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**JUSTICE THOMAS L. KILBRIDE TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW
ATTORNEYS**

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 17 new lawyers are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Ottawa on Thursday, May 9.

The group is among 611 men and women who were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys at ceremonies in the state's five Supreme Court judicial districts.

The Ottawa program in the Third Judicial District will begin at 2 p.m. in the courtroom of the historic Appellate Court Building, 1004 Columbus Street.

Justice Kilbride will welcome the members of the class and their families and friends.

Richard W. Zuckerman, a Peoria attorney, will speak on behalf of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA).

Retired Third Judicial District Appellate Judge Tobias Barry will make the motion to admit the class.

A reception will follow.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and an ethics examination; and were certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to more than 76,000. About 10,000 of these are lawyers who pay a reduced registration fee and neither reside nor practice in Illinois.

MORE

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Kilbride was elected to the High Court in November, 2000 after practicing law for 20 years in the Rock Island area, the last seven as a sole practitioner. He has been counsel for the cities of Silvis and Moline, 17 township governments and several other local units of government.

Justice Kilbride received his B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., and his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington D.C. in 1981. While in law school, Justice Kilbride completed judicial internships for the administrative assistant to the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and for U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Hens Green.

The Third Judicial District is made up of these counties: Will, Iroquois, Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, Bureau, Whiteside, Henry, Stark, Peoria, Fulton, Knox, Whiteside, Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, Hancock and McDonough.

Ceremonies in the other districts will be held in Chicago, Collinsville, Springfield and Elgin.