

November 2, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUSTICE GARMAN TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM DANVILLE ROTARY

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will receive the Vocational Service Person of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Danville on Monday, November 5.

The program starts at noon and will be held at the Days Inn, 77 N. Gilbert in Danville.

The award is given to a person who is outstanding in their vocation and who exemplifies truth, fairness and goodwill in both their profession and personal relationships, standards set forth by the Rotary Club, according to Nanette Mellen, president of the Danville Rotary.

The Danville Rotary will contribute \$1,000 in Justice Garman's name to the Rotary International Foundation as a symbol of commitment to the foundation's goals of fostering relationships between people of different nations.

Justice Garman is the newest member of the Supreme Court, taking office in February to replace the retired Justice Benjamin K. Miller. She is the second woman to sit on the Court and has been a pioneer in breaking down barriers to women in college, law school and the Illinois judiciary.

She has sat on the bench in Illinois for more than a quarter of a century: first as an associate judge from 1974 to 1986; then as a Circuit Court judge from 1986 to 1995; and as an appellate judge from 1995 to the time of her appointment to the Supreme Court.

Justice Garman, 57, was one of a handful of women in the College of Commerce of the University of Illinois when she graduated in the Top 10 of her class, and was named to the Bronze Tablet. She attended the College of Law, University of Iowa, where she received her Juris Doctor degree with distinction in 1968.

She began her legal career serving indigent clients with the Legal Aid Society, later worked with the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office, and was in private practice before becoming an associate judge.

MORE

As a judge, Justice Garman has played a prominent role in judicial education. She has served as faculty at numerous seminars and programs for Illinois judges and has been chairperson of the Education Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, which drafted the Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois judges.

She holds the Supreme Court seat from the Fourth Judicial District, which is composed of 30 counties across central Illinois.

(For more information, contact: Joseph Tybor at 312/793-2323 or Nanette Mellen, president of the Danville Rotary at 217/444-1012)