

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2006

PROCESS CONTINUES TO FILL JUDICIAL VACANCIES IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The process to fill two new resident subcircuit vacancies in the 12th Judicial Circuit continues, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride expects that an announcement could be made by the middle of January. When completed, the process will fill vacancies for recently created Subcircuits No. 3 and No. 4.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Illinois Supreme Court is vested with the authority to fill judicial vacancies.

Justice Kilbride also released the names of the judicial screening committee which is made up of eight non-lawyer community representatives and eight lawyers and judges from the legal community.

The non-lawyer community representatives are: Edward L. Breen, a bailiff for the 12th Judicial Circuit and former president of Will-Grundy Central Trades and Labor Council; Diane Habiger, property manager for Lincolnshire Properties, Inc., Joliet; Rev. Herbert Brooks, pastor of St. John's Church, Joliet; Carmen Morales, community relations director, Nicor Gas, Joliet; Ann O'Neil, executive vice-president of Prairie Tail Credit Union, Joliet; J.D. Ross, executive director of Will-Grundy Medical Clinic and former president of Joliet Community College, Joliet; Russ Slinkard, president & CEO of Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, Joliet; and Eveleyna Y. Washington, vice-president of International Association of Machinists Local 851.

Members from the legal community include: Chief Judge Stephen D. White of the 12th Judicial Circuit; John R. (Jack) Ardaugh, attorney, partner at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, and president of the Will County Bar Association; Chrystel L. Gavlin, an attorney from Shorewood; Katherine L. Maloney, attorney and partner at Rathbun, Cservenyak and Kozol, Plainfield; and Dorothy Seaborg, an attorney from Joliet.

The co-chairpersons of the committee are Tobias G. Barry, retired justice from the Illinois Appellate Court in the Third Judicial Circuit, and Timothy Bertschy, a Peoria attorney, who is a past president of the Illinois State Bar Association.

MORE

Process Continues for Subcircuit Vacancies Add One

Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District. Justice Barry and Mr. Bertschy served on previous screening committees appointed by Justice Kilbride, and provide procedural continuity to the screening process, which is dominated by input from the local community.

The appointment process used by Justice Kilbride also consists of a written survey of registered attorneys in Will County, which is conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association; background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Among qualities an applicant must possess include a demonstrated reputation for integrity and good character; a demonstrated commitment to equal justice under law; outstanding legal ability and competence; and the appropriate demeanor, character and personality necessary for the judicial temperament required by a Circuit Court judge.

The judicial Subcircuits No. 3 and No. 4 in Will County were established by the legislature, and additional courtrooms to house the new judges will be available in the Emco Building in Joliet.

Those who have applied and are under review for consideration are: Tina M. Brault, Gordon A. Cochrane, Paula A. Gomora, Carmen J.L. Goodman, Theodore J. Jarz, Sarah-Marie F. Jones, John R. Keigher, Raymond A. Nash, Michael R. Naughton and Jennifer M. Stevens.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until the first Monday in December 2008, when the position will be filled by the election in November 2008.

The Third Judicial District is composed of 21 counties across the north central part of the state, stretching from Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties in the east to Whiteside, Rock Island, Peoria, Mercer, Henderson and Hancock counties in the west.

-30-

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