

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 23, 2010**

**CHIEF JUSTICE KILBRIDE ANNOUNCES NAMES OF APPLICANTS TO  
FILL VACANCY IN THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride on Thursday announced that eight candidates have applied to fill a judicial vacancy in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court holds the authority to fill judicial vacancies. Chief Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District.

The process will now proceed to background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Chief Justice Kilbride will also use a poll of all attorneys residing in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which will be conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association over the next 30 days. The attorneys will be surveyed on their opinions of the applicants' integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills and other professional qualifications.

Chief Justice Kilbride will appoint a judicial screening committee made up of representatives from the community, including non-lawyers as well as members of the legal profession to evaluate all of the information. The names of that committee will be announced at a later date.

Attorneys whose applications were received by the 11:30 a.m. deadline on Thursday, December 23 were: Richard J. Black, Jeanne M. Fitzpatrick, Troy D. Holland, Anita L. Kopko, Sheryl H. Kuzma, Richard James Lannon, Joseph R. Navarro, and Melissa M. Olivero.

Those wishing to send written comments about the candidates during the selection process may address them to: Judge Appointment Comments, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62704. Comments must arrive by **Monday, January 24, 2011**. Comments must include contact information such as name and address, and should be brief, preferably no more than 250 words.

Notice of the vacancy and the appointment process was posted at various courthouses within the Thirteenth Circuit, which is comprised of Bureau, Grundy and LaSalle counties. The resident circuit court vacancy was created by the December 6, 2010 retirement of Judge James A. Lanuti.

**MORE**

**Eight Applicants for 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Vacancy  
Add One**

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

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 3, 2012, when the position will be filled by the 2012 General Election.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**