

September 9, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE ANNE BURKE TO ADMINISTER OATH OF PROFESSIONALISM TO NEW DEPAUL LAW STUDENTS

WHO: Justice Anne M. Burke of the Illinois Appellate Court

WHAT: Justice Burke will administer the oath to first year DePaul University law students during orientation. As part of a continuing program on the part of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Professionalism, justices of the Illinois Supreme Court have been attending at least one orientation session and administering to the incoming students at all Illinois law schools an “Oath of Professionalism.”

Justice Burke is addressing the DePaul students while the Court is meeting in formal term in Springfield. The Supreme Court Committee also has encouraged and is facilitating additional orientation sessions for the incoming students on questions of ethics and professionalism. The idea behind the oath and the workshops on professionalism stems from a belief among justices of the Illinois Supreme Court that one of the most effective ways of improving professionalism among lawyers is to begin at the earliest steps with new lawyers.

The Committee, which was formed by the Court in November 2001, also plans a series of town hall meetings with attorneys, judges and community representatives examining the need for professionalism and ways to achieve it. These meetings will begin with a forum in Peoria scheduled for September 10, and forums to follow in other Illinois cities, including Carbondale, Collinsville, Urbana and Chicago.

WHEN: Thursday, September 11 at 4 p.m.

WHERE: Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Drive, Chicago