

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2001

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES NEW JUDGESHIP FOR
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Monday the existence of a new, at-large Circuit Court judgeship in the Eleventh Circuit, which includes Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean and Woodford counties.

The new judgeship is mandated by provisions in a state statute, the Circuit Courts Act, which provides for additional judges for growing populations as measured by the U.S. Census.

New population figures show the Eleventh Circuit grew by 24,797 persons between 1990 and 2000. Most of that growth, 21,253, occurred in McLean County.

In the interim before next year's election, the new vacancy will be filled by Supreme Court appointment, and Justice Rita B. Garman announced the beginning of an application process, which will lead to final Court approval.

Notices of the vacancy will be posted in courthouses throughout the Circuit. Applications may be obtained by writing to:

Mrs. Mary Hurley
Office of Justice Rita B. Garman
Supreme Court of Illinois
3607 North Vermilion, Suite 1
Danville, IL 61832

All questionnaires must be completed by the applicant and received in Justice Garman's office no later than Monday, Oct. 1, 2001.

The applications will undergo an extensive evaluation process, including review by a screening committee established by Justice Garman. Among criteria the committee will use in evaluating candidates are judicial and legal experience, integrity, professional competence, judicial temperament and a commitment to justice.

It is hoped that the vacancy could be filled by Supreme Court appointment during the November 2001 term of the Court. It is expected that the person who will be appointed by the Court to fill the vacancy will be a candidate for the same position in the November 2002 election.

Currently, there are four, at-large judgeships in the Eleventh Circuit, six resident judgeships and nine associate judgeships.

At-large judgeships are elected by voters in the entire Circuit, resident judgeships are elected by voters in a specific county in the Circuit and associate judges are elected by a vote of all the Circuit Court judges in the Circuit.