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 a list of certified Senior Judges, 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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