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**JUSTICE LLOYD A. KARMEIER TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW
ATTORNEYS**

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 129 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Collinsville on Thursday, May 5.

The group is among 734 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 Karmeier, in his first swearing-in ceremony as Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, will preside and welcome the members of the class and their families and friends, and give congratulatory remarks to the new bar admittees.

John Thies from the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors, will be the opening speaker. Mr. Theis is a partner with Webber & Theis, PC located in Urbana. Mr. James B. Wham, partner with the firm of Wham & Wham in Centralia, will also speak to the incoming class.

Other guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be: Chief Circuit Judges George W. Timberlake from the 2nd Judicial Circuit and S. Gene Schwarm from the 4th Judicial Circuit; Circuit Judge William C. Norton from the 20th Judicial Circuit; and Associate Judge Barbara Crowder from the 3rd Judicial Circuit.

A reception will follow.

MORE

Justice Karmeier to Administer Oath

Add One

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 80,000.

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Karmeier was born in rural Washington County. He received both his B.S. degree and his J.D. degree from the University of Illinois. Justice Karmeier clerked for Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House from 1964-1968; served as State's Attorney of Washington County, Illinois from 1968-1972; clerked for United States District Court Judge James L. Foreman from 1972-1973 and engaged in the general practice of law with the firm of Hohlt, House, DeMoss & Johnson from 1964-1986.

He also served as Resident Circuit Judge of Washington County from 1984 to 2004. He was elected to the Supreme Court in November, 2004.

The counties in the Fifth Judicial District 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.