



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE**  
**Third Judicial Circuit**  
**Madison and Bond Counties**

**WILLIAM A. MUDGE**  
**CHIEF JUDGE**

*December 8, 2021*

***PRESS RELEASE***

*For Immediate Release*  
*Office of the Chief Judge*  
*155 North Main Street*  
*Edwardsville, IL 62025*

**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE PROVIDED FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO OVER 3,500 RESIDENTS IN 2021**

The Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee is pleased to announce a number of updates from their work with the court and public over the last year. The Committee is made up judges, court staff, legal aid providers, and lawyers from a variety of different practice areas who meet quarterly to organize opportunities for continuing education and free or reduced cost legal assistance to the public. Judge Sarah Smith and Judge Maureen Schuette chair the committee.

Through the Committee's partnership with the local bar association and the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), the Committee hosts a Legal Advice Clinic offering appointments to low-income members of the public who do not have attorneys. The Committee is proud to have been able to continue to offer these appointments and volunteer opportunities via Zoom over the last year.

"I am so proud of the large number of attorneys in the Third Judicial Circuit who are willing to provide a key benefit to the community that might otherwise not be available," Smith mentioned. "These attorneys willingly give of their time to provide legal and other skills that are in short supply and in great need during these challenging times."

Schuette added, "We truly appreciate each and every attorney and staff member who graciously donates their time and talent to our Legal Advice Clinic, to our Continuing Legal Education Seminars, and to our Pro Bono services. You are an amazing asset to the Third Judicial Circuit and we are very thankful for you."

In addition to the Legal Advice Clinic, the Madison County Law Library and Legal Self-Help Center provides general information and resources to the public Monday thru Friday. Serving just over 3,500 people just in the third quarter of 2021, the County is fortunate to be able to offer such a service to residents. The Library and Self-Help Center can be found in the basement of the Madison County Courthouse.

"I'm proud of the number of litigants we are able to serve each year through the Pro Bono Committee and the work of dedicated attorneys and staff", said Chief Judge William Mudge.

The Illinois Supreme Court has made a number of statewide standardized forms, guides and informational materials available to self-represented litigants of which our staff is quite familiar with. Additional services are available to veterans seeking legal assistance. Those seeking general information about the courts and resources available to them are encouraged to contact the Law Library and Legal Self-Help Center at 618-296-4900 for additional information.

*Contact:*  
*Hon. Sarah Smith*  
*Circuit Judge*  
*(618) 296-4576*