

**October 21, 2009**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUSTICE THOMAS KILBRIDE RECOMMENDS LONGTIME LAWYER,  
COMMUNITY LEADER AND RETIRED JUDGE TO FILL JUDICIAL  
VACANCY**

On the recommendation of Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Raymond A. Bolden, a longtime attorney, retired associate judge and one of the founding members of the Black Bar Association of Will County, to fill a Circuit Court vacancy in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Bolden, who retired in 2001 after 15 years as an associate judge, will fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Circuit Judge Edward F. Petka. The appointment is effective November 1, 2009 and will terminate December 6, 2010.

As an associate judge, Mr. Bolden presided over a wide range of cases including felonies, misdemeanors and civil trials. Following his retirement, he resumed the practice of law with the Joliet firm of Mitchell & Bolden.

He has long been involved in community affairs.

As an active member of the Joliet bar, Mr. Bolden helped the Will County Bar Association create the Will County Legal Assistance Program, and served on that group's board for many years.

In addition to his involvement with the Black Bar Association, Mr. Bolden served for several years on the board of the Joliet-Will County Community Action Agency. He is a Life Member of the NAACP, and served as the Joliet chapter's president for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1964. He also is co-founder and current board member of the Warren-Sharpe Community Center.

Mr. Bolden, an Air Force veteran who graduated from Joliet Junior College, received his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1961, and, afterwards worked as a Special Agent with the U.S. Treasury Department in the organized crime division. In 1963, he joined James D. Montgomery and Leo Holt (retired Cook County judge) to form the Chicago law firm of Montgomery, Holt and Bolden.

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He joined the Will County State's Attorney's office under the late George Sangmeister in 1964; and opened his own law practice in 1968 with an emphasis on criminal defense matters until his selection as an associate judge in 1986. He also practiced in the areas of family law, real estate and civil matters.

His first wife, Kathleen, passed away in 1994 after 38 years of marriage. He remarried Deborah McLurkin 11 years ago. He has three children and his eldest son, A. Scott Bolden, is the Managing Partner of the Washington, D.C. office of the global law firm Reed-Smith.

Mr. Bolden also has 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He said he has no intention of being a candidate for election in 2010, which will determine the occupant of his seat when the appointment terminates.

"I'm humbled and honored to be recommended by Justice Kilbride and appointed by the Supreme Court to this judicial position," said Mr. Bolden. "I look forward to a return to the bench and serving the people of Will County to the best of my ability."

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**(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois  
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