



Supreme Court of Illinois

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SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS ANNOUNCES JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis announced Friday the formation of a bipartisan screening committee to assist her in selecting Circuit Court judges for appointment to fill interim vacancies on the Cook County Circuit Court.

The screening committee will be made up of 13 lawyers and one non-lawyer and will be co-chaired by retired U.S. District Court Judge Wayne R. Andersen and retired Illinois Appellate Court Judge Michael J. Gallagher.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court has the authority to fill judicial vacancies by interim appointment until they are filled for the full term by voters' choice in the next election. Traditionally, the three justices from the First Judicial District in Cook County rotate in recommending a candidate to the Court for the appointment.

The committee is expected to screen applicants for judgeships after the candidates have been evaluated by bar associations. The committee then will forward recommendations to Justice Theis.

"The committee is composed of top-notch people—diverse and highly qualified," said Justice Theis. "I thank them in advance for their willingness to serve and help me discharge a very important, constitutional duty. I am sure their dedication and insight will be invaluable to me."

How the committee proceeds will be left up to its own organization, said Justice Theis.

Judge Andersen, who serves as co-chair, also is a member of a statewide judicial review commission to aid U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) in working with senior Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin forwarding names to the President for nomination to the U.S. District Court.

"Among the criteria the Committee will look at in candidates are legal experience, integrity, professional competence, judicial temperament and a commitment to justice," said Judge Andersen. "In short, the committee will be looking for judicial candidates with smart minds, good hearts and a life experience that shows empathy for everybody in our community."

Judge Gallagher said, "This is a panel composed of persons with diverse experience and outstanding talent. I look forward to working with Judge Andersen and all of the committee members in helping Justice Theis nominate strong candidates for the bench."

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The committee members and their backgrounds are:

The Hon. Wayne R. Andersen (ret.) Judge Andersen has served as a U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Illinois for 19 years, retiring in 2010. Before that, he served as a Cook County Circuit judge for seven years. Known for his superb people skills and exceptional legal knowledge, Judge Andersen presided over thousands of cases while serving in the federal and state judiciary, and settled many of them. One of the most widely known is the Shakman litigation, brought to eliminate illegal political patronage practices encompassing tens of thousands of employees for the City of Chicago and the County of Cook. He currently works in Chicago as an alternative dispute resolution specialist with JAMS, a nationwide dispute resolution firm. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the prestigious Justice John Paul Stevens Award for his commitment to integrity and public service, presented by the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Chicago Bar Association. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Harvard University and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.

The Hon. Michael J. Gallagher (ret.) Judge Gallagher served as an Illinois Appellate Court justice in the First Judicial District (Cook County) from 1996 until his retirement in 2011 and was chairman of the Executive Committee. Before the Appellate Court, Judge Gallagher served as a Cook County Circuit Judge from 1988 to 1996; and in the Law Division he successfully mediated settlements in many complex cases in diverse areas of the law. He consistently received the highest evaluations from bar associations throughout his judicial career, and was a frequent faculty presenter at educational programs and seminars for judges. He founded, owns and is currently active with Michael J. Gallagher Mediation Services LLC in Chicago. Judge Gallagher also has served as an adjunct faculty member at The John Marshall Law School.

The Hon. David H. Coar (ret.) Judge Coar served as a U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Illinois for 16 years until his retirement in 2010. He also served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois from 1986 to 1994 and as the first U.S. Bankruptcy trustee in the Northern District from 1979 to 1982 under a pilot program of the Justice Department. He has experience in hundreds of cases involving complex matters, including multi-district class action litigation and an asbestos bankruptcy case that involved the resolution of claims totaling over \$92 billion. He has traveled extensively around the globe, consulting on judicial and economic issues and has participated in various education programs overseas for foreign judges. He is a former associate dean and associate professor of law at DePaul University College of Law, is an arbitration specialist with JAMS, and served in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves from 1965 to 1971. He received his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and his LL.M from Harvard Law School.

Alison C. Conlon Ms. Conlon is a partner in the Chicago office of Barnes & Thornburg and is the co-chair of the firm's commercial litigation practice group. She focuses her practice on commercial disputes, construction cases, toxic tort cases, professional malpractice issues and other matters for companies, municipalities and individuals. She serves on the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association and was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Hearing Board of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. She earned her B.A. *cum laude* in English from Yale University, an M.A. in English from Georgetown University and her J.D. *magna cum laude*, from Duke University in 2000. She began her legal career as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Charles P. Kocoras in the Northern District of Illinois.

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Mary A. Dempsey Ms. Dempsey serves as president of the Philip H. Corboy Foundation. The foundation's mission is to support education, social justice, access to the courts, preserving the rights of the disabled, and arts and culture. From 1994 to 2012, she served as commissioner of the Chicago Public Library, being appointed by former Mayor Richard M. Daley and reappointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Under her direction, 44 new libraries were constructed in Chicago with state-of-the-art technology. From 1982 to 1993, Ms. Dempsey practiced law in Chicago, concentrating in the areas of health law, land use and legislative counseling. She received her J.D. degree from DePaul University, and is a past chair and current member of the Board of Trustees of DePaul University. She earned her B.A. from St. Mary's University, and her M.L.S. from the University of Illinois.

Jean M. Golden Ms. Golden is a partner in the law firm of Cassidy Schade LLP. Working out of the firm's Chicago office, she is engaged in the practice of insurance and commercial law. She also co-chairs the firm's insurance practice group and is a member of the executive committee. She has served as a member of the CBA Board of Managers and as a member and president of the Board of Directors for the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois. Ms. Golden has been selected as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and of the Chicago Bar Foundation. She has been recognized for her legal skills by several peer review organizations and was recently designated one of the top women lawyers in Illinois by *Leading Lawyers Magazine*. She is a frequent writer and faculty presenter at continuing legal education programs and seminars for attorneys and other professionals. Ms. Golden is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Boston College and received her J.D. from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Denise Kane Ms. Kane serves as Inspector General for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. With a lifetime of community and public service, she was the first person appointed to that position in 1993 by Gov. Jim Edgar, and has held it ever since. Ms. Kane began her career as a teacher at St. Michael's High School in Chicago; was a probation officer in the Juvenile Court of Cook County; director of operations at Association House of Chicago; administrator at the juvenile division of the Cook County Public Guardian's Office; and associate director of the Citizens Committee of Cook County Juvenile Court. While there, Ms. Kane designed and participated in a nonviolence training program for youth awaiting trial in the adult criminal court. In 1987, while with the Public Guardian's office serving as director of social services, she was instrumental in the federal litigation resulting in the "Norman Decree", a case that prohibits children from being removed from their homes due to poverty issues. She also provided expert testimony in litigation result in the Hill Decree, which recognized the rights of teen parents. Ms. Kane received both her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Elizabeth A. Kaveny Ms. Kaveny is a partner with the Chicago law firm of Burke Wise Morrissey & Kaveny and one of a few women to become a name partner in a high profile plaintiff's trial lawyer firm. Ms. Kaveny represents catastrophically injured victims of medical negligence and their families, with a focus on women and children's issues, including children who have suffered significant birth injuries. She has an outstanding track record for success both in pretrial negotiations and in trials by jury, making her much sought after by families throughout Illinois. Ms. Kaveny is recognized by her peers as one of the state's Top 10 women litigators and among the Top 10 women personal injury trial lawyers in Illinois. She has been an active member and officer of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and most recently, the Illinois Bar Foundation, helping to ensure access to legal services for all. Ms. Kaveny has taught trial advocacy at the acclaimed National Institute of Trial Advocacy, as well as Loyola University of Chicago Law School and Northwestern

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University Law School. She received her B.S. in Economics from Lehigh University and her J.D. *cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Michael D. Monico Mr. Monico is recognized as one of the premier criminal defense attorneys in the country. A partner in the firm of Monico & Spevack, Mr. Monico has represented clients—many of them notable—accused of health care fraud; antitrust, mail, wire and securities fraud; public corruption; and foreign corrupt practices throughout the United States and around the world for the past 35 years. Recent clients have included a former Cabinet member under President George W. Bush, executives of a major oil company, and officials in multinational corporations doing business in Europe, China, Japan and the Middle East. He began his career as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois from 1973-1977, and also served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves. Mr. Monico regularly speaks at seminars on trial advocacy and criminal justice issues throughout the country and has taught trial advocacy at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy as well as at Chicago area law schools. He has received a number of awards for his expertise in criminal law and trial advocacy, including the Joel Flaum Award from the Chicago Inn of Court in 2012.

Michael I Rothstein Mr. Rothstein co-founded Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC in 2001. Before that, he was a founding partner of Quinlan & Crisham, Ltd. He has extensive experience in handling complex commercial, corporate, financial and governmental litigation. In 1988 and 1989, Mr. Rothstein served as an assistant special counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Ethics Committee in the investigation of House Speaker James C. Wright, Jr., and was a principal author of the outside counsel's final report to the Committee. He is on the Board of the Federal Bar Association's Chicago chapter and is a past president of the Illinois Appellate lawyers Association. In 2012, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Mr. Rothstein to a three-year term on the Supreme Court Rules Committee, a principal body that advises the Supreme Court on the rules governing practice in the Illinois courts. He is a 1987 graduate of the Boston University School of Law and a 1982 graduate of Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and is a certified public accountant.

Sr. Catherine M. Ryan Sr. Ryan was appointed executive director of Maryville in 2004. Maryville is a childcare organization that has been serving children and families in Illinois since 1883. While there, Sr. Ryan has led Maryville through a comprehensive strategic reorganization of its programs and operations. Before her appointment to Maryville, Sr. Ryan led the Cook County state's attorney's Juvenile Justice Bureau for seven years. She joined the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1965. She graduated with a master's degree in business administration from DePaul University and received her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

Francine Soliunas Ms. Soliunas is Dean for Strategic and Community Alliances at DePaul University College of Law. Before joining DePaul in 2012, she was Assistant Dean for Student Professional Development and Strategy at Chicago Kent College of Law for more than eight years. Her responsibilities in academia have varied and include teaching, administration of a labor and employment institute, institutional strategic planning, design and implementation of diversity programs and advocacy for strategic partnerships. Before her career in academics, Ms. Soliunas was in-house counsel for the former Bell System for more than 20 years. Prior to that, she spent eight years in government service: as a supervisory trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a state appellate defender for the Illinois State Appellate Defender Prison Legal Services Project.

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Richard Waris Mr. Waris is equity partner for the law offices of Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered. He served as the first chairman of the law firm's Executive Committee, and has been elected to serve in that position in 2013. Mr. Waris concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, defense of professional liability claims, legislation and regulatory matters. He serves as general counsel to the Professional Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois. He has been selected by his peers as one of the top attorneys in his field of practice, and has been appointed to serve on the Illinois Department of Insurance Advisory Committee on Banks and Insurance. He attended St. Louis University School of Law and the University of Notre Dame Law School, obtaining his J.D. While attending Notre Dame, Mr. Waris was managing editor of the Journal of Legislation and director of the Notre Dame Legislative Research Service.

Mark E. Wojcik Mr. Wojcik is professor at The John Marshall Law School. Professor Wojcik has taught and lectured in 11 foreign countries. He holds leadership roles in numerous legal organizations and associations. He is the author and co-author of numerous law review articles, book chapters and books, including the first casebook on AIDS Law. He obtained his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. While there, he was an editor of the John Marshall Law Review. After graduation, he clerked for judges on the Nebraska Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of International Trade. He practiced customs and international trade law in New York and served as court counsel for the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau. Professor Wojcik joined the faculty in 1992 and became director of global legal studies in 2004. He teaches lawyering skills, international criminal law, international human rights, international trade law, torts, international law and human rights in a changing society.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Judge Wayne Andersen, Committee Co-Chair at 847.650.6844 or Joseph Tybor, Director of Communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)