

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2002

**JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL
SCREENING COMMITTEE**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Monday the formation of a Judicial Screening Committee for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

The screening committee was formed for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the office of Judge of the Circuit Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Robert Cochonour of Cumberland County.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information, and interviewed each applicant, Justice Garman will make a recommendation to the Illinois Supreme Court, which will make the appointment. The person appointed will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2004. It is likely that the person appointed will be a candidate for the position in that election.

The screening committee consists of seven persons who reside in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Five of the committee members are non-lawyers and two are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include: Suzanne Bland of Greenup, Richard Ebbert of Montrose, Michael Fletcher and John Wilson of Toledo, and Robert Henderson of Casey.

The lawyer members of the committee include Hon. Richard E. Scott, retired judge of Paris, and attorney Janett Winter-Black with law offices in Toledo and Mattoon.

Michael Fletcher will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Those who have submitted applications and will be screened by the committee are: John L. Barger, attorney in Toledo; Millard Everhart, Cumberland County State's Attorney; Glen A. Braden, attorney in Neoga; Ken Gano, attorney in Effingham; Brien O'Brien, attorney from Mattoon; and Christopher Meyer, attorney in Danville.

MORE

**Justice Garman Announces Formation of Committee
Add One**

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Janett Winter-Black, Law Offices of Janett-Winter Black, P.O. Box 215, Toledo, Illinois 62468. Messages may be left at (217) 849-2700. Comments should be received by the committee before October 22, 2002.

All comments as well as applications and minutes of committee meetings will be held in confidence between the committee members and the Supreme Court.

The Fifth Judicial Circuit includes Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and Vermilion Counties.