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State of Illinois
Third Judicial Circuit
Madison & Bond Counties

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November 9, 2020

For immediate release:

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LEGAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS

As Veterans' Day quickly approaches, the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee wants to share with our veterans the legal services available to them. "As a former service member, I understand the importance of reaching out to veterans in our community. Connecting veterans with legal resources and helpful information is one of the gratifying aspects of serving on the veterans' sub-committee," said Associate Judge Martin Mengarelli. The goal of highlighting the various programs and services available to veterans is to recognize their service and show our gratitude.

The Legal Self-Help Center remains open to the public largely by remote access. In-person assistance is available through scheduled appointments. The Legal Self-Help Center can be reached at 618-296-4900 or by email at lawlibrary@co.madison.il.us and can help answer general questions and provide relevant referrals.

The Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (IL-AFLAN) also provides civil legal services across Illinois to veterans, active duty military, spouses, and dependents. It is a network comprised of legal aid organizations and law school clinics across Illinois. To access these services, simply apply by calling the IL-AFLAN hotline at 1-855-IL-AFLAN (855-452-3526).

Illinois Free Legal Answers is a secure website where those who meet income requirements can ask a lawyer for help with a civil legal issue. Volunteer lawyers log onto the site and answer questions in this virtual walk-in legal clinic. Self-represented litigants who would like to ask a question through Illinois Free Legal Answers can visit il.freelegalanswers.org.

The Veteran's Assistance Commission (VAC), located in the Madison County Administration building, may also be able to provide services to honorably discharged military veterans and their families who reside in Madison County. Services available through the office include assistance with benefit-related filings, transition services, and interim and/or emergency assistance. The VAC can be reached at 618-296-4554.