



TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JUDICIAL OFFICE • KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE APPOINTED

The 23rd Judicial Circuit, consisting of DeKalb and Kendall Counties announces that a new Circuit Judge has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Judge Ronald G. Matekaitis. The appointment is effective on January 3rd, 2022.

The new Circuit Judge is Joseph C. Pedersen of Malta. Judge Pedersen has served as an Associate Judge since August of 2019. He was admitted to practice law in November of 1995, and before his appointment to the bench he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Rockford office of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, with responsibility for criminal and civil prosecutions. He was also previously an Assistant State's Attorney in DeKalb County. Judge Pedersen is a graduate of the University of Iowa Law School and Northern Illinois University. He, his wife, and their children reside in Malta.

Chief Judge Robert Pilmer stated, "We are excited to have Judge Pedersen continue his judicial career as a Circuit Judge in the 23rd Judicial Circuit." DeKalb County Presiding Judge Bradley Waller said "Judge Pedersen has been an exceptional judge, and is eminently qualified to assume this new role." Both Judges Pilmer and Waller said that the retirement of Judge Matekaitis creates a large void, as he has been a dedicated proponent for the judicial system and the people of DeKalb County throughout his long career as a public servant.

Judge Pedersen was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court upon the recommendation of Justice Michael J. Burke, the Illinois Supreme Court Justice for the Second District, which includes DeKalb County. Circuit Judges are elected to a six-year term, and he will run for a full term in 2022.

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