

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2006

**JUSTICE GARMAN TO ADDRESS LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
LUNCHEON IN CHAMPAIGN**

Justice Rita B. Garman of the Illinois Supreme Court will be the featured speaker at the Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) luncheon to be held Friday, May 12 at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, located in Champaign.

Hosted by the LAP, the Champaign event is part of a series of luncheons being held for members of the legal community throughout the state to raise awareness about issues of addiction lawyers may face. The luncheon starts at 11:45 a.m. Biaggi's is located at 2235 South Neil Street.

In 2001, Justice Garman became the second woman to sit on the Illinois Supreme Court, joining retiring Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow.

Justice Garman has sat on the bench in Illinois for more than a quarter of a century. She was first an associate judge from 1974 to 1986, then a circuit court judge from 1986 to 1995 when she was assigned to the Appellate Court from the Fourth Judicial District. She was elected to the appellate seat in 1996, appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001 and was elected to the Supreme Court in 2002.

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

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.

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The Lawyers' Assistance Program's mission is to provide confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, and law students who face alcohol dependency, drug addiction, and mental health problems - including stress and depression. The program uses no tax dollars for its funding; it is funded by partial proceeds from the annual fee assessed to licensed attorneys in Illinois.