Supreme Court of Illinois

November 19, 2026

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS HON. WESLEY GOZIA AS MARION COUNTY RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

Justice David K. Overstreet and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointment of Judge Wesley A. Gozia as Marion County Resident Circuit Judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Gozia was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Mark W. Stedelin. The appointment of Mr. Gozia is effective January 1, 2027, and will conclude on December 4, 2028, following the November 2028 general election.

Judge Gozia was first appointed to the bench in March 2025 to fill a vacancy as an at-large Circuit Judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit to expire on December 7, 2026. He previously worked as a sole practitioner at Gozia Law Firm LLC from 2010 to 2025 with a focus on family law, criminal defense, real estate and estate planning. From 2014 to 2022 he served as a conflict public defender contract attorney for Clinton County where he provided public defense services to indigent clients and brought cases to jury trial. Since 2023 Judge Gozia has served on the Illinois Supreme Court Executive Committee on the Practice of Law.

"I thank the Supreme Court of Illinois for their confidence in me to allow me to continue serving my community as a circuit judge," Judge Gozia said. "I look forward to this new position as Resident Circuit Judge to take on the additional administrative responsibilities to better serve the users of the court system in Marion County."

Judge Gozia earned his Bachelor of Science from St. Louis University and earned his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Missouri School of Law.

His professional affiliations include the Clinton County Bar Association, where he has served as President, and the Illinois State Bar Association, where he is a past Secretary and Treasurer. He is a past member of the ISBA's Family Law Section Council as well as the Standing Committee on Legal Technology, where he served both as Chair and currently is a member of the ISBA's Bench and Bar Section Council.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: James Brunner, Public Information Officer of the Illinois Supreme Court at 217.208.3354 or jbrunner@illinoiscourts.gov.)