

October 15, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE RODOLFO GARCIA TO ADMINISTER PROFESSIONALISM OATH TO NEW UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW STUDENTS

WHO: Justice Rodolfo Garcia of the Illinois Appellate Court

WHAT: Justice Garcia will administer the oath to first year University of Chicago 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 and from the Appellate Court have been attending at least one orientation session and administering to the incoming students at all Illinois law schools an “Oath of Professionalism.”

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 law students.

The Committee, which was formed by the Court in November 2001, also is continuing a series of town hall meetings with attorneys, judges and community representatives examining the need for professionalism and ways to achieve it. The statewide series of forums was launched September 10 in Peoria; a forum was also held October 8 at SIU School of Law and in Collinsville. Forums are scheduled in other Illinois cities, including Champaign-Urbana, Rock Island and Chicago.

WHEN: Thursday, October 16 at 1 p.m.

WHERE: University of Chicago Weymouth Kirkland Courtroom, 1111 E. 60th Street, Chicago

(FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court at 312/793-2323 or Ellen Cosgrove at the University of Chicago Law School at 773/702-6769)