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**FIVE LOCATIONS STATEWIDE TO HOLD BAR ADMISSION
CEREMONIES MAY 5**

More than 700 new attorneys will be admitted to practice in Illinois on Thursday, May 5 with Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois Appellate Court presiding and administering the attorney's oath at five separate locations.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois state bar examination and an ethics examination, and have been certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The largest group, 485, will be admitted in the First Judicial District during ceremonies starting at 10 a.m. at Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place East. Illinois Supreme Court Justices Charles E. Freeman and Thomas R. Fitzgerald will preside over the ceremony.

Chicago Bar Association President Joy V. Cunningham will make the motion to admit the class.

Among those to be sworn-in at the Chicago ceremony include Thomas A. Fitzgerald, son of Illinois Supreme Court Justice Fitzgerald.

The 734 men and women were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys Thursday at ceremonies in the five Supreme Court judicial districts.

Here are the time and locations of Thursday's ceremonies:

Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will preside over the Third Judicial District ceremony, 1:30 p.m., Appellate Court Building, 1004 Columbus Street, Ottawa.

MORE

Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will preside over the Fourth Judicial District ceremony, 10 a.m., Supreme Court Courtroom, Springfield.

Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier will preside over the Fifth Judicial District ceremony, 2 p.m., Gateway Convention Center, near Interstates 55/70 & Route 157, Collinsville.

Presiding Appellate Court Judge Jack O'Malley will preside over the Second Judicial District ceremony, 10:30 a.m., Hemmens Memorial Building, Elgin Civic Center Plaza, 150 Dexter Court, Elgin.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to approximately 80,000.

For more information contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323.