

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2002

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS CUMBERLAND COUNTY
STATE'S ATTORNEY NEW CIRCUIT JUDGE**

The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Friday that Millard S. Everhart, who has handled hundreds of cases over the last 15 years as Cumberland County state's attorney, has been appointed a resident judge for Cumberland County in the 5th Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Everhart, 51, who has been the Cumberland County prosecutor for nearly 15 years, will be sworn in on November 26, 2002. His appointment will expire December 6, 2004. It is expected that Mr. Everhart will be a candidate for the same judgeship when the seat is up for election in November 2004.

Justice Rita B. Garman recommended the appointment of Mr. Everhart to the Supreme Court after an application process and evaluation by a special committee established by Justice Garman. The committee consisted of five non-lawyers and two lawyers.

As Cumberland County state's attorney, Mr. Everhart handled matters ranging from petty offenses to a capital murder case. During his first 10 years as state's attorney, he also maintained a small, private practice with an emphasis on civil matters such as probate, workmen's compensation cases and some personal injury cases on behalf of injured parties.

Mr. Everhart was appointed state's attorney in December 1987 and was elected four times to four-year terms. Before becoming state's attorney, he was an attorney with a Mattoon law firm, and primarily worked on civil litigation matters.

Mr. Everhart and his wife, Mary, reside in Mattoon.

The 5th Judicial Circuit includes Cumberland, Edgar, Coles, Clark and Vermilion counties.