



# CIRCUIT COURT OF MADISON COUNTY

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*Angela Sims* ▪ *George Pancol* ▪ *Andrew Hopper* ▪ *David Happe* ▪ *Thomas Clem* ▪ *Mark Dudley*

Circuit Court 1

Circuit Court 2

Circuit Court 3

Circuit Court 4

Circuit Court 5

Circuit Court 6

June 19, 2019

In response to the challenge to Judicial Officers in Indiana from Chief Justice Rush, your duly elected Judicial Officers representing the Unified Circuit Courts in Madison County issue the following statement. We recognize the courts play a vital role in providing justice for all, and pledge to address injustice at any stage of the judicial process. We remain committed to providing equal justice for all and will continue to pursue that mission in all aspects of our work. Madison County was selected as a pilot county for Race, Equity and Inclusion early in 2019 and have been committed to undoing racism and ending racial disparity in our justice system.

Despite past efforts, we agree with Chief Justice Rush that we can and must do better to ensure equal access to justice for all. Our words risk ringing hollow if they are not coupled with commitments to action. These commitments must be objective and specific, so that we can be held accountable by ourselves and by our community. In that spirit, the undersigned judges pledge to:

1. Expand implicit bias training for judges and judicial branch employees.
2. Diversify recruitment for judicial branch hiring, seeking support from community groups who have access to talented minority job candidates.
3. Listen to the concerns of people of color in our community. This includes making ourselves available both publicly and privately for discussions about race and the justice system. Ethical limitations do prevent judges from discussing particular cases, but there are many topics that can and should be discussed.

Victims of racism and prejudice must be able to rely on the courts to address these issues. Families of color and those living in poverty must have equal access to our courts. Finally, we agree that our children are our pathway to an equitable society and as your Judicial Officers we pledge to do our part to ensure that the Unified Courts of Madison County lead by example.

Angela Sims /s/

Circuit 1- Judge Angela Warner Sims

Andrew Hopper /s/

Circuit 3-Judge Andrew Hopper

Thomas Clem /s/

Circuit 5 - Judge Thomas Clem

George Pancol /s/

Circuit 2- Judge George Pancol

David Happe /s/

Circuit 4 - Judge David Happe

Mark Dudley /s/

Circuit 6—Judge Mark Dudley