

**June 11, 2001**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY**

The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Monday that James D. Wascher, an attorney with broad experience in civil litigation local governmental units, has been appointed a Circuit Court judge for the Twelfth Subcircuit in Cook County.

Mr. Wascher, 47, a former president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, concentrated his practice in civil litigation and appeals and representing local park districts over the past 10 years as an attorney with the Chicago law firm of Friedman & Holtz.

He was found well qualified for the judicial position by the Illinois State Bar Association and was rated favorably by several other bar groups who evaluated him, including the Council of Lawyers and the Chicago Bar Association.

“Mr. Wascher is an experienced attorney with a well-rounded, diverse legal practice,” said the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. “He is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law and integrity. Mr. Wascher has also devoted substantial time to various pro bono activities. He is bright, articulate and dedicated to the law.”

Mr. Wascher also was rated favorably by an independent evaluation committee established by Supreme Court Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald to aid him in recommending qualified interim appointees to fill judicial vacancies.

Before joining Friedman & Holtz, Mr. Wascher worked as a supervising attorney with the Chicago Park District, and with two other law firms.

Mr. Wascher also has been active in a broad range of professional, civil and community organizations.

He has served as a board member and president of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, was a panel chairman of the Inquiry Board for the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the immediate past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Local Government Committee.

Mr. Wascher is a 1975 graduate of Stanford University where he was editor-in-chief of *The Stanford Daily*, and received his law degree with honors from Northwestern University School of Law in 1978.

His appointment is effective June 21 and terminates Dec. 2, 2002. Mr. Wascher has indicated he will be a candidate in 2002 for election to full term on the Circuit Court from the Twelfth Subcircuit, which includes north and northwest suburbs of Chicago.