

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2007

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS VACANCY IN WILL COUNTY
SUBCIRCUIT**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday the appointment of Carmen Julia Lynn Goodman, an experienced trial attorney on behalf of indigent defendants in Will County, to fill the judicial vacancy in Subcircuit No. 4 in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Goodman, an assistant in the Will County Public Defender's Office in Joliet since December 1995, will become the first African American to sit as a Circuit Court judge and the first African American woman to sit on the bench in Will County. She is scheduled to be sworn into office on January 19.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Third Judicial District recommended the appointment of Ms. Goodman after an extensive application, evaluation and interview process that included a review of candidates and recommendation by an independent 16-person advisory committee made up of representatives from the community and the legal profession.

"I am humbled and honored by the confidence that Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court have placed in me and I very much look forward to serving the community in the capacity of sitting as a judge in the 12th Judicial Circuit," said Ms. Goodman.

In her capacity as an Assistant Public Defender, Ms. Goodman has been a supervisor over the courtroom in which felonies are heard and, previous to that, was supervisor over the misdemeanor call courtroom.

She will bring a breadth of experience to the bench, having handled not only serious criminal matters, but also domestic and traffic matters and contempt and mental health hearings. She has tried more than 180 cases, including 43 jury trials. She also has handled arraignments and preliminary hearings.

In 2002, she was certified by the Illinois Supreme Court as a member of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, which consists of a select group of trained and experienced attorneys qualified to handle death penalty cases in Illinois.

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“Ms. Goodman has an outstanding record as a trial attorney,” said Timothy Bertschy, a Peoria attorney who is co-chairman of the special advisory committee and who was a past president of the Illinois State Bar Association. “She has tried close to 200 cases in her career, many of them felony cases. She has become a certified member of the Capital Litigation Bar, and has been very active in her community.”

Ms. Goodman received her law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law in May 1995, having attended on a Dean’s scholarship. While enrolled, she was an active member in the Black Law Student Association, the Women’s Law Caucus, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and was a participant in Moot Court competition. She had also served as a summer intern with Prairie State Legal Services in St. Charles, working in areas of Social Security regulation, public aid and housing administration matters.

Before attending law school, Ms. Goodman was a licensed paralegal with training in civil litigation and family law. She also has worked in the banking community, having been a supervisor and auditor in the trust department of the Northern Trust Company in Chicago from 1980 to 1990, and attending class courses through the American Institute of Banking .

She has been long active in community affairs.

She has been twice elected to the Board of Directors of the Wesglen Homeowners Association in Romeoville, served as finance chair of the group and prepared a fiscal budget for the association representing more than 900 homes.

Since her graduation from NIU College of Law, she has assisted graduates in preparing for the bar exam, and has sat as a judge during students' mock oral arguments at the school.

While with the Will County Public Defender’s Office, she has participated in several programs with area high schools, including acting as a mock trial judge. She also has been an occasional speaker at programs of Bolingbrook’s Heart Organization At-Risk Youth Program, which is aimed at inspiring and motivating youths, some of whom have had police contact.

She has been a member and involved volunteer in the NAACP; while at Northern Trust, she was part of a group to analyze the recruitment and retention of minority employees and worked with outside consulting firms to improve the sensitivity of managers within the workplace.

She is married to Daniel Goodman. She is the mother of two children and a licensed foster parent, having fostered several teenage children. She also has been trained in sign language.

“She has a very diverse background with a special interest in caring for people, including a background in foster care and working to provide legal services to the poor,” said retired Illinois Appellate Judge Tobias Barry, co-chairman of the advisory committee with Mr. Bertschy. “She comes to the bench with a reputation as a highly respected, experienced practitioner.”

MORE

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Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District. In addition to the screening committee, the appointment process used by Justice Kilbride consisted of a written survey of registered attorneys in Will County. That survey was conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Candidates also undergo background security checks with police authorities and with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Justice Kilbride also sought written comments from the public about the candidates.

The non-lawyer community representatives on the special advisory committee were: Edward L. Breen, a bailiff for the 12th Judicial Circuit and former president of Will-Grundy Central Trades and Labor Council; Diane Habiger, property manager for Lincolnshire Properties, Inc., Joliet; the Rev. Herbert Brooks, pastor of St. John's Church, Joliet; Carmen Morales, community relations director, Nicor Gas, Joliet; Ann O'Neil, executive vice president of Prairie Trail Credit Union, Joliet; J.D. Ross, executive director of Will-Grundy Medical Clinic and former president of Joliet Community College; Russ Slinkard, president & CEO of Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Eveleyna Y. Washington, vice president of International Association of Machinists Local 851.

In addition to Mr. Bertschy and Judge Barry, committee members from the legal community were: Chief Judge Stephen D. White of the 12th Judicial Circuit; Joliet attorney John R. (Jack) Ardaugh, partner at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, and president of the Will County Bar Association; Shorewood attorney Chrystal L. Gavlin; Plainfield attorney Katherine L. Maloney, partner at Rathbun, Cservenyak and Kozol; Frankfort attorney and retired U.S. Congressman George E. Sangmeister and Joliet attorney Dorothy Seaborg.

The appointment of Ms. Goodman is effective January 19 and terminates December 1, 2008 when the position will be filled by the election in November 2008.

Will County makes up the whole of the 12th Judicial Circuit.

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 counties in the west.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, Contact: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois
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