



# Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

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Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

## Legal Tips for Police Officers

**DATE:** August 17, 2026

**Registration Ends:** August 1, 2026

**TIME:** 8:00 AM—4:00 PM      8 Hours

**LOCATION:** Stephenson Co. Courthouse Training Room, 15 N. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL

**INSTRUCTOR:** Judge Daniel B. Shanes-19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

### COURSE CONTENT:

This course will be conducted by Circuit Judge Daniel Shanes and will benefit patrol officers, investigators, and supervisors.

Police work is difficult, and an officer's uncertainty about the law can make the job even harder when dealing with issues like search and seizure, interviewing witnesses, or just investigating possible criminal behavior. This course will provide legal guidance on these and many other topics, so that evidence police officers obtain will be admissible at trial and the officers will be able to avoid civil liability for themselves and their agencies as they go about their law enforcement duties. Join Judge Shanes for a practical discussion of important legal issues that currently impact police operations.

Topics include:

- Avoiding the need to give a suspect Miranda warnings
- Using the "knock and talk" doctrine to question people
- The latest developments regarding vehicle searches
- Benefits for officers and agencies from obtaining search warrants
- How a "consensual encounter" differs from a person being "stopped" by police
- Relying upon an anonymous 911 caller to conduct a vehicle stop
- New developments in the law regarding consent searches
- Searches incident to arrest and the U.S. Supreme Court decision on cell phones
- How to interview witnesses so their statements will be admissible at trial if they later change their story

Daniel B. Shanes is a Circuit Judge on the 19th Judicial Circuit in Lake County, Illinois, currently serving as the Presiding Judge of the felony division. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Shanes served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Lake County for nearly 12 years. During that time, he served in every criminal division in the State's Attorney's Office, rising to chief of the felony narcotics division and chief of the felony review division, and was among the first in Illinois licensed to



serve as lead counsel in the capital litigation trial bar. Before joining the State's Attorney's office, he served as a judicial law clerk to Justice Robert J. Steigmann of the Illinois Appellate Court. By appointment of the Illinois Supreme Court, Judge Shanes is a member of the Illinois Judicial College Board of Trustees and regularly serves as faculty for judicial education for judges and lawyers in Illinois. He is also a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College, providing judicial education to judges across the United States. In addition, he serves by appointment of the Illinois Supreme Court on its Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions for Criminal Cases.

Judge Shanes is a recognized legal scholar and author of dozens of articles, several of which have been cited by the Illinois Supreme Court, Illinois Appellate Court, and legal treatises. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his community on behalf of the criminal justice system and victims of crime. He serves on the Board of Directors of a local homeless shelter and transitional living facility for women and children. Judge Shanes has served on the Board of Directors of both the Illinois Judges Association and Lake County Bar Association. After completing his undergraduate education at the University of Iowa, he received his Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law, where he served on the DePaul Law Review.

**This training is approved for the following mandates:**

**Civil Rights – 2 Hours**  
**Constitutional/Proper Use of LE Authority – 1**  
**Human Rights - .5 Hours**  
**Legal Updates – 3 Hours**  
**Procedural Justice – 1 Hour**  
**Lead Homicide – 8 Hours**

Partial funding provided by Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and MTU#1's request for certification of this course has been approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

**REGISTRATION:**

All registrations are received on the [MTU#1 website](#). Find Registration instructions [here](#)

**THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING**