an active member in various local school programs and a frequent presenter at fire protection conferences.

Thomas E. St. Jules, J.D.: John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois, 2008

Admitted to practice law in 2008, Mr. St. Jules is currently a Partner at Llamas, St. Jules LLP, in General Practice. Prior to this, he was an Associate at Dreyer, Foote, Streit, Furgason & Slocum PA, and an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. Mr. St. Jules is a member of the Kane and DuPage County Bar Associations, as well as the Illinois Bar Association and previously, the Illinois Creditors Bar Association. He is the vice president of a local food pantry and an elected school board member of a local school district.

For further information, contact:

Alana Policastro, Judicial Assistant

Office of the Chief Judge and Court Administrator

Phone: 630-232-3440

Email: PolicastroAlana@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov

