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**JUSTICE PHILIP J. RARICK TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS**

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Philip J. Rarick will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 146 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Collinsville on Thursday, May 6.

The group is among 683 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 Collinsville program in the Fifth Judicial District will begin at 2 p.m. at the Gateway Convention Center, which is located near the intersection of Route 157 and Interstates 55/70 in Collinsville.

Justice Rarick will welcome the members of the class, their families and friends, and give congratulatory remarks to the new bar admittees.

David C. Nelson from the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors, will be the opening speaker. Mr. Nelson is partner with his brother Bob at Nelson and Nelson P.C. in Belleville.

Douglas K. Rush will be the featured speaker. Mr. Rush serves as dean of the evening law program at St. Louis University School of Law. He also is the director of the school's moot court program and teaches Missouri civil procedure.

Other guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be: Circuit Judge Annette E. Eckert from the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; Circuit Judge Patrick J. Hitpas from the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; Associate Judge Ralph J. Mendelsohn from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit; and Dan Kirwan from the Office of the State Appellate Defender.

**MORE**

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 approximately 79,000.

Media coverage is invited.

The counties in the Fifth District of the Supreme Court are: Christian, Shelby, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, Wayne, Marion, Jefferson, Clinton, Washington, St. Clair, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Edwards, Wabash, Gallatin, Saline, Williamson, Jackson, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac.

Ceremonies in the other districts will be held in Chicago, Springfield, Ottawa and Elgin.

For more information contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323.