

October 26, 2001

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Thursday the members of a nine-person evaluation committee to help in filling a new judgeship in the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

Justice Garman established the screening committee to help assess the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the office of Judge of the Circuit Court for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

The new judgeship is mandated by provisions in a state statute, the Circuit Courts Act, which provides for additional judges for growing populations as measured by the U.S. Census.

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 make a recommendation to the Illinois Supreme Court. The Court will make the appointment.

The person appointed will serve as a judge of the circuit court by appointment until the general election to be held in November, 2002.

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

The non-lawyer members of the committee include: Julie Dobski, owner & operator of McDonald's in Bloomington, Normal and McLean; Susan Kern, Ph.D., vice-president for university advancement at Illinois State University; Stan Omnen, president and CEO for State Farm Bank; Dr. John Frisch; George Janet, regional superintendent of schools, and Roger Tuttle, retired engineer.

The lawyer members of the committee include Hon. Luther Dearborn, retired chief judge; Guy Fraker, of counsel with Costigan and Wollrab in Bloomington; and Richard Dunn, partner, Dunn, Stanczak, Willard & Arkell, Bloomington.

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Dr. Susan Kern will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Those who have submitted applications and are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and will be screened by the committee, are: Charles Reynard, McLean County State's Attorney; Associate Judge Scott Drazewski and Wayne Maxey, an attorney.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Dr. Susan Kern, Chairperson, Eleventh Circuit Judicial Screening Committee, Illinois State University, 3200 University Advancement, Normal, Illinois 61790-3200. Comments should be received by the committee before November 6, 2001. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the Court.

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit includes Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean and Woodford Counties.