

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES NEW JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Supreme Court of Illinois appointed on Wednesday Chief Judge Thomas E. Callum of Circuit Court in DuPage County to the Illinois Appellate Court, filling the vacancy created by the elevation of Justice Robert R. Thomas to the state's High Court.

The Court also announced several other judicial appointments and assignments involving the Appellate Court and Circuit Courts in the 2nd Judicial District.

"All of these judges have the qualities of experience and integrity necessary for their new positions," said Justice Thomas. "They are all people of character and the people of the 2nd Judicial District and the Circuit Courts where these judges sit will be proud of their work."

Judge Callum, who has sat on the bench since he was appointed an associate judge in 1986, has consistently received ratings that have been the highest or among the highest in judicial evaluation polls conducted by the DuPage County Bar Association.

After sitting as an associate judge, he was appointed a Circuit Court judge by the Supreme Court in 1994 and was elected to the Circuit Court bench in 1996. He was selected Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit, which covers DuPage County, in 1999; and was a member of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases.

Judge Callum's appointment is effective Feb. 2 and terminates Dec. 2, 2002.

The Supreme Court appointed Associate Judge Kathryn E. Creswell, also of DuPage County, to fill the Circuit Court vacancy created by Judge Callum's appointment. Judge Creswell was appointed associate judge in 1995 and currently sits in the felony division of the Circuit Court.

Judge Fred A. Geiger, a Circuit Court judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit (Lake and McHenry counties) who is currently assigned to the Illinois Appellate Court, was appointed to the Appellate Court, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Lawrence D. Inglis. Judge Geiger has been on the bench since 1982 when he was selected an associate judge. He was elected Circuit Court judge in 1984, served as Chief Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit from 1986 through 1988 and has been assigned to the Appellate Court since 1989. He served as presiding justice of the Appellate Court in the 2nd District in 1997 and 1998. His appointment is effective Feb. 1 and terminates Dec. 2, 2002.

Circuit Judge Robert E. Byrne, who is presiding judge of the Chancery Division of the 18th Judicial Circuit, was assigned to the appellate court position formerly held by Judge Geiger. The appointment of Judge Byrne, who has been on the bench since 1991, is effective Feb. 1 and runs until further order of the Court.

Associate Judge Mary Seminara Schostok of the 19th Judicial Circuit was appointed Circuit Judge in the 19th Circuit, filling the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Geiger to the Appellate Court. Formerly a supervising and trial attorney in the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Judge Schostok has been an associate judge since May, 1998.

The Supreme Court also terminated the assignment of Judge Michael J. Colwell to the Appellate Court, and he will resume duties in the Circuit Court of the 16th Judicial Circuit (Kendall, Kane and DeKalb counties).

Circuit Judge R. Peter Grometer, who was chief judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit between 1996 and 1998, was assigned to the Appellate Court and the position formerly held by Judge Colwell. Judge Grometer's assignment is effective Feb. 1 and runs until further order of the Court.