

**November 9, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY
IN COOK COUNTY**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Friday the appointment of Lewis Nixon, assistant general counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to an at-large vacancy on the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Nixon, whose appointment is effective Nov. 30, will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael B. Bolan. The appointment terminates Dec. 2, 2002.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court is granted the authority to fill vacancies on the bench in the interim between elections.

Mr. Nixon has been the principal legal adviser for HUD in the six-state Midwest region since 1983. As such, he administers the legal department and supervises a staff of 40 attorneys and paralegals; provides legal opinions, advice and guidance with respect to departmental programs; supervises and handles litigation involving the department; and serves as the ethics counselor for department employees in the Midwest area.

Mr. Nixon's professional experience also includes tenure as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1975 through 1979; an associate for Conklin & Adler, a Chicago firm, from 1980 to 1983, handling general insurance defense and aviation tort litigation; and litigation involving the Federal Employer's Liability Act (FELA) as a member of the in-house legal staff of the Burlington Northern Railroad Corp. handling federal employer's liability.

He also serves as adjunct professor at Roosevelt University, teaching in the areas of Illinois civil litigation and corporate law.

"I'm very gratified and humbled to be appointed a Circuit Court judge," said Mr. Nixon. "I want to express my appreciation for the confidence the Illinois Supreme Court has placed in me and promise to do a very good job."

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“I believe my background and qualifications prepare me for the type of assignments I will get in the future.”

Mr. Nixon, who was recommended to the Court by Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, was found highly recommended, highly qualified or qualified by all the major bar associations, including the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Mr. Nixon also went through an evaluation process and was approved by a special commission to screen candidates, established by Justice McMorrow, to help fill interim judicial appointments.

Mr. Nixon received his Juris Doctor degree from DePaul University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn.

He is a member of various bar associations and has served as a special agent for Illinois State Police and as an officer in the Illinois Army National Guard.