

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPREME COURT FILLS JUDICIAL VACANCY IN GRUNDY COUNTY**

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday the appointment of Associate Judge Robert C. Marsaglia as a resident Circuit Court judge in Grundy County in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

Judge Marsaglia was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Circuit Judge Robert H. Adcock. The appointment was effective on Thursday and terminates when the seat is filled by the November 2002 election. Judge Marsaglia said he will seek election to a full term.

Judge Marsaglia has been an associate circuit judge since Sept. 1, 1996, hearing cases in all types of matters including serious felony and civil jury trials. Before becoming an associate judge, he was a partner in the firm, Marsaglia & Russo, in Morris and served as city attorney of the Village of Coal City. As a practicing attorney, he represented both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury cases in Grundy, Kendall and Will counties.

Before entering the private practice of law in 1986, Judge Marsaglia served as assistant state's attorney in Grundy County, prosecuting felony, misdemeanor, juvenile and civil matters; and served as special Grundy County assistant state's attorney for civil litigation in 1990.

Judge Marsaglia was appointed to the judicial seat following an extensive application and evaluation process which included review by an independent, bipartisan committee established by Justice Thomas L. Kilbride and a poll of attorneys in the Circuit by the Illinois State Bar Association.

"He's a very good judge," said retired Illinois Appellate Judge Tobias G. Barry, who serves as chairman of Justice Kilbride's evaluation committee. "The people of Grundy County will be very satisfied to know that they are getting a good person to fill that vacancy."

"He's a well-rounded, well-liked judge who is well prepared for the position," said George Black, a Morris attorney who also serves on Justice Kilbride's evaluation committee. "Judge Marsaglia is a native of Grundy County and has lived and worked here his entire career. He's well liked and well thought of in all corners."

Mr. Black also noted that Judge Marsaglia is a past president of the Coal City Emergency Squad and a former EMT instructor.

“He’s the only lawyer I’ve run across who was a volunteer fireman while practicing law and that shows the kind of down-to-earth, unselfish, giving type of character that Judge Marsaglia has,” said Mr. Black.

Judge Marsaglia was sworn into the Circuit Court position Thursday morning by Judge Robert L. Carter, chief judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

“He’s had a great record as an associate judge and is very conscientious,” said Chief Judge Carter. “He’s decisive and is highly respected by the lawyers in the Circuit and those that appear in front of him.”

Judge Marsaglia received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in Evanston and his law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 1983.

“Obviously, I’m honored that the Supreme Court would consider me for this position,” Judge Marsaglia said. “I have served the citizens of Grundy County for five years as an associate judge and I look forward to giving the best I have as a full Circuit Court judge and to serving as a full Circuit Court judge for years to come.”

Judge Marsaglia and his wife, Karen, have two children, Margaret and John.

Justice Kilbride recommended his name to the Supreme Court after an extensive application and evaluation process.

Retired Judge Barry, Chief Judge Carter and Mr. Black were part of a bipartisan 11-person evaluation committee established by Justice Kilbride to include community input from lawyers and non-lawyers on candidates for the vacancy. Judge Marsaglia was one of eight persons considered by the committee to fill the vacancy.

Non-lawyer members on the committee included May John Knudson of Marseilles, Chief of Police Tom Kramarsic of LaSalle and schoolteacher Mary Beth Morelli of Ottawa. Other members of the committee were Jeff Allen, chairman of the Illinois State Bar Association Judicial Advisory Polls Committee; Timothy L. Bertschy, a Peoria attorney and former president of the Illinois State Bar Association; Joseph A. Dailing, executive director of Prairie State Legal Services which provides legal aid to low income persons across northern Illinois; C.J. Hollerick, first assistant with the Bureau County State’s Attorney; and Rebecca Zywica, a Peru attorney.

In addition to using a public application process and evaluation by the politically diverse committee, Justice Kilbride utilized a poll of all attorneys in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit conducted by the ISBA. The poll surveyed lawyers on the candidates' integrity, temperament, legal ability and management skills.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court is given the authority to fill judicial vacancies that occur in the interim between elections.

Justice Kilbride was elected to the Supreme Court from the Third Judicial District which is made up of 21 counties in north central Illinois. Justice Kilbride was born in LaSalle, raised in Kankakee and practiced law for 20 years in the Rock Island area before being sworn into office Dec. 4, 2000.