

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
SEVENTENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

EUGENE G. DOHERTY
Chief Judge



**WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
400 WEST STATE STREET, SUITE 215
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101
PHONE (815) 319-4800**

June 11, 2019

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

**RETIREMENT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE K. PATRICK YARBROUGH
AND POSTING OF ASSOCIATE JUDGESHIP**

ROCKFORD, IL – Associate Circuit Judge K. Patrick Yarbrough has announced that he will retire from his position on August 31, 2019. Judge Yarbrough was appointed as an associate judge on January 26, 2007. During his tenure, he presided over criminal, juvenile and mental health cases in Winnebago County. Since December 2009, Judge Yarbrough has been assigned to hear juvenile delinquency cases, an assignment charged with tremendous responsibility to balance core fundamentals of accountability and rehabilitation under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act. Since September 2014, he has served as the Supervising Judge of the Winnebago County Juvenile Courts Division.

Judge Yarbrough is a Rockford native who graduated from Guilford High School (1979), received his Bachelor of Arts from Ripon College (1983), and his Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University College of Law (1988). He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Judges Association. He is the Co-Chair of the Judicial Engagement Committee of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council. Judge Yarbrough is a member of the Winnebago County Bar Association. He has served as a member of the Winnebago County Bar Association Diversity Committee and the Community Service Committee. He is currently a member of the Rockford Area Schools Truancy Advisory Committee.

He has been a member and Past President of the Rock Valley Area Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors. Judge Yarbrough is the Judicial Liaison to the Children and Our Courts Board of Directors as well as a former member of the Board of Directors of the Blackhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Judge Yarbrough is a member and sponsor of the Veterans Memorial Hall Black History Month Committee's Tuskegee Airmen and Montford Point Marines programs. He is a yearly participant in the Rock Valley College Sankofa program for graduating minority students. Judge Yarbrough is a member of the I Bike Rockford Bicycle advocacy organization and a board member of 17th Circuit Therapy Dog Volunteers, Inc.

Over the past two decades, Judge Yarbrough has had the pleasure to be a speaker or presenter at programs for the National Advocacy Center of the U.S. Department of Justice; Northern Illinois Arson Investigation Task Force; Northern Illinois University College of Law; the Winnebago County Bar Association; Rockford College (Rockford University); Rasmussen College; Upper Iowa University; Guilford High School; Rockford East High School; Rockford Jefferson High School; Keith Country Day School; Ellis Arts Academy; Lewis Lemon School; the Boy Scouts Law and Government Explorers Posts in Winnebago and Boone County; the Black-Latino Achievers of the YMCA of the Rock River Valley; and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police DARE program.

Judge Yarbrough has been the recipient of awards for his service to his community and fellow citizens. He has been honored to receive the national Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award and the Silver Beaver Award for Outstanding Service to Youth from the Boy Scouts of America, and the 2008 Outstanding Service Award from the Northern Illinois University College of Law Alumni Association. He has also been named one of *815 Magazine's* 2016 "Noted Local Black Leaders". Judge Yarbrough was honored to be named one of the 2017 Pilgrim Baptist Church Trailblazers Award recipients and the Homer Hempstead Humanitarian Award from the Montford Point Marine Association of Beloit. In 2018, he received a Winnebago County Board Chairman's Service Excellence Award, the McKinley "Deacon" Davis Juneteenth Award, an Award of Appreciation from the Veterans Memorial Hall, and the WREX TV 13 Inspiring 815 Civility Award.

Eugene G. Doherty, Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, commented, "Judge Yarbrough has contributed so much to the youth of our community from his current position. He has always had their welfare, and the long term betterment of our community, as his guiding purpose. He impacted many, and he will be missed by many." Announcements pertaining to a retirement reception for Judge Yarbrough will be made at a later date.

The Illinois Supreme Court has authorized the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court to post a notice of vacancy for an Associate Judgeship. The application period for the current vacancy will remain open until July 11, 2019. A copy of the notice of vacancy is attached and is accessible at: www.17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov.

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NOTICE OF VACANCY

ASSOCIATE JUDGE - SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The Supreme Court of Illinois has authorized the Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit to post a notice of vacancy for the office of Associate Judge. This vacancy is based on the planned retirement of Associate Judge K. Patrick Yarbrough, effective August 31, 2019. Applications are now being accepted. The vacancy will be filled by vote of the Circuit Judges in the 17th Judicial Circuit.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, any United States citizen who is an attorney licensed to practice law in Illinois, and a resident of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit may apply by electronically filing a signed application with the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts on the form prescribed and furnished by the Director. The instructions for submitting an application electronically are available on the Supreme Court's website: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov>.

If unable to submit an application electronically, an applicant must submit two (2) signed originals of the prescribed application with the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts at the address listed below:

**Marcia M. Meis, Director
Administrative Office of Illinois Courts
3101 Old Jacksonville Road
Springfield, IL 62704-6488**

Whether electronically filed, mailed or hand delivered, all applications must be received by the Administrative Office within thirty (30) days after the date of this notice. **If filed electronically, the deadline is 11:59 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2019. If mailed or hand delivered, the deadline is 5:00 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2019.** Application forms can be obtained from the Office of Chief Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit, Winnebago County Courthouse, 400 W. State St., Room 215, Rockford, Illinois, from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, or downloaded from the Supreme Court's web site: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov>. **Applications submitted via facsimile will not be accepted.**

The list of applicants will be submitted for polling to the Illinois State Bar Association. Applicants will also be required to make themselves available for an interview and screening process with the Circuit Judges of the 17th Judicial Circuit. Applicants will be notified of the date, time and location of the interviews and details of the screening process at the close of the application phase. Applicants or their designees are to refrain from contacting individually any Circuit or Associate Judge concerning his/her candidacy or the selection process.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2019.


Eugene G. Doherty, Chief Judge
17th Judicial Circuit