

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

### **Saline County Courthouse Welcomes Therapy Dogs to Enhance Courtroom Support**

Harrisburg, Saline County, IL – Saline County Presiding Judge, Jayson M. Clark, First Judicial Circuit Chief Judge, William J. Thurston, along with First Circuit Court Therapy Dog Program Coordinator, Cynthia York, are proud to announce the launch of the Saline County Courthouse Court Therapy Dog Program.

Two specially trained therapy dog teams, DeeAndra Martin with Arlo and Tom Rabideau with Frankie were introduced at a courthouse meet-and-greet on Friday, July 25, 2025. These teams will provide vital emotional support for children, witnesses, victims and others participating in legal proceedings.

Therapy dogs offer calm companionship during emotionally stressful situations. Both dogs and handlers complete rigorous certification through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, meeting strict health, behavior, and supervision standards.

To request a court therapy dog, please fill out the Therapy Dog Request Form located on the First Judicial Circuit's Court Therapy Dog Program web page [www.firstcircuitil.org](http://www.firstcircuitil.org) and return to Cynthia via email [cyorkfjc@gmail.com](mailto:cyorkfjc@gmail.com). For more information, contact Cynthia York at the Office of the Chief Judge by calling 618-997-1234.

Photo: DeeAndra with Arlo, Tom Rabideau with Frankie