

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2001

WALTER BRAUD TO BE SWORN IN AS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Walter Braud will be sworn in as a Circuit Court judge in the 14th Judicial Circuit Friday, September 21 at 4 p.m. The ceremony will be held in the Justice Center's East Courtroom, 5th Floor, located at 1401 3rd Avenue in Rock Island. He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ronald C. Taber.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will administer the oath.

Mr. Braud, 62, has been practicing law in Rock Island since 1969 when he joined the Rock Island County state's attorney's office as an assistant. He has been with his own firm, now named Braud, Westensee & VanDerGinst Ltd., since 1971.

Prior to graduating from the Chicago Kent College of Law in 1968, Mr. Braud was a school teacher in the city of Chicago. He taught sixth grade pupils at the Skinner Elementary School on the near West Side.

Mr. Braud has been active in professional and community organizations and activities, including membership on the Advisory Committee for the Civil Justice Reform Act and on the Illinois State Bar Association Minority and Women Participating Committee. He also served as a teacher of constitutional and criminal law at Black Hawk College in Moline.

Mr. Braud was appointed to the judicial seat August 30 following an extensive application and evaluation process which included review by an independent committee established by Justice Kilbride, and a poll of attorneys in the Circuit by the Illinois State Bar Association.

He has been married to his wife, Gertrude, for 39 years. The couple has two adult children.

The 14th Judicial Circuit is made up of Rock Island, Whiteside, Henry and Mercer counties.