

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL ORDER NO.: 2017-60
SUBJECT: Assignment of Judge

In order to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and taking into consideration the nature and severity of any charges against or implications of improper conduct by a judge, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 56 provides that the Chief Judge may temporarily assign a judge to restricted duties or duties other than judicial duties. The reasons for such assignments include, but are not limited to, "a judge has been formally charged with the commission of a crime which involves moral turpitude or reflects adversely upon the judge's fitness to serve," or a complaint being filed with the Courts Commission by the Judicial Inquiry Board or that a "judge has allegedly committed a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct which involves fraud or moral turpitude or threatens irreparable injury to the public, to the judicial branch of government, or to the orderly administration of justice" or that "a judge has been publicly implicated in conduct which, if true, would constitute impropriety or an appearance of impropriety which involves moral turpitude or threatens irreparable injury to the public, to the judicial branch of government, or to the orderly administration of justice." See Supreme Court Rule 56(a)(1)(2) and (3).

On April 12, 2017, a federal indictment against Circuit Judge Jessica A. O'Brien was announced by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. The indictment charges Judge O'Brien with one count of mail fraud and one count of bank fraud in connection with an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain loans related to the purchase, maintenance, and sale of properties in the City of Chicago.

This matter was presented to the Executive Committee of the Circuit Court of Cook County in a meeting held on April 25, 2017. It is the finding of the Executive Committee that Judge O'Brien has been formally charged with the commission of a crime which involves moral turpitude or reflects adversely upon the judge's fitness to serve and has been publicly implicated in conduct which, if true, constitutes impropriety or an appearance of impropriety which involves moral turpitude or threatens irreparable injury to the public, to the judicial branch of government, or to the orderly administration of justice. Therefore, the Executive Committee voted unanimously in support of the proposal to assign Circuit Judge Jessica A. O'Brien to the First Municipal District to administrative duties pending resolution of the charges.

ACCORDINGLY IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 56(a)(1) and (3), effective April 25, 2017, Circuit Judge Jessica A. O'Brien is assigned to administrative duties in the Office of the Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District, subject to further order of this court.

Dated this 25th day of April 2017. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this court and published.