

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2001

JUSTICE GARMAN TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE IN MONTICELLO

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will be a special guest and speaker at the Sixth Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council Wednesday, October 24.

The all-day conference, beginning at nine a.m., will be held at Allerton Park Conference Center in Monticello, Illinois.

Justice Garman will speak on the ways the judicial process can be used for victims of domestic violence, how domestic violence laws have improved and what the future might hold.

Other speakers at the event will be Illinois State Police Sgt. Robert Sgambelluri, who has trained hundreds of police officers in matters of domestic violence and elder abuse; and Latasha Benjamin with the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau.

The mission of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council is to provide a coordinated response to family violence in communities of Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt counties. Members of the council work to improve institutional and professional responses to family violence issues through education, intervention, prevention and coordination of services for victims and perpetrators of child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual assault.

Justice Garman was appointed to the Supreme Court in February, 2001 after a distinguished career in the circuit and appellate courts. She has sat on the bench in Illinois for more than a quarter of a century: first as an associate judge from 1974 to 1986, then a circuit court judge from 1986 to 1995 when she was appointed to the Appellate Court from the Fourth Judicial District. She was elected to the appellate seat in 1996. She holds the Supreme Court seat from the Fourth District, which is composed of 30 counties across central Illinois.

Justice Garman was one of a handful of women in the College of Commerce of the University of Illinois when she graduated in the Top 10 of her class, and was named to the Bronze Tablet. She attended the College of Law, University of Iowa where she received her Juris Doctor degree with distinction in 1968.

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Following graduation from law school, Justice Garman began her legal career serving indigent clients with the Legal Aid Society. She later worked with the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office, and was in private practice for a year before becoming an associate judge.

As a judge, she played a prominent role in judicial education. She has served as faculty at numerous seminars and programs for Illinois judges and has been a member and chairperson of the Education Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, which drafted the Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, Please contact Joe Tybor at 312-793-2323 or Amy Marshall, of the Family Violence Coordinating Council, at 217-762-8422.