

17<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF  
FLORIDA  
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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**Two-Star General Who Presides in Circuit Court Retires from U.S. Army after 31 Years**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Broward Circuit Judge Edward H. Merrigan Jr., a highly decorated two-star general in the U.S. Army, officially retired this month from the military after 31 years of service.

“Being able to give back to my community and the country was a great opportunity for me. It is something I really loved,” said Judge Merrigan, who oversees a felony criminal division in Fort Lauderdale.

Judge Merrigan’s military career is wide-ranging. He enlisted in the Army in 1994. In 1999, he began his Army Reserve career, initially serving as the International Law Officer of the 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion in Perrine, FL. His tenure in the Army included a tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (see attached biography)

“All of us in the 17th Judicial Circuit have great appreciation and admiration for his service to our nation and serving our state,” said Chief Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips.

Judge Merrigan most recently served as commander of the 84<sup>th</sup> Training Command in Fort Knox, KY, sometimes traveling around the country as many as three weekends a month.

Judge Merrigan also presides in Veterans Court, one of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit’s problem-solving courts. Judge Merrigan founded Veterans Court in 2012, which assists eligible veterans who are suffering from substance abuse or mental health issues. To date, 1,000 veterans have successfully completed the program and had their charges dropped, he noted.

“It’s a great opportunity to help veterans. It helps them get back on their feet and become productive members of society,” Judge Merrigan said.

Judge Merrigan was appointed to the bench in 2009 by (then) Gov. Charlie Crist. He was elected in 2010. In 2014 (then) Gov. Rick Scott appointed him a Circuit judge. He was subsequently elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2022.

## **ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.

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