

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2003

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL FOR ATTORNEYS TO DISCLOSE
LACK OF MALPRACTICE INSURANCE**

The Rules Committee of the Supreme Court of Illinois will hear comments at a public hearing Friday, October 17, on several proposals including one requiring disclosure of whether an attorney fails to carry malpractice insurance.

The proposed rule is intended to encourage lawyers to maintain insurance and to facilitate the ability of clients “to make an informed decision whether to be represented by lawyers who are unable or unwilling to do so,” according to an official comment attached to the proposal.

Another proposal before the Committee for public comment would require lawyers to disclose whether they carry legal malpractice insurance as part of the annual registration and licensing of attorneys in Illinois.

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Room N-502 in Chicago.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride is the Court’s liaison to the Committee, and Chicago attorney Patricia C. Bobb is its chairperson.

Other proposals to be aired at the public hearing deal with allowing house counsel and lawyers for legal service programs who are admitted to the practice of law in another State to practice in Illinois on a limited basis; setting forth whether medical bills, which are admitted at mandatory arbitration hearings, were paid; permitting broadcasting, televising and photographs made by telephones, personal data assistants, laptop computers and other wired or wireless data transmission and recording devices during court proceedings only with Supreme Court authorization; and establishing appellate settlement conference programs.

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**Rules Committee Meeting
Add One**

Each of the proposals is posted on the Supreme Court's website at www.state.il.us/court. To view the proposals, select "Supreme Court of Illinois" and then select "Supreme Court Committees/Commissions." The proposals are under the subsection titled "Public Hearings."

None of the proposals would take effect unless specifically approved by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Notice of the hearing has been distributed to members of the bench and bar throughout the state.