

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 11, 2006**

**PROCESS CONTINUES TO FILL JUDGE HOUSEHOLTER VACANCY  
IN KANKAKEE COUNTY**

The process to appoint an interim replacement for Kankakee County resident Circuit Court Judge Gregory Householter in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit is in its final stages, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride expects that an announcement can be made by the end of the month.

Under the Illinois Constitution, authority to appoint an interim replacement for a Circuit Court vacancy is vested with the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Kilbride of the Third Judicial District has publicly asked for and taken applications for Judge Householter's vacancy, interviewed the applicants and, with the help of a special screening committee, will make a recommendation to his fellow justices on the Illinois Supreme Court.

Justice Kilbride said he expects that the Court can make the appointment by the end of the month.

Justice Kilbride also released the names of the judicial screening committee which is made up of seven non-lawyer community representatives and seven lawyers and judges from the legal community.

The non-lawyer community representatives are: Joe Beard, police chief of the Village of Bourbonnais; Kate Cloonen, business owner of J&K Steel Erectors of Kankakee; Kristine M. Condon, professor at Kankakee Community College; Mary Kay Morel, a businesswoman from the Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce; Lori Naese, a Bourbonnais realtor; Mike Smith, president of the Kankakee Federation of Labor; and the Rev. Howard Wills, pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist Church, of Kankakee.

Members from the legal community include Chief Judge Clark E. Erickson of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit; Ann L. Burkey-Brezinski, an attorney from Bourbonnais; Cynthia Cooper and Dana M. Meyer, attorneys from Kankakee and William F. Smith, an attorney with Homestar Bank in Manteno.

**MORE**

**Householter Vacancy Process Continues**

## **Add One**

The co-chairpersons of the committee are Tobias G. Barry, retired justice from the Illinois Appellate Court in the Third Judicial Circuit, and Timothy Bertschy, a Peoria attorney, who is a past president of the Illinois State Bar Association.

Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District. Justice Barry and Mr. Bertschy served on previous screening committees appointed by Justice Kilbride, and provide procedural continuity to the screening process, which is dominated by input from the local community.

The appointment process used by Justice Kilbride also consists of a written survey of registered attorneys in Kankakee and Iroquois counties, which is conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association; background checks by the Illinois State Police and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Those wishing to send written comments about the candidates during the selection process may address them to: Judge Appointment Comments 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL 62704. Comments must arrive by 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 27. Comments must include contact information such as name and address, and should be brief, preferably no more than 250 words.

Among qualities an applicant must possess include a demonstrated reputation for integrity and good character; a demonstrated commitment to equal justice under law; outstanding legal ability and competence; and the appropriate demeanor, character and personality necessary for the judicial temperament required by a Circuit Court judge.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until the first Monday in December 2008, when the position will be filled by the election in November 2008.

Those who have applied and are under review for consideration are : Adrienne W. Albrecht; John S. Coghlan, Yvonne L. Christian - Williams, J. Imani Drew; Edward J. Pentuic; and Jerome C. Shapiro.

The Third Judicial District is composed of 21 counties across the north central part of the state, stretching from Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties in the east to Whiteside, Rock Island, Peoria, Mercer, Henderson and Hancock in the west.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323)**