

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 4, 2008

**JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL  
SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCY OF JUDGE GREANIAS  
IN SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Monday the formation of a judicial screening committee to help fill a vacancy in Decatur in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Justice Garman established the screening committee to assess the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the Circuit Court vacancy in Decatur, created by the retirement of Judge John Greanias. Under the Illinois Constitution, the vacancy will be filled by Supreme Court appointment.

After the committee has received public input, gathered information and interviewed each of the applicants, it will report its findings to Justice Garman, who will make a recommendation to the Supreme Court from among those applicants submitting their credentials to the committee. The person appointed will serve until the general election to be held in November, 2010.

The screening committee consists of seven persons 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 are Decatur Mayor Michael Carrigan, Ronald Drane, Paula Finn and Peggy Smith Luy, all also from Decatur.

The lawyer members of the committee are Heidi Balsley, William Brown and Richard Heavner of Decatur.

Paula Finn will serve as chairperson of the committee.

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Applicants who will be screened by the committee are: Judges Timothy Steadman and Lisa White, who now sit as associate judges in Decatur for the Sixth Judicial Circuit; and Decatur attorneys Robert Owen, Gregory Mattingley, Steven Langhoff, Scott Rueter and Monica Hawkins.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to: Heidi Balsley, Sixth Circuit Judicial Screening Committee, Tate & Lyle Americas, Inc. 2200 East Eldorado Street, Decatur, IL 62525. Comments should be received by the committee before Saturday, August 16, 2008. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the Court.

The Sixth Judicial Circuit includes Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt counties.