



# 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

County of Kane | State of Illinois

## 2025 Annual Report



Pictured 3rd from left: IL Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford during a 16th Judicial Circuit visit.

Office of the Chief Judge  
37W777 IL RT 38, Suite 301  
St. Charles, Illinois

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# WHO WE ARE

## THE 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

The State of Illinois is divided into 25 judicial circuits (also known as trial courts), including our 16th Judicial Circuit, which is a single-county circuit comprised of Kane County.

The Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction, which means it has original jurisdiction in all matters except those limited cases in which the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction. Trial courts hear a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, ranging from small claims and evictions to family/domestic relations and criminal felonies.



### MISSION

To maintain an accessible, fair, and impartial court system, which resolves disputes in a timely and efficient manner while strengthening public trust.



### VISION

We strive to be leaders within the Judicial Branch by:

Providing the highest quality of services to all.

Treating everyone with courtesy, dignity, empathy, and respect.

Embracing and reflecting the diversity in our community.

Anticipating, adapting, and responding to the needs of our community.



### CORE VALUES

Fair

Professional

Timely

Effective

Collaborative

Innovative

Accountable

## There are six courthouses located in Kane County, Illinois



Kane County Courthouse



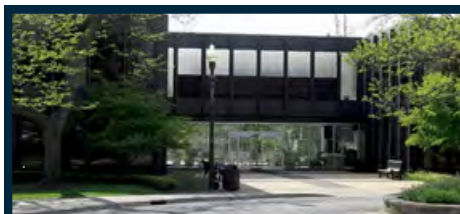
Kane County Judicial Center



Kane County Juvenile Justice Center



Aurora Branch Court



Elgin Branch Court



Kane County Branch Court

# CHIEF JUDGE'S WELCOME

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*Please take a moment to review our annual report to learn about the outstanding work performed by the 16th Judicial Circuit in 2025.*



*We are committed to providing equal access to a fair and impartial system of justice that fosters public trust and confidence.*



**HONORABLE ROBERT K. VILLA**

**Chief Judge**

16th Judicial Circuit Court  
Kane County, Illinois

# FOCUS ON 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW



**MARCH**

**APRIL**

**MAY**

**OCT**

Thomas St. Jules is appointed 16th Judicial Circuit Associate Judge

Kane Courts Quarterly digital community newsletter launches

16th Judicial Circuit hosts first Law Day student essay contest and celebration

Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court celebrates 25 years



# FOCUS ON 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW



OCT

NOV

NOV

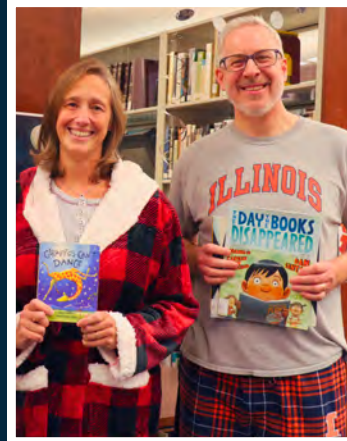
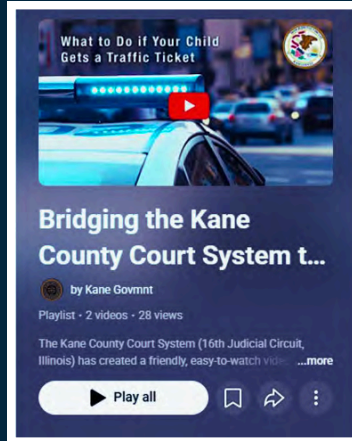
DEC

Justice Elizabeth Rochford honors Kane County pro bono attorneys

*Bridging the Kane County Court System to the Community* project launches

Family Reading Night with the Judges returns for its 22nd year

16th Judicial Circuit Court holds its first National Adoption Day



# KANE COUNTY JUDGES

## CIRCUIT JUDGES

**Hon. Robert K. Villa**  
Chief Judge

**Hon. John A. Barsanti**  
Presiding Felony Division

**Hon. Susan Clancy Boles**  
Presiding Civil Division

**Hon. Kevin T. Busch**

**Hon. Bianca Camargo**

**Hon. René Cruz**  
Presiding Traffic/Misdemeanor &  
DUI Treatment Court

**Hon. John G. Dalton**

**Hon. Kimberly DiGiovanni**  
Presiding Family Division

**Hon. Elizabeth K. Flood**

**Hon. Joseph M. Grady**

**Hon. Michael J. Noland**

**Hon. Sandra T. Parga**  
Presiding Juvenile Division

**Hon. D.J. Tegeler**

**Hon. Julio César Valdez**

## NEW ASSOCIATE JUDGE THOMAS ST. JULES

Thomas E. St. Jules became an associate judge on March 31, 2025. Receiving the most votes cast by the Circuit Judges of the 16th Judicial Circuit, Mr. St. Jules was selected to fill the vacant position left by Judge Sandra Parga's election to Circuit Judge.

Thomas E. St. Jules, J.D. is a 2008 graduate of John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois. He was admitted to practice law in 2008.

## ASSOCIATE JUDGES

**Hon. Reginald N. Campbell**

**Hon. M. Lark Cowart**

**Hon. Bradley P. David**

**Hon. Christine A. Downs**

**Hon. William G. Engerman**

**Hon. Keith A. Johnson**

**Hon. Kathryn D. Karayannis**

**Hon. David P. Kliment**

**Hon. Lawrence W. Lobb**

**Hon. Salvatore LoPiccolo Jr.**

**Hon. Mark A. Pheanis**

**Hon. Thomas St. Jules**

**Hon. Divya K. Sarang**

**Hon. Todd B. Tarter**

**Hon. Alice C. Tracy**

**Hon. Julia A. Yetter**

**Hon. Eun Yoon**



Thomas St. Jules is sworn in as Associate Judge by Chief Judge Robert Villa.



Circuit Judges Hon. Julio César Valdez, Hon. Sandra Parga, and Hon. Kimberly DiGiovanni at a 2025 swearing-in ceremony after winning their elections on Nov. 5, 2024.

# DEDICATED TO SERVICE

The Kane County Judges are dedicated to service in their legal and local communities both on and off the bench. They administer the oaths of office to elected officials, officiate wedding ceremonies, swear in their newly elected or appointed colleagues, teach at judicial conferences, visit school classrooms, serve on Illinois Supreme Court committees, judge mock trial competitions, volunteer for local charities, and present programs such as Too Good for Drugs and Worries of the World Wide Web.

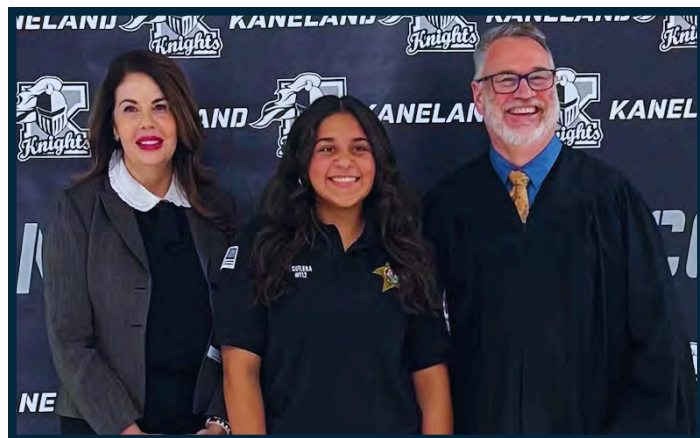
Hon. John Dalton in his courtroom with Kane County high school students participating in a mock trial tournament.



Illinois Supreme Court Justice Sharon Oden Johnson joins Hon. Divya Sarang for the annual Law Day Mock Trial Tournament.



Hon. Keith Johnson reads his favorite children's book during the Family Reading Night with the Judges event.



Hon. Kimberly DiGiovanni and Hon. D.J. Tegeler present the Law Day Essay Contest award to a junior student winner at her high school.

# CIVIL DIVISION



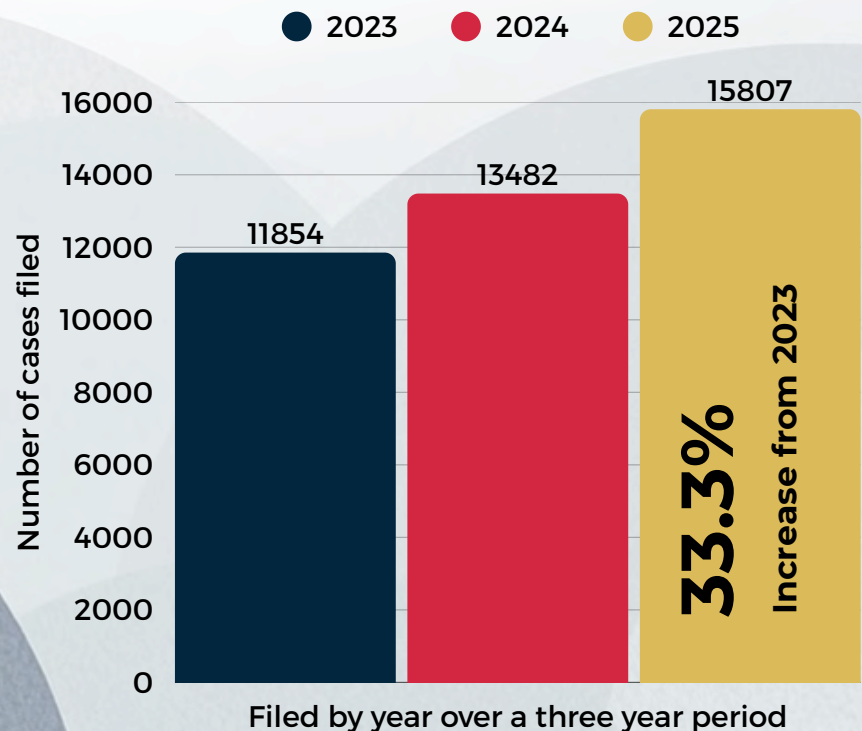
Hon. Susan Clancy Boles  
Presiding Judge

The Civil Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit, located in the historic 132-year-old Kane County Courthouse in Geneva, IL, handles non-criminal matters, including civil disputes between individuals and businesses, landlord-tenant cases, and other private legal matters. Its role is to hear cases, manage filings, schedule hearings and trials, and issue court orders to resolve disputes fairly and efficiently. Eight judges are assigned to the Division, including Presiding Judge Susan Clancy Boles, with Judges Joseph Grady, Kevin Busch, Mark Pheanis, Divya Sarang, Todd Tarter, Elizabeth Flood, and John Dalton serving in their respective courtrooms.

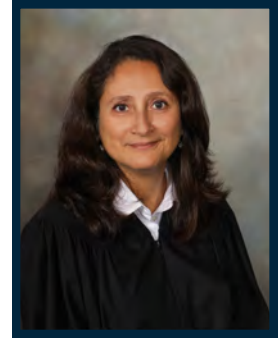
The Division uses a mix of in-person and remote proceedings to serve the public. It is improving courthouse facilities and technology and is developing online dispute resolution tools to make it easier and faster for people to resolve common civil matters.

## Civil Cases

Case types: AR, CC, CH, ED, EV, FC, GC, LA, LM, MR, MX, SC, TX



# JUVENILE DIVISION



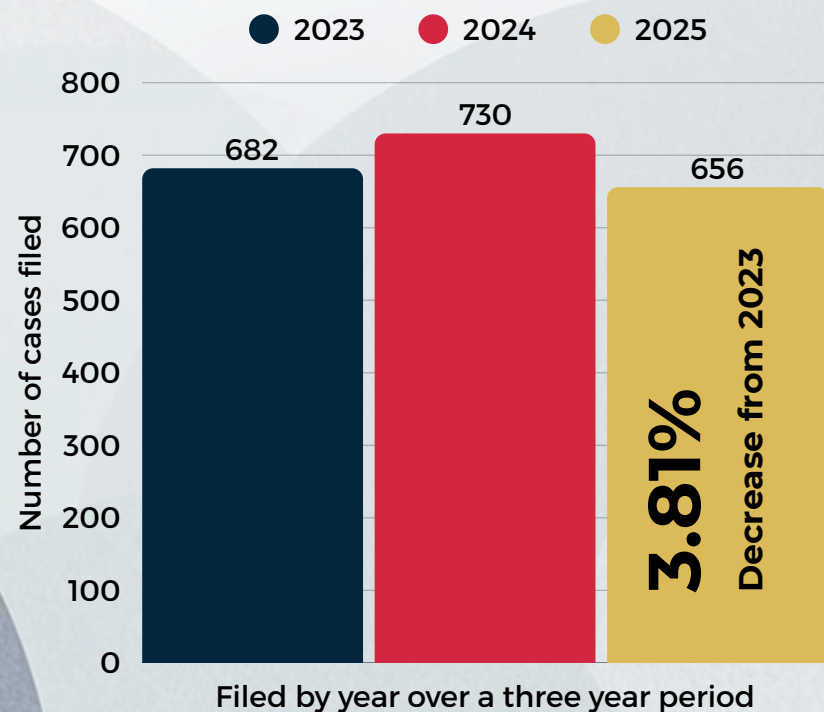
Hon. Sandra Parga  
Presiding Judge

The Juvenile Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit, operating in two courtrooms at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center, oversees matters involving child protection, adoption, and juvenile delinquency. Two judges serve in the Division: Presiding Judge Sandra Parga and Judge Kathryn Karayannis. The Division's functions include hearing cases, processing filings, scheduling hearings, and issuing orders that balance accountability, rehabilitation, and the best interests of children and families.

The Division holds in-person, remote, and hybrid proceedings to accommodate parties and judicial partners. It benefits from having courtrooms and staff in the same building. The court works closely with the Juvenile Justice Center's mental health team, the Kane County Diagnostic Center, and Juvenile Court Services to deliver services for youth and families. Judges and staff serve on committees and attend training to implement best practices and improve outcomes for the children they serve.

## Juvenile Cases

Case types: JA, JV, JD, AD



# FAMILY DIVISION

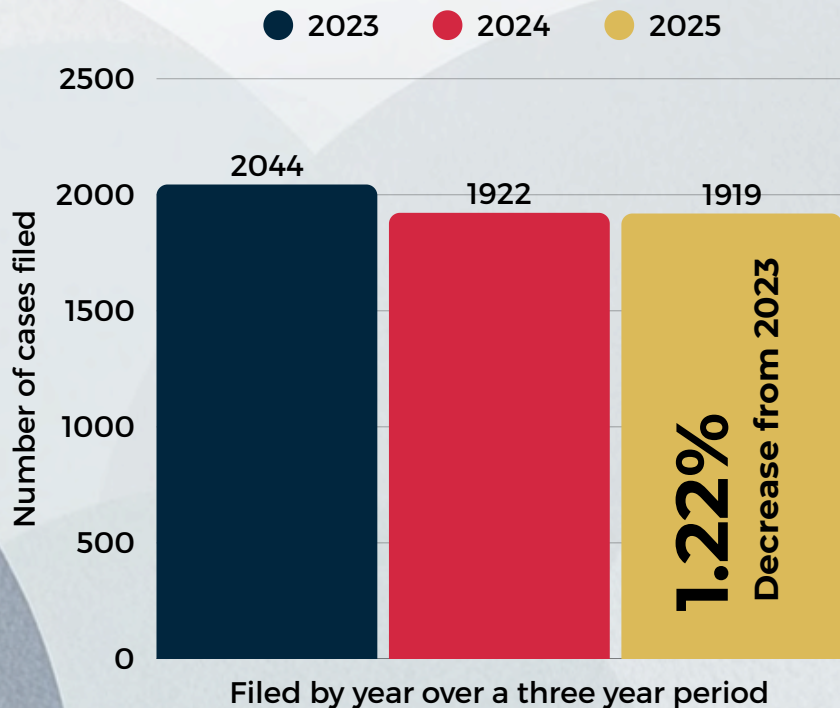


Hon. Kimberly DiGiovanni  
Presiding Judge

The Family Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit, located in the Kane County Judicial Center, handles divorce and custody matters, orders of protection for domestic violence, and other family-related cases. Six judges are assigned to the Division, including Presiding Judge Kimberly DiGiovanni, with Judges Alice Tracy, Bradley David, Keith Johnson, Lawrence Lobb, and Reginald Campbell serving in their respective courtrooms. The Division’s role is to hear cases, manage filings, schedule hearings and trials, and issue orders that address the legal and practical needs of families while promoting fairness and access to justice.

The Division conducts in-person, remote, and hybrid proceedings to accommodate litigants and practitioners and continues to refine schedules, courtroom technology, and public-facing services to improve accessibility. Judges and staff engage in outreach, training, and collaboration with local bar associations and community partners to implement best practices and support families through transitions, protections, and dispute resolution.

## Family Cases Case types: DC, DN, FA



# FELONY DIVISION



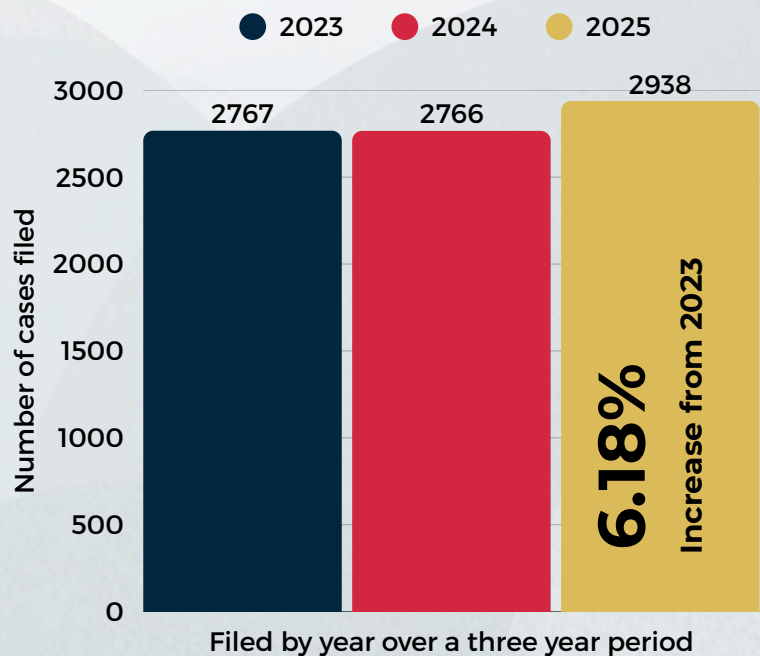
Hon. John Barsanti  
Presiding Judge

The Felony Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit, located in the Kane County Judicial Center, handles felony criminal matters, including arraignments, pretrial proceedings, trials, sentencing, and post-conviction issues. Judges assigned to the Division are John A. Barsanti (Presiding), Salvatore LoPiccolo, Julia Yetter, Christine Downs (Problem-Solving Courts: Drug Rehabilitation/Treatment Alternative/Veteran), David Kliment, Bianca Camargo, and D.J. Tegeler.

The Division conducts in-person and hybrid proceedings (with Zoom available for routine court calls) to serve defendants, victims, and the public while balancing public safety and due process. Felony judges coordinate closely with prosecutors, defense counsel, probation, law enforcement, and specialty-court partners, and participate in ongoing training and interdivisional cooperation to ensure the efficient and fair administration of justice.

16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit judges also heard cases out of county. In 2025, judges presided over 16 cases from Cook, Lake, McHenry, and DeKalb counties.

## Felony Cases Case type: CF



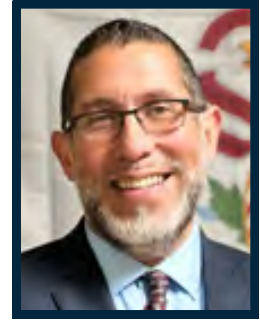
### 2025 FELONY JURY TRIALS

BY OFFENSE TYPES THAT ARE > 2\*

By Offense	Total
Murder	6
Aggravated Domestic Battery	4
Criminal Sexual Assault	4
Aggravated Criminal Abuse	3
Predatory Criminal Sex Assault	3

\*42 felony jury trials were heard in 2025

# MISDEMEANOR & TRAFFIC DIVISION



Hon. René Cruz  
Presiding Judge

The Misdemeanor & Traffic Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit, overseen by Chief Judge René Cruz, operates branch courts in Aurora, Kane, and Elgin and maintains a DUI courtroom in the Kane County Judicial Center. The Division handles traffic offenses, DUI matters, violations of orders of protection, and domestic violence-related cases. Judges assigned to the Division are William Engerman, Eun Yoon, Julio César Valdez, and Michael Noland.

The branch courts are the highest-volume courtrooms in Kane County, with 42,312 filings in 2025. The Division offers both in-person and remote (Zoom/hybrid) options to accommodate litigants and court partners, and routinely waives the requirement for defendant presence at status dates when appropriate to minimize lost wages while ensuring communication with counsel. The DUI Sentence Monitoring Program requires first-time offenders to contact Adult Court Services after pleading to review sentence terms and encourages completion of requirements, which may reduce the need for final court appearances, supporting accountability and efficient case administration.

## 2025 MISDEMEANOR JURY TRIALS

BY OFFENSE TYPES THAT ARE  $\geq 2^*$

By Offense	Total
Domestic Battery	19
Battery	2
Disorderly Conduct	2
Violating Order of Protection	2

\*A total of 28 Misdemeanor Jury Trials were heard in 2025.

# PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Kane County is one of only two circuits in Illinois with four Illinois Supreme Court certified problem-solving courts (also known as treatment or specialty courts). Drug Rehabilitation Court (est. 2000), Treatment Alternative Court (est. 2006), Veterans Treatment Court (est. 2018), and the DUI Problem-Solving Court (est. 2023) provide specialized, treatment-focused alternatives for individuals whose mental health or substance-use issues contribute to criminal behavior. Judge René Cruz presides over the DUI Treatment Court and Judge Christine Downs serves as the judge for the Drug Rehabilitation, Treatment Alternative, and Veterans Treatment Courts. These courts emphasize intensive monitoring, evidence-based treatment, frequent court appearances and testing, and a multidisciplinary partnership of judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation, treatment providers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders to promote recovery, accountability, and public safety.

The Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 organization, provides vital support for problem-solving court programs by raising funds, securing grants, and coordinating community partnerships.

The Foundation's efforts help cover costs for incentives and supplemental support for participants, program events, and strengthen the court's capacity to deliver holistic-based interventions and improve outcomes for participants, their families, and the community.

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## DUI TREATMENT COURT

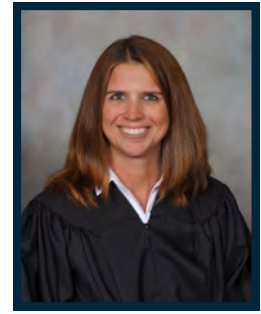


Hon. René Cruz  
Presiding Judge

The DUI Treatment Court, presided over by Judge René Cruz, is a certified, treatment-focused alternative to incarceration for non-violent DUI offenders that emphasizes intensive monitoring, evidence-based treatment, and rigorous supervision. Certified by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the program is part of Kane County's suite of stand-alone treatment courts and brings together judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation, treatment providers, law enforcement, and community partners to address underlying behavioral health and substance use issues. The court relies on collaborative partnerships, regular testing and supervision, and a system of incentives and graduated sanctions to support recovery, reduce recidivism, and promote public safety, with community funding and resources supporting treatment, testing, training, and legal coordination.

In 2025, DUI Treatment Court had 32 applicants, 22 admissions, and 9 graduates.

# DRUG REHABILITATION COURT



Hon. Christine Downs

The Drug Rehabilitation Court (DRC), overseen by Judge Christine Downs, is a voluntary, team-based program for high-risk individuals with substance-use disorders that aims to reduce drug use and recidivism. Certified by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the program combines judicial oversight, intensive supervision, evidence-based treatment, frequent testing, and regular court appearances. It also promotes pro-social supports, such as alumni events and community gatherings. The court collaborates with treatment providers, probation, attorneys, and community partners, and benefits from the Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation's support at events such as public graduation ceremonies that recognize progress and support long-term outcomes.

The DRC recently marked 25 years of problem-solving courts in Kane County with a special graduation honoring participants and highlighting the county's leadership. (*See press release below.*) Over 770 individuals have graduated from the Kane County program since it began in 2000, and, in 2025, Drug Rehabilitation Court had 90 applicants, 26 admissions, and 20 graduates.

## Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court Marks 25 Years, Celebrates 13 New Graduates

Kane County Connects Staff 10/14/2025



On October 8, 2025, the Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court held a special graduation ceremony at Kane County Branch Court to honor 13 graduates and commemorate 25 years of problem-solving courts in Kane County.

"These courts are effective in reducing recidivism by providing the opportunity for real, long-lasting change in the lives of the graduates," said Judge Christine Downs. "We are grateful to our community partners for their support of all of the treatment courts in Kane County."

During the ceremony the graduates shared their achievements with family, friends, and supporters through pre-recorded interviews highlighting each participant's journey.

# TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE COURT

The Treatment Alternative Court (TAC), overseen by Judge Christine Downs, is a Kane County specialty court serving defendants with serious mental health disorders, co-occurring conditions, or developmental disabilities. TAC is a voluntary, treatment-focused program that pairs intensive judicial supervision with individualized psychiatric care, evidence-based therapies, housing and benefits assistance, and substance-use treatment as needed. The court brings together a multidisciplinary team of treatment providers, probation, defense and prosecuting attorneys, and community agencies to reduce symptoms, lower recidivism, and promote public safety through comprehensive case management and close community supervision.

TAC is regularly recertified by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, which has commended the team's commitment and expertise. Local partners, including the Ecker Center for Mental Health and the Family Counseling Center, provide outpatient services across the county, and grant funds, together with support from the Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation, help supply participant needs and support pro-social activities such as alumni events, art shows, and holiday gatherings that reinforce recovery and community reintegration.

In 2025, Treatment Alternative Court had 47 applicants, 9 admissions, and 6 graduations.

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# VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), overseen by Judge Christine Downs, is a voluntary, highly structured Kane County specialty court serving veterans whose service-related conditions, such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury, mental health conditions, and substance-use disorders, have led to contact with the criminal justice system. The program pairs intensive judicial monitoring with coordinated services from local treatment providers, VA professionals, and community partners, and offers multiple tracks to meet varying levels of risk and need.

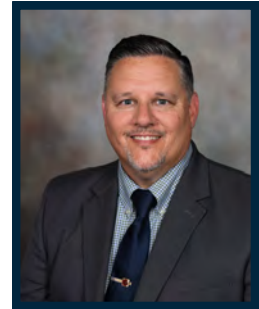
The VTC team conducts outreach to law enforcement and the veteran community to increase appropriate referrals and connect participants with benefits and resources. With support from the Kane County Veterans Assistance Commission and the Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation, the court sponsors pro-social events and community service opportunities that promote recovery, reintegration, and peer support.

In 2025, Veterans Treatment Court had 11 applicants, 4 admissions, and 2 graduates.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION



Andrea O'Brien  
Court Administrator



Jason Mathis  
Deputy Court  
Administrator

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## COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Under the direction of the Chief Judge, the Court Administrators of the 16th Judicial Circuit are responsible for supervising the court's non-judicial staff and managing court operations.

The Court Administrators supervise staff at two main courthouse locations, the Kane County Courthouse and the Kane County Judicial Center. Staffing includes bailiffs, judicial assistants, staff attorneys, protective order staff, interpreter staff, jury commission clerks, paralegals, and a case flow manager.

The management of court operations includes personnel management, fiscal/budget coordination, public relations, space and equipment/technology management, long-range planning, case flow management, jury management, management of our interpreter program, and oversight of our Law Library, Mandatory Arbitration, and our various court mediation programs.

The Office of the Court Administrator is dedicated to the 16th Judicial Circuit's mission and vision, ensuring equal and timely access to the court while fostering public trust and confidence.

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## BAILIFFS

Nancy Hudson, Chief Bailiff  
Kane County Judicial Center

Lan Nielsen, Chief Bailiff  
Kane County Courthouse

Monica McCullough, Chief Bailiff  
Juvenile Justice Center

The bailiffs of the 16th Judicial Circuit help promote and encourage the public's confidence and respect for the judicial system through their presence in the courtroom. They are responsible for maintaining order and decorum in the courtroom, ensuring that all orders from the bench are carried out.

In addition, when the court has jury trials, bailiffs provide the first line of security and information to jurors. They keep jurors free from contact with anyone not authorized to be in their presence.

Outside of the courtrooms, bailiffs provide public information, non-legal directions, and assist in helping people locate their courtrooms and access remote hearings by Zoom.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUED



Karen Zajicek  
Senior Staff Attorney

## STAFF ATTORNEYS & PARALEGAL

Samantha J. Sparks  
Staff Attorney

Natalie M. Wenk  
Staff Attorney

Liza Valle  
Paralegal & Probate Administrator

Under the direction of the deputy court administrator, staff attorneys assist the judiciary with legal research, drafting orders, and a wide range of legal projects for both civil and criminal judges. They, along with a paralegal, also support self-represented litigants in the courtroom, preparing and completing appropriate protective, no-contact, and name-change orders, and help ensure cases are resolved efficiently by preparing necessary orders and paperwork.

The probate administrator assists litigants and attorneys with probate procedures, provides required court forms and resources, drafts orders for uncontested or rescheduling matters, coordinates emergency motions, and supports probate-related orders of protection and guardianship matters.

## INTERPRETING SERVICES & LANGUAGE ACCESS

Jazmin Nicacio  
Interpreter Coordinator

Ginny Leung  
Interpreter Coordinator

The Interpreting Services & Language Access Division provides qualified interpreters to the judiciary, collects and reports data on language needs, and coordinates with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and interpreter associations to maintain professional standards, ethics, and continuing education. In 2025, Spanish remained the most requested language with 20,613 requests, while less commonly requested languages such as Q'eqchi (288 requests) and Arabic (56 requests) totaled 1,371 requests. The Division also provides services for languages such as Polish, French, and Russian.

## JURY COMMISSION

Stacey Payne  
Jury Commission Clerk

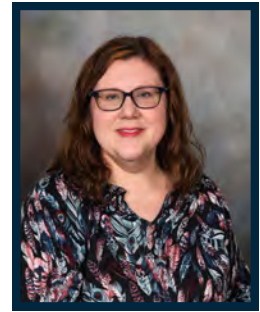
Megan Johnson  
Jury Commission Clerk

The Office of the Jury Commission is tasked with the preparation of the general jury list, and summoning, selecting, and verifying of persons for jury service. Illinois law requires that the names of prospective jurors be randomly drawn from a combined list of registered voters, Illinois Driver's License holders 18 years of age and older, Illinois Disabled Persons Identification Card holders, Illinois Identification Card holders, and claimants for unemployment insurance.

In 2025, a total of 17,240 jurors were summoned for jury duty with 4,527 called for service.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUED



Beth Williamson  
Coordinator

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## PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Paige Summerhill  
Clerk

Yasmeen Pani  
Clerk

The 16th Judicial Circuit provides daily assistance to self-represented litigants at the Kane County Judicial Center seeking protective orders. The coordinator and clerks help petitioners complete Emergency Orders of Protection, Civil No Contact Orders, Firearms Restraining Orders, and Stalking No Contact Orders. Petitioners may complete requests in person, submit petitions online and finalize them in person, or pursue protective orders via remote hearings when statutory requirements are met. Staff attorneys and the paralegal assist the judge during the plenary court call by preparing and finalizing orders.

The court assisted 1676 petitioners in 2025.

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## ARBITRATION CENTER

Rhiannon Anderson  
Arbitration Center Administrator

All civil actions exclusively for money damages that are filed in an amount not greater than \$75,000.00 are automatically assigned to non-binding mandatory arbitration. The day-to-day management of the program is the responsibility of the Arbitration Center Administrator.

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## MEDIATION PROGRAMS

Brock Grenn  
Eviction Mediation Program Coordinator

The 16th Judicial Circuit mediation programs provide a confidential process in which a neutral mediator assists parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. Mediation is intended to be a more informal and non-adversarial process where the mediator assists the parties in identifying issues, fostering joint problem-solving, exploring settlement alternatives, and reaching an agreement. The 16th Judicial Circuit has three mediation programs: Civil, Family, and Eviction.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUED



Hallē Eichert  
Law Library Director

## KANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY & SELF HELP LEGAL CENTER

Ellen Schmid  
Law Librarian

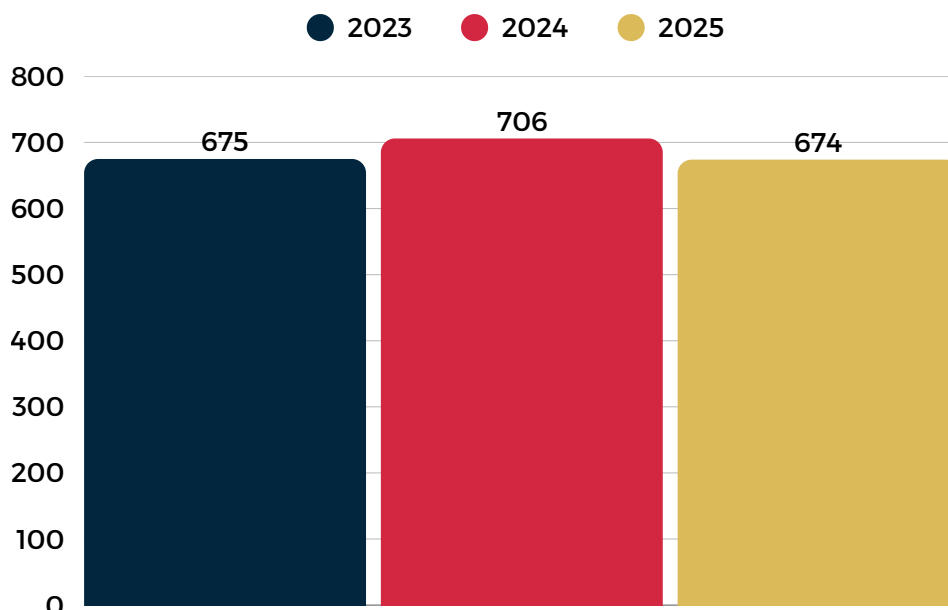
Izabella Cyran  
Library Assistant

Sophie Rexrode  
Illinois JusticeCorps Fellow

The Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center advances equal and open access to the legal system by assisting self-represented litigants and educating the public on navigating court processes. The Law Library hosts legal assistance programs such as Divorce & Family Law Help call-in and walk-in services and Lawyer in the Public Library outreach at local libraries, bringing volunteer attorneys together with community members who need free legal guidance. It also partners with the Kane County Bar Association for drivers' clinics, supports book clubs and resource programs for the Drug Rehabilitation Court and Juvenile Justice Center, and participates in community events to promote legal literacy and resource awareness.

To strengthen access to justice, the Law Library coordinates interpreters for Spanish-language legal help services, translates informational materials, and houses an Illinois JusticeCorps fellow who assists litigants with e-filing, Zoom court, forms, and plain-language guidance. Staff collaborate with court offices and community partners, secure grant funding, and host volunteer-driven clinics and appreciation events to expand legal help and improve outcomes for court users.

### Legal Assistance Programs Offered



2,055 self-represented litigants were helped over a 3 year period

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUED



Jill Gasparaitis  
Administrator of  
Court Reporters

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## COURT REPORTING SERVICES

Court Reporting Services (CRS) provides the official verbatim record for the courts and public by combining in-person stenographic coverage and monitoring courtrooms equipped with electronic recording. CRS oversees the record of proceedings for felony, misdemeanor, civil, juvenile, specialty, mental health courtrooms, and grand jury proceedings heard in the State's Attorney's Office. Under the direction of the Chief Judge, CRS staff prepare transcripts that comply with a state-wide format policy for uniformity and readability, support real-time access for deaf and hard-of-hearing participants, and maintain secure storage of the electronic record. The office continues to promote the profession through career days at local schools and community events.

Due to an increase from 7 to 15 courtrooms utilizing electronic recording, CRS navigated a period of staffing transition by hiring new reporters and court specialists to support transcript production and monitoring. In addition to transcript orders prepared from "in person" coverage of proceedings for grand jury, trial court litigation, and felony appeals, CRS staff transcribed 201 dates of proceedings for Pretrial Fairness Act appeals and 336 dates of proceedings for courtrooms equipped with electronic recording.

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Ann Lobb  
Children's Waiting Room Director

## CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM

The Children's Waiting Room (CWR) is located on the lower level of the Kane County Judicial Center. The CWR provides supervised short-term childcare for children, ages infant to 12 years old, whose parents and or guardians have court business.

The CWR is staffed daily with 2-3 employees. The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking a moment to reflect on our accomplishments in 2025. We look forward to 2026 and more opportunities to advance the 16th Judicial Circuit as we prepare to launch a friendly, easy-to-watch video series in response to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford's "Bridging the Courthouse and Community" initiative with the Illinois Judges Association.

Creating the video series is one step in an ongoing effort to strengthen communication between our court system and our Kane County community. We are committed to making justice more accessible, transparent, and understandable for everyone we serve, ensuring that every person who enters our courthouses, whether in person or online, feels informed, prepared, and respected.

Stay tuned for this 12-part series to be available beginning early 2026 on the Kane County Government's YouTube playlist, *Bridging the Kane County Court System to the Community*.



## KEEPING UP WITH OUR CIRCUIT

For more information about the 16th Judicial Circuit, contact the Chief Judge's Office, visit the website, and subscribe to the digital newsletter, *Kane Courts Quarterly*.

**PHONE:**

630-232-3440

**ADDRESS:**

37W777 IL RT 38, St. Charles, IL 60175

**WEBSITE:**

<https://www.illinois16thjudicialcircuit.org>

**SUBSCRIBE TO KANE COURTS QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER**



