

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT VACANCY

The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Tuesday that James C. Murray Jr., a former assistant U.S. attorney and a partner in the Chicago firm Katten Muchin & Zavis has been appointed a Circuit Court judge for the Eleventh Subcircuit in Cook County.

Mr. Murray, who received his juris doctor from Northwestern University, College of Law in 1969, has extensive litigation experience in areas ranging from medical malpractice and product liability cases to employment, public finance and general commercial law.

He also was instrumental in the consolidation of hundreds of asbestos cases before a single judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County in the 1980s.

Mr. Murray received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1966, served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the civil division from 1970-73 and was appointed deputy chief of the civil division in 1972.

He joined Katten Muchin & Zavis in 1975 after serving as a special assistant U.S. attorney representing federal agencies in a litigation commonly referred to as the Contract Buyers case which involved allegations of racially redlining in the City of Chicago.

Mr. Murray was evaluated and found recommended by several bar groups, including the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, the Chicago Council of Lawyers, the Cook County Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association.

Mr. Murray also was evaluated very favorably by a judicial screening commission established by Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, who recommended his appointment to the Court.

"In the investigation we conducted, there was absolute uniformity of opinion by all persons contacted that Jim was an outstanding lawyer who had the highest ethical standards and was a fair and firm litigator," said John B. Simon, a past president of the Chicago Bar Association, who headed the screening commission's inquiry. "People who had litigated against him said he was always prepared, that he was extremely knowledgeable of the law and that he was reasonable and was a gentleman."

"Jim Murray is an experienced trial lawyer who is very highly regarded by his peers, and that includes opposing counsel in his many cases. He will be a great addition to the bench," said retired U.S. District Judge Susan Getzendanner, who serves as co-chair of Justice McMorrow's screening commission.

Mr. Murray's appointment is effective June 11, 2001 and terminates Dec. 2, 2002.