

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 18, 2001**

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPREME COURT RULES**

A public hearing on proposed amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Rules covering civil proceedings and other matters will be held in Chicago on Monday, January 22, 2001.

The hearing will be held beginning at 10 a.m. at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Room N-502, in Chicago.

Planning for the session has been under the direction of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee, chaired by Joseph A. Power, Jr., who will preside.

One of the proposals is aimed at protecting clients of an attorney suspended from the practice of law for disciplinary violations. If the suspension is for less than six months, the proposal would give the offending attorney 21 days to conclude business, thereby enabling the attorney to take action to ensure that courts are not inconvenienced or clients prejudiced. Currently, a suspension is effective immediately with the entry of the disciplinary order.

The 21-day leeway period would apply only to lawyer disciplinary cases in which the public or clients are not at immediate risk. It would not apply to the most serious cases of lawyer discipline.

Another subject of proposed rules changes involves the discovery and trial procedures for opinion witnesses. These proposals cover Rule 213. One of the proposed changes to paragraph (g) is intended to eliminate any question that Rule 213 imposes any restriction on otherwise proper cross-examination of an opinion witness.

A number of other proposed rules changes also will be discussed.

Notice of the hearing, accompanied by copies of the proposed rules changes, have been distributed to members of the bench and bar throughout the state, and public commentary also was invited.

A public hearing on proposals regarding rules governing the administration of the state's judicial system is held annually on the fourth Monday in January.