
JUDICIAL OFFICERS: AUTHORITY & RESPONSIBILITY

SENIOR JUDGES Administrative Rule 5(B)

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The legislature authorized the creation of the Senior Judge program, allowing Indiana courts to use the services of retired judges to supplement existing judicial resources. [Ind. Code 33-23-3-1](#). A Senior Judge may act as a replacement when the regular judge is unavailable; as a complement when the regular judge is hearing a trial, working on opinions or fulfilling administrative duties; or as an assistant to oversee the processing of certain types of cases or court programs.

The Indiana Supreme Court promulgates rules to further define the certification and appointment process for Senior Judges. [I.C. 33-24-3-7](#). In 2003 the Supreme Court promulgated [Ind. Administrative Rule 5](#), setting the parameters for the certification and use of Senior Judges.

Information regarding [Senior Judge Service](#) can be found on the judicial website. This site contains a link to a spreadsheet that includes the Senior Judges assigned to each Trial Court, the number of days a Senior Judge has served, the number of Senior Judge days allocated to a Trial Court, and the number of Senior Judge days a Trial Court has used. The site is updated periodically during the year.

By Order issued August 10, 2016, the Court created the Senior Judge Committee. The Committee is charged with

- submission of recommendations to the Court regarding the utilization of Senior Judges and the administration of the Senior Judge program.
- promotion of the effective utilization of Senior Judges by the trial and appellate courts
- promotion of increase participation of Senior Judges and
- identification and recommendation of expanded opportunities and uses for Senior Judges within the Indiana judiciary.

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