



Supreme Court of Illinois

Joseph R. Tybor
Director of Communications

222 North LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone (312) 793-2323
Mobile (312) 636-0479
Fax (312) 793-0871

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JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCY IN SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Thursday the formation of a judicial screening committee for the Seventh 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 Richard Mitchell on January 2, 2013. Under the Illinois Constitution, judicial vacancies are filled by Supreme Court appointment until the next general election.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information and interviewed each of the applicants, it will report its findings to Justice Garman, who will then make a recommendation to the Supreme Court from among those applicants submitting their credentials to the committee. The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 1, 2014, when the position will be filled by the 2014 General Election.

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

The non-lawyer members of the committee are: Jacksonville residents Joy Becker, Jim Bruner, Tom Eoff and Dr. John Peterson.

The lawyer members of the committee are the Hon. David Bone (retired), Eddie Carpenter and Charles McNeely, all from Jacksonville.

Jim Bruner will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Applicants who are considered for appointment to the judgeship and will be screened by the committee are Jacksonville attorneys Amy Jackson and Chris Reif.

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 Charles McNeely, secretary, Seventh Judicial Circuit Screening Committee, P.O. Box 970, Jacksonville, IL 62651. Comments should be received by the committee before **5 p.m. on February 8, 2013**. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the Court.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit is comprised of six counties: Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323 or Dawn Frison Cook, senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.0870)