

November 5, 2001

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Photo, TV-Radio Assignment Editors,  
City Editors, Legal Affairs Writers, Wire  
Service Editors

**JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 68 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Springfield on Thursday, November 8.

The group is among approximately 1,866 men and women who were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys at ceremonies in the state's five Supreme Court judicial districts.

The Springfield program in the Fourth Judicial District will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Michael J. Howlett Building Auditorium located on Second and Jackson Streets in Springfield.

Justice Garman, the second woman to sit on the High Court, will preside over the ceremony and welcome the members of the class, their families and friends.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Mills from the Central District of Illinois will be the opening speaker.

Illinois State Bar Association representative Ole B. Pace III and Valerie McWilliams from the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance will also speak during the program.

Guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be the Fourth Judicial District Chief Judges – Ashton C. Waller from the Fifth Judicial Circuit, John P. Shonkwiler from the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Leo J. Zappa from the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Robert L. Welch from the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and John P. Freese from the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

Attorney William L. Hatch, partner with Hatch and McPheters, will make the motion to admit the class. His son, Andrew, is a member of the class.

**MORE**

State Representative Tom Ryder from the 97<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in Jerseyville will second the motion to admit the class. Jerseyville native Scott Rice, a law clerk for Justice Garman, is also a member of the class.

Circuit Judge John DeLaMar from the Sixth Judicial Circuit will respond to the motion to admit the class. His daughter, Cathleen, will be sworn-in as a new attorney.

A reception will follow.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and an ethics examination; and were certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to more than 74,000. About 10,000 of these are lawyers who pay a reduced registration fee and neither reside nor practice in Illinois.

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Garman joined the Supreme Court in February 2001 with a wealth of judicial experience, having been appointed to replace Justice Benjamin K. Miller, who retired. She was the first woman associate judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (1974-86); the first woman Circuit Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit (1986-95); and the first woman to serve on the Appellate Court in the Fourth District (1995-01).

She received her B.S. degree in economics with highest honors from the University of Illinois in 1965, Bronze Tablet; and her J.D. degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1968.

Before becoming an associate judge, Justice Garman was assistant state's attorney in Vermilion County (1969-73) and was engaged in private practice with Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen & Garman (1973).

The counties in the Fourth Judicial District are: Adams, Pike, Calhoun, Schuyler, Brown, Scott, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Cass, Mason, Menard, Sangamon, Logan, DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, Moultrie, McLean, Woodford, Livingston, Ford, Champaign, Douglas, Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and Vermilion.

Ceremonies in the other districts will be held in Chicago, Collinsville, Peoria and Elgin.

For more information: Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323.