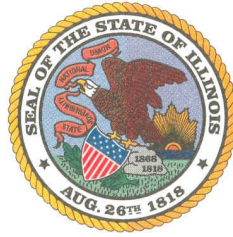


STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

BRENDAN A. MAHER
Chief Judge



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

May 1, 2026

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

**RETIREMENT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE STEVEN L. NORDQUIST AND
POSTING OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE VACANCY**

ROCKFORD, IL – The Honorable Steven L. Nordquist has announced his retirement, effective July 31, 2026, concluding nearly three decades of dedicated judicial service.

Appointed as an Associate Judge on December 2, 1996, Judge Nordquist has served the people of Winnebago and Boone counties with distinction for nearly 30 years. Over the course of his tenure, he has been assigned across both counties and has presided over a full array of case types, reflecting a career defined by versatility, reliability, and service.

Brendan A. Maher, Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, commented, “Judge Nordquist’s career reflects a long-standing commitment to public service and to the people of Winnebago and Boone counties. He has worked diligently to ensure that justice is administered with both wisdom and compassion. We extend lasting gratitude for his service to the 17th Judicial Circuit.”

“It has been the greatest honor of my professional life to serve this community for the past 30 years,” said Judge Nordquist. “I hope that throughout my years on the bench, I have offered sound judgment, shared knowledge, experience, and contributed in meaningful ways to the lives of those I encountered. As I conclude my time on the bench, I do so with deep appreciation for the many people who have enriched this journey.”

The Illinois Supreme Court has authorized the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court to post a notice of vacancy for the office of Associate Judge based on the impending retirement of Judge Nordquist. The application period for this vacancy will remain open until June 1, 2026. A copy of the notice of vacancy is attached and is accessible at: <http://17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov> and <http://illinoiscourts.gov>.

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