



Supreme Court of Illinois

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SUPREME COURT NAMES KEVIN C. KAKAC AS RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR WAYNE COUNTY

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Friday the appointment of Fairfield attorney Kevin C. Kakac as a resident Circuit Judge in the Second Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Kakac, a lifelong resident of Wayne County, was appointed to fill the resident Circuit Court seat which will become vacant upon the November 30, 2013 retirement of Circuit Judge Bennie Joe Harrison.

The appointment is effective December 2, 2013 and will expire December 1, 2014, when the position will be filled by the winner of the 2014 General Election.

Mr. Kakac, 47, is currently in private practice in Fairfield. Prior to entering private practice in April, Mr. Kakac served as Wayne County State's Attorney from 1996-2009. From 2009-2013, he worked as counsel for the Peoples National Bank in Mt. Vernon. Before his election as state's attorney, he was engaged in the private practice of law with the Law Offices of Cochran and Kakac in Fairfield.

A commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), Mr. Kakac has served as a Judge Advocate General for the past 19 years. Since 2012, he has served as a Judge Advocate General for the 102nd Training Division (Maneuver Support) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Mr. Kakac serves with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Kakac received his bachelor of arts degree in History from Milligan College in Tennessee in 1989. He received his *juris doctor* degree from Saint Louis University School of Law in 1992.

"I'd like to thank Justice Karmeier and the Supreme Court for this opportunity," Mr. Kakac said. "I'd also like to thank the selection committee for their work and efforts in this process. I am very pleased, honored and humbled to be appointed. I have always enjoyed serving the public and I look forward to again serving the citizens of Wayne County.

"I'll work hard, be fair and impartial, and do my very best every day to carry out the important duties and responsibilities of the office."

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Mr. Kakac is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Judge Advocate General's Corps – USAR, the American Legion and Wayne County Bar Association.

Mr. Kakac was chosen in an application process that included review by a six-member screening committee appointed by Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, who recommended Mr. Kakac to the Court.

Each applicant was interviewed and their credentials reviewed by members of the screening committee before forming a short list of recommended candidates to be interviewed by Justice Karmeier.

The screening committee members were: Robert J. Hawkins of Fyie & Hawkins Law Office in Fairfield; Richard Kline, sole practitioner in Fairfield; Neal Laws, Jr., sole practitioner in Fairfield; Gary Milone of the law firm of Coble & Milone in Flora; Scott Quinn of the law firm Scott R. Quinn & Associates in Mt. Vernon; and Jay Walden, sole practitioner in Grayville.

Mr. Hawkins served as chairman of the screening committee.

Wayne County is one of 12 counties in the Second Judicial Circuit; the Second Judicial Circuit is also comprised of the southern Illinois counties of Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash and White.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323 or Dawn Frison Cook, senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.0870)