

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 17, 2006**

## **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 Fifth 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 Fifth Judicial Circuit created by the August 1<sup>st</sup> retirement of Judge H. Dean Andrews.

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 2008.

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

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Dale Barkley, Paris; Larry Johnson, Chrisman; Jan Nebergall, Paris and Mary Ann Tucker, also of Paris.

The lawyer members of the committee include the Hon. Ralph S. Pearman, retired chief judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, Paris; and attorneys Larry Jones and Fred Kreckman, also from Paris.

Dale Barkley will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Applicants who are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and will be screened by the committee are: Bruce Baber, Allen Bell, Steven Garst and Matthew Sullivan. All applicants are attorneys who reside in the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

**MORE**

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

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to: Ms. Mary Ann Tucker, Fifth Judicial Circuit Screening Committee, 223 East Wood Street, Paris, IL 61944. Comments should be received by the committee before Friday, July 28, 2006.

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 Fifth Judicial Circuit includes Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and Vermilion counties.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois  
Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323)**