

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2008

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

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Wednesday the formation of a judicial screening committee to help fill a vacancy in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Justice Garman established the screening committee to assess the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the Circuit Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Stephen H. Peters. Under the Illinois Constitution, the vacancy will be filled by Supreme Court appointment.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information and interviewed each of the applicants, it will report findings to Justice Garman, who will make a recommendation to the Supreme Court from among those applicants submitting their credentials to the committee.

The person appointed by the Supreme Court will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2010.

The screening committee consists of seven persons who reside in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Four of the committee members are non-lawyers and three are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Dr. Monica DeGrauwe, Mrs. Cheryl Lietz and Timothy Reeser of Clinton; and F. Dick Maxwell of Farmer City.

The lawyer members of the committee include Roger Simpson of Monticello; Joe Taylor of Clinton and Lott Thomas of Champaign.

Dr. Monica DeGrauwe will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Applicants who will be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and who will be screened by the committee are attorneys Garry W. Bryan, Richard E. Goff and Jerry A. Johnson from Clinton; and attorney Stephanie Scoles of Bloomington.

MORE

**Justice Garman Announces Screening Committee
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Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Dr. Monica DeGrauwe, Sixth Judicial Screening Committee, P.O. Box 618, Clinton, IL 61727. Comments should be received by the Committee before Saturday, August 16, 2008. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the Committee and the Court.

The Sixth Judicial Circuit includes Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt counties.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)