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**JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS**

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Rita B. Garman will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 17 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Springfield on Thursday, May 10.

The group is among approximately 654 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 Springfield program in the Fourth Judicial District will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Supreme Court Courtroom in the Illinois Supreme Court Building, located at Second and Capitol Streets in Springfield.

Justice Garman, the second woman to sit on the High Court, will preside over the ceremony and welcome the members of the class, their families and friends.

Debra M. Boggess, president of the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, will speak on behalf of the organized bar.

Other guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be: Appellate Court Justice Robert W. Cook from the Fourth Judicial District; Circuit Judge John B. Huschen from the Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Associate Judge Holly F. Clemons from the Sixth Judicial Circuit; and Umberto S. Davi from the Illinois State Bar Association's Board of Governors.

Justice Cook will make the motion to admit the class; Judge Huschen will second the motion to admit the class; and Judge Clemons will respond to the motion to admit the class.

A reception will follow.

Those to be sworn in as new attorneys are: Joelle Alexander, Peoria; Heidi Dodd, Springfield; Michael Goad, Arlington, Virginia; Michael R. Huber, Metamora; Catherine Lucas, St. Louis, Missouri; Kim Phipps, Springfield; Megan Smith, Petersburg; Chirag Trivedi, Springfield; Sarah White, Quincy; Michelle Blackburn, Springfield; William Fasking, Bloomington; Mistina Hollenbeck, Kirksville, Missouri; Sara Lahr, Springfield; Maria Pardo, Springfield; Dorothy Walsh Ripka, St. Louis, Missouri; Taylor Reed Steahly, Springfield; Jami Bathon Webster, Hamburg.

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 75,000. About 10,000 of these are lawyers who pay a reduced registration fee and neither reside nor practice in Illinois.

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Garman joined the Supreme Court in February 2001 with a wealth of judicial experience, having been appointed to replace Justice Benjamin K. Miller, who retired. She was the first woman associate judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (1974-86); the first woman Circuit Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit (1986-95); and the first woman to serve on the Appellate Court in the Fourth District (1995-01).

She received her B.S. degree in economics with highest honors from the University of Illinois in 1965, Bronze Tablet; and her J.D. degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1968.

Before becoming an associate judge, Justice Garman was assistant state's attorney in Vermilion County (1969-73) and was engaged in private practice with Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen & Garman (1973).

The counties in the Fourth District of the Supreme Court are: Adams, Pike, Calhoun, Schuyler, Brown, Scott, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Cass, Mason, Menard, Sangamon, Logan, DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, Moultrie, McLean, Woodford, Livingston, Ford, Champaign, Douglas, Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and Vermilion.

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