



HR0802

LRB099 14482 MST 38597 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Honorable Jorge L.  
4 Ortiz on being unanimously elected Chief Judge of the 19th  
5 Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County; and

6           WHEREAS, With the election to the post of Chief Judge of  
7 the 19th Judicial Circuit, Judge Ortiz becomes the first Latino  
8 judge to hold such a position in the Lake County Circuit; and

9           WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz was elected to the position in June of  
10 2015 and will officially begin his term as Chief Judge on  
11 January 4, 2016 and serve until January 1, 2017; and

12           WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz was born and raised in the Logan  
13 Square neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side; his parents  
14 migrated to the United States from Puerto Rico in the 1950s to  
15 commence a new chapter in their lives; he was the youngest of 9  
16 children; and

17           WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz is a graduate of St. Ignatius College  
18 Preparatory School in Chicago; he received his undergraduate  
19 degree from Loyola University and his Juris Doctorate from The  
20 John Marshall Law School; and

1           WHEREAS, After obtaining his legal degree, Judge Ortiz  
2 began his career in law in the traffic and misdemeanor division  
3 of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office; in 1990, he  
4 joined the private law firm of Soffietti, Johnson, Teegen, &  
5 Phillips, Ltd. located in Fox Lake; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2002, Judge Ortiz became the first Latino judge  
7 in Lake County when he was selected as associate judge; he  
8 served as associate judge until his appointment to circuit  
9 judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008; he was elected as  
10 circuit judge 2 years later in 2010 and currently serves as  
11 Deputy Chief Judge and Presiding Judge of the Civil Division;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz is not only a highly respected  
14 authority in the Lake County legal system, he is also a renown,  
15 trusted figure on topics and matters concerning family law; he  
16 has lectured for the United States Department of Health and  
17 Human Services' Office of Child Support Enforcement, the  
18 Illinois State Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar  
19 Association, the Loyola University School of Law, and numerous  
20 other influential legal institutions; and

21           WHEREAS, Apart from serving his community through his  
22 position in the judicial system, Judge Ortiz proudly serves on  
23 the Board of Directors for the Illinois Judges Association, the

1 Illinois Judges Foundation, and the Healthcare Foundation of  
2 Northern Lake County; he, additionally, is a member of the  
3 Illinois State and Lake County Bar Associations; and

4 WHEREAS, In October of 2014, Judge Ortiz was awarded the  
5 inaugural Outstanding Jurist of the Year Award by the Illinois  
6 Family Support Enforcement Association as a testament to his  
7 unwavering effort to improve child support enforcement in Lake  
8 County through the establishment of stronger community ties and  
9 improvement of policies and practices that impact the lives of  
10 afflicted families; on December of 2014, former Governor Pat  
11 Quinn appointed Judge Ortiz to the Illinois Council on  
12 Responsible Fatherhood; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz has 2 daughters with his wife, Meg,  
14 and resides in the Village of Antioch in Lake County - a place  
15 he has called home for well over 2 decades; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Ortiz is a loving husband, father, friend,  
17 and neighbor; he has devoted his life to improving his  
18 community so as to create a better way of life for those around  
19 him; he is a committed public servant and one who has remained  
20 humble above all else; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 extend a sincere congratulatory sentiment to the Honorable  
2 Jorge L. Ortiz for his unanimous election to serve as Chief  
3 Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County; and be  
4 it further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to Judge Ortiz as a symbol of our utmost  
7 commendation.