



ILLINOIS COURTS CONNECT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL BRANCH

December 2017



Election season's greetings

As the holiday season draws to a close and we prepare to greet the New Year, attention will soon turn to the upcoming elections. For the Illinois judiciary, this is an especially important time. Earlier this month I completed certification of the vacancies to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Elections by the Court and reviewed certification of an additional vacancy from the Courts Commission. Those documents show that more than 80 circuit court vacancies will appear on primary ballots this March. That figure represents nearly 16% of our total circuit court bench. » [Read More.](#)



Pretrial reform efforts in Illinois

In recent years, bail reform has emerged as a hot topic nationally — and a bipartisan one at that. This past summer, Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced a bill called the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act designed to encourage states to reform their bail practices. » [Read More.](#)



Features from court offices

Mandatory e-filing is just around the corner; A good cause exemption exists for those who need it

Attorneys and litigants filing documents with the Illinois Supreme Court and Appellate Courts, in civil cases, have been required to do so electronically since July 1, 2017. The requirement for e-filing in civil cases will apply to circuit courts across the State on January 1, 2018, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court M.R. 18368 (eff. Jan. 22, 2016). » [Read More.](#)

Illinois Supreme Court history: Abraham Lincoln Lee - Supreme Court janitor

Nearly 110 years ago, the new Supreme Court Building opened for business. While there has been a significant amount of research on the justices who worked there, one missing piece of the history of the building is the individuals who maintained and cared for the Temple of Justice. » [Read More.](#)

Supreme Court appoints James E. Chadd as State Appellate Defender

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday the appointment of James E. Chadd to the Office of State Appellate Defender to a four-year term to begin January 1, 2018. He succeeds Michael Pelletier, who was appointed in 2007 and will be retiring at the end of 2017. » [Read More.](#)



Nearly 200 judges attend bail reform webinar

The Committee on Judicial Education hosted a live one-hour webinar on Tuesday, December 19. The webinar offered judges an opportunity to learn and ask about the Illinois Bail Reform Act which is scheduled to enter into effect on January 1, 2018. » [Read More.](#)

Justice Theis speech at Supreme Court dinner

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis delivered the following speech on Dec. 8 at the Supreme Court dinner sponsored by the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. » [Read More.](#)

Illinois judges receive recognition and awards

Illinois judges are increasingly being recognized for their dedicated work in courtrooms throughout the state. Here is a rundown of some of the recent honors received by Illinois judges: » [Read More.](#)

Court newsletters help keep you informed

The Illinois Supreme Court Communications Office publishes two newsletters, Media Monitor and Illinois Courts Connect. » [Read More.](#)

Illinois Judicial College committees to seek input

The Illinois Judicial College held its kickoff meeting in October. This was the first time each of the six committees (Judicial Education, Trial Court Administrator Education, Guardian ad litem Education, Probation Education, Circuit Court Clerk Education, Judicial Branch Staff Education) had a chance to meet in-person. » [Read More.](#)

Supreme Court announces formation of Pretrial Practices Commission

The Illinois Supreme Court has announced the formation of a commission to provide guidance and recommendations regarding pretrial reform in the Illinois criminal justice system. The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices will conduct a comprehensive review of the Illinois pretrial detention system and will make recommendations for change. » [Read More.](#)

Justice Corner



December 2017 Justice Corner

Dear Justice Corner: With e-filing becoming mandatory for civil cases on January 1, how will I be affected? » [Read More.](#)

Judicial appointments, retirements, and obituaries

Salvi appointed to Circuit Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Joseph V. Salvi was appointed Circuit Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit, Fifth Subcircuit, effective January 2, 2018. » [Read More.](#)

Gervais appointed Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit

The Illinois Supreme Court has appointed David R. Gervais as Circuit Judge, at Large, in the 22nd Judicial Circuit. The appointment takes effect February 5, 2018, and will conclude on December 7, 2020. » [Read More.](#)

Chief Circuit Judge Fitzgerald to retire in 2018

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Kevin Fitzgerald announced that he plans to retire in 2018, creating a vacancy that voters will fill in next November's general election. » [Read More.](#)

Kane Judge Akemann announces retirement

Akemann, who previously served as state's attorney, was elected in 2010 as a circuit judge and voters retained him in 2016. Akemann's last day as a judge is Dec. 2, 2018, which will allow voters to elect a new circuit judge in November 2018 to be sworn in Dec. 3, 2018. » [Read More.](#)

Sixth Circuit Judge Michael Jones hanging up his robe for good in March

Champaign County residents are about to lose one of their most laid-back judges to retirement. After 21 years on the bench — four years as an associate judge and 17 as an elected circuit judge — Jones has announced his last day in office will be March 2. » [Read more.](#)



Judge John Schmidt passes away at age 52

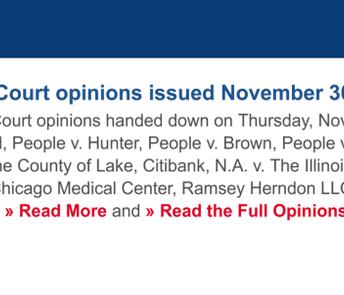
Appellate Judge John Schmidt died from natural causes on December 19, the Sangamon County coroner's office said. Schmidt was recently appointed to fill an open spot on the 4th District Appellate Court. The assignment began Dec. 7 and was to run until Dec. 3, 2018. » [Read more.](#)



Photo galleries

New Judge Seminar

Held the week of December 4, 2017, in Chicago, the New Judge Seminar provides intensive education and training to new judges in Illinois. » [See more photos.](#)



Supreme Court opinions

Quick take on Illinois Supreme Court opinions issued November 30

Leading appellate attorneys review Illinois Supreme Court opinions handed down on Thursday, Nov. 30. The cases are *People v. Cole*, *People v. Relford*, *People v. Hunter*, *People v. Brown*, *People v. Staake*, *In re Marriage of Goesel*, *Corbett v. The County of Lake*, *Citibank, N.A. v. The Illinois Department of Revenue*, *Lawler v. The University of Chicago Medical Center*, *Ramsey Herndon LLC v. Whiteside*, and *In re Benny M.* » [Read More](#) and » [Read the Full Opinions.](#)

Quick take on Illinois Supreme Court opinion issued December 5

Kerry Bryson of the Office of the State Appellate Defender reviews the Illinois Supreme Court ruling in the circuit case *People v. Casas*. » [Read More](#) and » [Read the Full Opinion.](#)

In the news

New court to link veterans with services

Area veterans who become involved with the criminal justice system will have a new avenue for assistance next year when the 11th Judicial Circuit opens the McLean County Veterans Court. » [Read More.](#)

Commission to Recommend Pretrial Reforms for Illinois Courts

Key players in the Illinois court system are set to scrutinize pretrial processes statewide to identify ways to make them fairer and more transparent. The Illinois Supreme Court says the focal point of the push for reforms will be a Commission on Pretrial Practices. It'll include everyone from judges and lawyers to legislators and court clerks. » [Read More.](#)

IL Supreme Court gives Cook County six more months to complete case e-filing transition work

Cook County's courts have been given an additional six months to bring their civil case filing systems into alignment with a statewide electronic case filing system required by the Illinois Supreme Court. » [Read More.](#)

Last issue's top links

- [Another step toward equal justice: Identifying implicit bias](#)
- [Illinois judges receive recognition and awards](#)
- [Can we just be friends? A review of opinions on lawyers and judges connected on social media](#)

Resources

- [Annual Report of the Illinois Courts 2016](#)
- [January 2018 Call of the Docket](#)
- [eFileIL](#)

E-filing by the numbers

Registered users as of December 27: 24,436

Total filings from December 1 - December 27: 86,567

Court Calendar

JANUARY 1 | [E-filing in civil cases mandatory in all circuit courts](#) | [Learn more](#)

FEBRUARY 5-9 | [Education Conference 2018](#) | [Learn more](#)

APRIL 9-13 | [Education Conference 2018](#) | [Learn more](#)

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