

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2001

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ASSIGNS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
FREDERICK J. KAPALA TO APPELLATE COURT**

The Illinois Supreme Court has assigned Circuit Court Judge Frederick J. Kapala of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in Boone and Winnebago Counties to duty in the Illinois Appellate Court, Second Judicial District.

The assignment is effective Dec. 1, 2001 and continues until further order of the Supreme Court.

Judge Kapala will be filling the position currently held by Appellate Judge John W. Rapp Jr., who is retiring from judicial service on Nov. 30, 2001.

Judge Kapala's service on the bench dates to 1982 when he was elected an associate judge by Circuit Court judges. He served as an associate judge from 1982 to 1994 when he was elected a Circuit Court judge.

He was presiding judge of Juvenile Court from 1989-91 and has been presiding judge of the Criminal Division since 1995.

He was retained as a Circuit Court judge in 2000 with a voter approval rate of 85 percent.

Judge Kapala served as an assistant state's attorney for Winnebago County from 1975-77, and was in private practice from 1977-82.

A native of Rockford, Judge Kapala has been active in community affairs and an occasional lecturer.

He graduated magna cum laude from Marquette University and received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Judge Kapala is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a liberal arts honors society and of Pi Gamma Mu, a social science honors society.

He is married to Jill D. (Balentyne) Kapala, and the couple has two children, Katie and Candy.

Judge Rapp is retiring after more than 30 years on the bench, starting as an associate judge in 1970.

The Second Judicial District consists of DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, Boone, Lee, Ogle, Winnebago, Stephenson, Carroll and Jo Daviess counties.