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**JUSTICE PHILIP J. RARICK TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS**

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Philip J. Rarick will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 113 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Collinsville on Thursday, May 8.

The group is among 661 men and women who were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys at ceremonies in the state's five Supreme Court judicial districts.

The Collinsville program in the Fifth Judicial District will begin at 2 p.m. at the Gateway Convention Center, which is located near the intersection of Route 157 and Interstates 55/70 in Collinsville.

Justice Rarick will preside over the ceremony and welcome the members of the class and their families and friends, and give congratulatory remarks to the new bar admittees.

Robert K. Downs, third vice-president of the Illinois State Bar Association, will be the opening speaker. Mr. Downs is partner with his wife Barbara at Downs Law Offices, P.C. in Oak Park.

Ray Hartmann, a St. Louis publisher and journalist, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Hartmann founded The Riverfront Times in 1977 at age 24. He sold the paper in 1998 and wrote a weekly commentary until May, 2002. In Mr. Hartmann's final two years as publisher, the paper was awarded the prestigious Gold Cup by the Missouri Press Association as the state's top weekly newspaper.

Mr. Hartmann has served as a panelist on KETC-TV's "Donnybrook" since the show's inception in 1987. He is an occasional host of "KMOX Evening Specials" among other radio and TV news shows in the bi-state area. He also serves on the board of Paraquad, an organization dedicated to promoting independent living services for people with disabilities.

**MORE**

**Justice Rarick to Administer Oath**

## **Add One**

Other guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be: Justice Clyde L. Kuehn from the Fifth District Appellate Court; Chief Judge Edward C. Ferguson from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit in Edwardsville; plus Circuit Judges John P. Coady and Sherri L. E. Tungate from the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

A reception will follow.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and an ethics examination; and were certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to nearly 78,000.

Media coverage is invited.

The counties in the Fifth District of the Supreme Court are: Christian, Shelby, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, Wayne, Marion, Jefferson, Clinton, Washington, St. Clair, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Edwards, Wabash, Gallatin, Saline, Williamson, Jackson, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac.

Ceremonies in the other districts will be held in Chicago, Springfield, Rock Island and Elgin.

For more information: Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323.