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**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO ADMINISTER OATH TO
NEW ATTORNEYS**

Nearly 700 new attorneys will be admitted to practice in Illinois on Thursday, May 10 with Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court presiding and administering the attorney's oath at five separate locations.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois state bar examination and an ethics examination, and have been certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The largest group, 423, will be admitted in the First Judicial District during ceremonies starting at 10:30 a.m. at Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place East. Justice Charles E. Freeman will administer the oath, and Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald will also participate.

About 650 men and women were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys Thursday at ceremonies in the five Supreme Court judicial districts.

Here are the time and locations of Thursday's ceremonies:

Supreme Court Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II will preside over the Fifth Judicial District ceremony, 2 p.m., Gateway Convention Center, LaSalle Room, near Interstates 55/70 & Route 157, Collinsville.

Supreme Court Justice Robert R. Thomas will preside over the Second Judicial District ceremony, 10 a.m., Hemmens Memorial Building, Elgin Civic Center Plaza, 150 Dexter Court, Elgin.

Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will preside over the Third Judicial District ceremony, 2 p.m., Illinois Appellate Court Building, 1004 Columbus St., Ottawa.

Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will preside over the Fourth Judicial District ceremony, 10:30 a.m., Supreme Court Courtroom, Springfield.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to more than 75,000. About 10,000 of these are lawyers who pay a reduced registration fee and neither reside nor practice in Illinois.

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Freeman was elected to the Supreme Court on November 6, 1990 as the first African-American to serve on the Court. On May 12, 1997, he was selected as Chief Justice and served in that capacity until December 31, 1999.

Justice Fitzgerald was elected to the High Court in November, 2000 after sitting as a Circuit Court Judge in Cook County since 1976 and serving as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division of Cook County since 1989.