

NEWS RELEASE
Office of the Chief Judge
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-For Public Release-

Lawyer in the Library: January 2025 Dates Announced for the First Judicial Circuit

Each month at local public libraries in the First Judicial Circuit, volunteer attorneys are working to help self-represented litigants through the Lawyer in the Library program. With several locations across the Southern Illinois region, and three additional locations coming soon, free legal advice is available nearby.

The Lawyer in the Library program provides patrons needing help with a legal issue the opportunity to sit down with an attorney for a private, one-on-one, approximately 20-minute session, to receive advice or help with legal documents. There is no fee and **pre-registration is required at most locations**. On the date of your session, check in at the library registration desk and bring paperwork pertaining to your legal question or situation, if applicable. This program may be limited to one visit per patron.

For more information about the program, or to pre-register to speak to an attorney, you may call one of the following participating libraries:

- Anna, IL – Stinson Memorial Public Library, 618-833-2521
 - Attorney Gene Turk – Please call the library for next date
- Carbondale, IL – Carbondale Public Library, 618-457-0354
 - **Attorney Gene Turk – January 22, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**
 - **Attorney Christine Heins – January 23, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**
- Carterville, IL – Anne West Lindsey District Library, 618-985-3298
 - Attorney Winter Campanella – Please call the library for next date
- **Harrisburg, IL – Harrisburg District Library, 618-253-7455**
 - **Attorney Julian Valdes – January 14, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- **Herrin, IL – Herrin City Library, 618-942-6109**
 - **Attorney Julian Valdes – January 10, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- **Marion, IL – Marion Carnegie Library, 618-993-5935**
 - **Attorney Julian Valdes – January 14, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**
- **Olive Branch, IL – Dodge Memorial Public Library, 618-776-9200**
 - **Attorney Julian Valdes – January 9, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Quarterly sessions are offered at the following locations:

- Galatia, IL – Galatia Public Library, 618-268-9200
 - Attorney Todd D. Lambert – No Session during winter months
- Metropolis, IL – Metropolis Public Library, 618-524-4312
 - Attorney Julian Valdes – No January Session
- Mounds, IL – Mounds Public Library, 618-745-6610
 - Attorney Julian Valdes – No January Session
- Vienna, IL – Vienna Carnegie Public Library, 618-658-5051
 - Attorney Julian Valdes – No January Session

Thank you to the following for their support of this program: Chief Circuit Judge William J. Thurston, First Circuit Judges and Circuit Clerks, Volunteer Attorneys, Library Directors, Library Program Coordinators, and other library staff members.

Each *Lawyer in the Library* program is initially launched with an Access to Justice Improvement Grant (ATJ Grant) funding through the Access to Justice Division, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. The programs continue with each Volunteer Attorney coordinating with the Library and Brenda Sprague, Executive Assistant to the Chief Circuit Judge/ATJ Improvement Grant Coordinator.

<https://firstcircuitil.org/self-represented-litigants/>