



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
State of Illinois
Third Judicial Circuit
Madison and Bond Counties

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For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

The Madison County Courthouse welcomed a new addition to the court almost one year ago, a beautiful male Labrador Retriever, Fitz. The highly trained facility dog has been hard at work lending emotional support to kids and adults within our courts over the last year and we look forward to celebrating his contributions. Chief Judge William Mudge welcomes the public to celebrate Fitz' first "Gotcha Day" on Friday, March 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the Madison County Courthouse.

"Fitz has proven to be a wonderful addition to our Courts. We appreciate the service he has provided to our litigants, families, children, and victims. We have a talented group of specially selected handlers and are grateful to them for the exceptional care provided to Fitz. We look forward to his continued assistance throughout our court system" said Chief Judge Mudge.

Fitz was specially trained for his work as a courthouse facility dog for two years by Duo Dogs, a national not-for-profit organization located in St. Louis, Missouri. He is placed with three specially selected handlers, Tiffany Brooks, Emily Bell, and Angela Wille under the supervision of Associate Judge Maureen Schuette and Chief Judge Mudge. The Madison County Bar Association has generously continued to provide financial support for Fitz in his first year, as well as Dr. Daniel Buller at Bethalto Animal Clinic P.C. through his free veterinarian care and services.

