

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 6, 2005**

## **JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced today the formation of a Judicial Screening Committee for the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

The screening committee was formed for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of those persons who have applied for two appointments to the office of Judge of the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit created by the upcoming retirements of Judges Thomas G. Russell of Jerseyville and Donald M. Cadagin of Springfield.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information, and interviewed each of the applicants, Justice Garman will make a recommendation to the Illinois Supreme Court, which will make the appointments. The two persons appointed will serve as judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2006.

The screening committee consists of 11 people who reside in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Six of the committee members are non-lawyers and five are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Jim Bruner, Jacksonville businessman; Howard Humphrey, chief operating officer of American Brand, Springfield; Pam Monetti, legal assistant, Bunker Hill; Howard Peters, Illinois Hospital Association, Springfield; Cyndi Rice, retired school superintendent, Jerseyville; and Doug Wagner, county board member and co-owner of Wagner Seed & Supply, Rockbridge.

The lawyer members of the committee include Hon. Ron Robinson, retired judge, Winchester; Peggy Ryan with Sorling, Northrup, Hanna, Cullen & Cochran, Springfield; Jerseyville attorney Lee Plummer; Jon G. Noll, Noll Law Offices, Springfield; and Dan Beard with Bellatti, Fay, Bellatti & Beard, Jacksonville.

Howard Peters will serve as chairperson of the committee.

**MORE**

Applicants who are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and will be screened by the committee are: Seventh Judicial Circuit associate judges Stuart Shiffman and Charles Gramlich; Springfield attorneys John Belz, Eve Blackwell-Lewis and David Reid; Brighton attorney Mary Albert-Fritz; and Jerseyville attorney Eric Pistorius.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to: Justice Rita Garman, Illinois Supreme Court, re: Seventh Judicial Circuit Screening Committee, 3607 N. Vermilion #1, Danville, IL 61832. Comments should be received by the committee before Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

All comments as well as applications and minutes of committee meetings will be held in strict confidence between the committee members and the Supreme Court.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit includes Greene, Jersey, Morgan, Macoupin, Sangamon and Scott counties.