

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2001

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES NEW JUDGESHIPS FOR
WILL COUNTY**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday the existence of four new Circuit Court judgeships in Will County.

The four judgeships in the Twelfth Circuit, which consists of all of Will County, are mandated by provisions in a state statute, the Circuit Courts Act, which provide for four additional judges in judicial circuits with a population greater than 475,000. U.S. Census figures, released earlier this year, show that Will County's population surpassed 500,000, a growth of nearly 145,000 persons since the 1990 census.

In the interim before next year's elections, the vacancies will be filled by Supreme Court appointment, and Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced the beginning of an application process under which he will make recommendations to the Court.

Applications for interested candidates are available for Justice Kilbride's office in Rock Island, the office of Chief Judge Rodney B. Lechwar of the Twelfth Circuit, the Will County Courthouse and the Will County Bar Association.

The deadline for applications is August 24. Applications will undergo an extensive evaluation process, including review by a bipartisan evaluation committee established by Justice Kilbride. Members of the committee will include lawyers and non-lawyers. Applicants may also be reviewed in a judicial advisory poll conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Once the selections have been made by the Court, the term of the appointments will run until the first Monday in December 2002.