

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 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 Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The screening committee was formed for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the office of Judge of the Circuit Court for the Sixth Judicial Circuit created by the retirement of Judge John G. Townsend.

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 appointment. The person appointed will serve as judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2006.

The screening committee consists of seven people who reside in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Four of the committee members are non-lawyers and three are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Sam Banks with the Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana; Gregory Lykins with Main Street Bank & Trust, Champaign; W. Steven Moser, a farmer and county board member, Urbana; and Deena Razmus, owner of Deena's Style Shop, Rantoul.

The lawyer members of the committee include William Brinkmann, law firm of Thomas, Mamer & Haughey, Champaign; J. Steven Beckett, Beckett & Webber Law Firm, Urbana; and Peg Rawles, associate provost at the University of Illinois.

Sam Banks will serve as chairperson of the committee.

MORE

**Justice Garman Announces Formation of Committee
Add One**

Applicants who are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and will be screened by the committee are: Sixth Judicial Circuit associate judges Jeffrey Ford and Brian McPheters; and Champaign attorneys Tracy E. Nally and Donald R. Parkinson.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to: Mr. Sam Banks, P.O. Box 878, Urbana, IL 61803. Comments should be received by the committee before Wednesday, June 15, 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 Sixth Judicial Circuit includes Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt counties.