

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2006

SUPREME COURT FILLS JUDICIAL VACANCY IN SALINE COUNTY

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday the appointment of Harrisburg attorney Todd D. Lambert as a resident circuit judge for Saline County in the 1st Judicial Circuit.

Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier of the Fifth Judicial District recommended the appointment of Mr. Lambert to the Court after an extensive application, evaluation and interview process that included review by a seven-person screening committee appointed by Justice Karmeier. Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court is vested with the authority to fill judicial vacancies on an interim basis.

Mr. Lambert was appointed to fill the Circuit Court seat which will become vacant November 30 with the retirement of Chief Judge Michael Henshaw of the 1st Judicial Circuit. Mr. Lambert's appointment is effective December 1, 2006 and will terminate December 1, 2008.

Mr. Lambert, a lifelong resident of Harrisburg, graduated with a *juris doctor* degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law and has worked as an attorney in Harrisburg since receiving his law license in 1990. He has broad and extensive legal experience as a partner in the general practice firm of Lambert & Beggs.

"I appreciate the trust and confidence placed in me by Justice Karmeier and the Illinois Supreme Court," said Mr. Lambert. "I'm very humbled by this appointment. I will strive to work hard, be fair and compassionate and to always remember my roots. I look forward to serving the people of Saline County in the 1st Judicial Circuit."

Mr. Lambert has tried numerous civil and criminal cases, and has argued cases in both the Illinois Appellate and Illinois Supreme Court. His practice has included cases involving domestic and family law, personal injury, insurance defense, worker's compensation; he has represented individuals, banks, corporations and insurance companies.

Mr. Lambert has been Harrisburg's city attorney since 1999, prosecuting ordinance violations and providing legal services to the city. From 1991 to 1996, he was chairman of the Rides Mass Transit District, which supplies transportation service to individuals in Saline, Pope, Gallatin and Hardin counties.

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Justice Karmeier sought applications for the imminent vacancy through notices posted at each of the courthouses in the 1st Judicial Circuit and distributed to local bar associations. The credentials of each of the three candidates who applied were reviewed by the screening committee and Justice Karmeier conducted interviews with all of them.

The chairman of the screening committee was John Sanders of Sanders & Sanders in Marion. Other members of the committee were: John Brewster of Winters Brewster Crosby & Schafer; Patrick Kelley of the SIU School of Law; Michael Oshel, a Harrisburg attorney; Tricia Shelton, Johnson County state's attorney; Krystal Tison, a Harrisburg attorney and Todd Bittle, Saline County public defender.

The 1st Judicial Circuit is composed of Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Pope, Massac, Pulaski, Alexander, Union and Johnson counties in southern Illinois.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the
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