

November 20, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPREME COURT ASSIGNS NEW APPELLATE JUDGE

The Illinois Supreme Court on Tuesday assigned Circuit Court Judge Thomas R. Appleton to sit on the Illinois Appellate Court for the Fourth Judicial District.

Judge Appleton, 52, has sat on the Circuit Court in the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Springfield since his election to the bench in 1992.

Under its constitutional authority, the Supreme Court administratively authorized another appellate judge for the Fourth District to deal with an increased caseload, bringing the number there to seven; and the legislature appropriated the additional money last spring.

Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman recommended Judge Appleton for the assignment after considering Circuit Court judges in the Fourth District and talking to those who expressed interest.

"I'm flattered and pleased," Judge Appleton said of the assignment. "I look forward to the challenges of helping the Fourth District process its growing caseload."

The assignment is effective Dec. 17, 2001 until further order of the Supreme Court.

Judge Appleton will be paid the salaries and benefits of an appellate judge while sitting by assignment. The annual salary of an appellate judge is \$148,803; the annual salary of a Circuit Court judge is \$136,546.

The Fourth District is made up of 30 counties across central Illinois.

While sitting by assignment, Judge Appleton is relieved from all his regular duties in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit which is composed of Sangamon, Morgan, Scott, Greene, Macoupin and Jersey counties.