

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY ON CAPITAL LITIGATION JUDGES SEMINAR

About 120 judges from around the state will convene for a two-day seminar in Champaign beginning Thursday, November 1, as part of the implementation of new rules announced by the Illinois Supreme Court to improve the administration of justice in capital cases.

Under the rules, which constitute a landmark reform effort by the Court on the conduct of death penalty cases, judges who try capital cases in Illinois must attend such a Capital Litigation Seminar at least once every two years. The rules also require that every assistant state's attorney, public defender and private attorney representing a defendant in a capital case meet rigorous standards and become a certified member of the Capital Litigation Bar and that attorneys in death penalty cases complete at least 12 hours of training in the preparation and trial of capital cases.

The two-day seminar in Champaign is the second opportunity for judges in Illinois to meet the new requirement. In September, a similar seminar was held in the Cook County area and about 120 judges attended.

Print, TV and radio media that wish to report on the educational seminar may contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, for further details at 312-793-2323.