

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT FILLS VACANCY IN NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Wednesday the appointment of Knox County State's Attorney Paul L. Mangieri to fill the Ninth Judicial Circuit vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Larry Heiser.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Third Judicial District recommended the appointment of Mr. Mangieri after an extensive application, evaluation and interview process that included a review of candidates and recommendation by an independent 10-person advisory committee made up of representatives from the community and the legal profession.

Mr. Mangieri has been Knox County state's attorney since he was first elected to the position in 1996. He has been re-elected twice in 2000 and 2004.

Mr. Mangieri was appointed after Justice Kilbride and the special committee reviewed applications and background materials from three candidates.

"I'm thrilled, excited and very humbled at the prospect of serving as a judge," Mr. Mangieri said of his appointment. "I fully appreciate the faith, trust and confidence that Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court have placed in me and my abilities. I will endeavor to serve the Illinois judiciary and the people of the Ninth Circuit to the best of those abilities."

Mr. Mangieri, 47, was raised in Abingdon; and attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was awarded a bachelor of arts degree in 1981. Following college, he attended Saint Louis University School of Law, and received his law degree in 1984.

After graduation from law school, Mr. Mangieri enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and served as a Judge Advocate General. The Navy lieutenant was stationed on board the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga and saw two deployments overseas. In 1985 he, along with other personnel on the Saratoga, received the Presidential Unit Citation for participating in military operations against Libya. Other decorations Mr. Mangieri received were the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

After his military service was completed in 1988, Mr. Mangieri returned to the Knox County area, where he engaged in the private practice of law, specializing in trial litigation, until his election.

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He and his wife, Felicia, are the parents to 12 children and three grandchildren.

"Paul Mangieri is an outstanding candidate for judge. He has substantial background and both criminal law and civil law and his resume is quite impressive," said Timothy Bertschy, a Peoria attorney who is co-chairman of the special committee and who was a past-president of the Illinois State Bar Association.

"I'm pleased to hear that the Supreme Court has appointed such an experienced trial attorney as Paul Mangieri," said Chief Judge Stephen C. Mathers of the Ninth Judicial Circuit. "He and his public service are long known to this area. He will be a fine addition to the Ninth Circuit, and the Knox County board will be hard-pressed to find such an outstanding trial attorney to replace Mr. Mangieri."

Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District. In addition to the screening committee, the appointment process used by Justice Kilbride consisted of a written survey of registered attorneys in the counties that make up the Ninth Judicial Circuit. That survey is conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association.

In addition, candidates also undergo background security checks with police authorities and with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Justice Kilbride also sought written comments from the public about the candidates.

The non-lawyer community representatives on the special committee were: Virginia Campbell, service person at Carhartt, Inc, Galesburg; Mary Michalek, CEO of the Galesburg Clinic; Sandy Monari, former chairman and current member of the Fulton County Board and former business owner and operator of Monari's Tasty Freeze, Farmington; and Don Rosenberry, a plumber from Galesburg.

Retired Justice Tobias G. Barry of the Illinois Appellate Court in the Third Judicial District served as co-chairman of the committee with Mr. Bertschy. Other members of the committee from the legal community were: Chief Judge Steven C. Mathers of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Monmouth attorney Jane Hartley Pratt; Galesburg attorney John W. Robertson with Stoerzbach, Morrison P.C.; and Lewiston attorney Joan C. Scott, partner with Ewing & Scott.

Mr. Mangieri's appointment is effective January 12 and terminates December 1, 2008 when the position will be filled by the election in November 2008.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit includes Knox, Warren, Henderson, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton counties.

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.