



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



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For Immediate Release

Contact: James (Dan) Wallis
Trial Court Administrator
Phone (815) 334-4385

Email: courtadmin@22ndcircuitil.gov

22nd Second Judicial Circuit Accepting Applications for McHenry County Public Defender

Woodstock, IL - The 22nd Judicial Circuit Court of McHenry County is now accepting applications for the position of Public Defender for McHenry County. The application period is currently open and will close on December 31, 2025. Applicants must be attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois and be in good standing. Interviews will be held in January 2026, with specific dates to be released later. The 22nd Judicial Circuit is seeking applicants who demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, professionalism, and excellence in criminal defense practice. The appointment is scheduled to begin on February 9, 2026. Application packets may be picked up in hard copy from Court Administration, and electronic versions are available on the 22nd Judicial Circuit website at www.22ndcircuitil.gov.

This announcement coincides with the upcoming retirement of current Public Defender Mark Cook, whose distinguished career has spanned decades of dedicated public service. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Cook has been a steadfast advocate for the constitutional rights of indigent defendants, elevating the standards of representation and embodying the ideals of fairness and justice central to the mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit. His leadership has strengthened the office, advanced training and professional development for assistant public defenders and promoted a culture of integrity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to due process. The Court extends its sincere gratitude for his exceptional service to the residents of McHenry County.

“Mark has done a tremendous job over the years putting together a talented, dedicated group of attorneys who do an outstanding job representing their clients. Mark will be missed” stated Chief Judge Michael W. Feetterer.

The Public Defender serves as the lead attorney responsible for providing legal representation to individuals who cannot afford private counsel in criminal matters, ensuring that every person receives meaningful access to justice. The position carries significant responsibility, including

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Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center
2200 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock IL 60098
Office: 815/334-4385 Fax: 815/338-0248

courtroom advocacy, ongoing obligation to uphold state and federal constitutional protections, case management, and supervision of assistant public defenders, while working in coordination with various justice partners.

For additional information regarding the application process, please contact Court Administration at (815) 334-4885.

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