



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



PRESS RELEASE

Illinois Supreme Court Appoints James S. Cowlin to Resident Circuit Judgeship

On July 7, 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court announced that effective on September 8, 2015, the Honorable James S. Cowlin, Associate Judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit is appointed to Resident Circuit Judge of McHenry County. Judge Gordon Graham's recently announced retirement effective September 7, 2015, created the vacancy for which Judge Cowlin has been appointed.

Judge Cowlin is a lifelong resident of McHenry County and has a distinguished family history in the legal community. Judge Cowlin's grandfather, Henry L. Cowlin, served as a McHenry County Judge from 1936-1958, and his father, also Henry L. Cowlin, served as a Circuit Judge in the former 19th Circuit of McHenry and Lake Counties from 1978-1996.

Judge James Cowlin graduated from Crystal Lake Community High School and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he completed his Bachelors of Arts degree in political science in 1979. Judge Cowlin then received his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1982.

Prior to being appointed Associate Judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Judge Cowlin practiced law in McHenry County with the Law Office of Donald W. Truckenbrod, Truckenbrod & Cowlin, and Cowlin & Cowlin law firms.

Judge Cowlin was appointed to the position of Associate Judge in 2007 and was reappointed by the Circuit Judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in 2011 and 2015. During his tenure as Associate Judge, Judge Cowlin has presided over Misdemeanor Jury cases, Family Law cases, Mortgage Foreclosures and other Civil matters, as well as Traffic and Misdemeanor cases. Judge Cowlin is a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Illinois State Bar Association and the McHenry County Bar Association.

Judge Cowlin currently lives in Nunda Township near Crystal Lake with his wife Lynn, and has three children, Patrick, Kathryn and Joseph Cowlin.

The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.