

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2011

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF
RETIRED JUDGE BRUSATTE FOR THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT**

The Illinois Supreme Court has announced the interim appointment of retired Associate Judge James A. Brusatte to fill a vacancy in the 13th Judicial Circuit created by the retirement of Judge James A. Lanuti.

The appointment of Judge Brusatte is effective January 14, 2011 and terminates April 15, 2011. The interim appointment will fill the position until an evaluation and review process of eight applicants for Judge Lanuti's position is completed.

Judge Brusatte has served as an associate judge in the 13th Circuit from March 1996 until his retirement last September. During that time he has served as a mentor for new judges and as a faculty instructor at judicial education seminars.

Before his appointment as an associate judge, he served as County Attorney and Public Defender for LaSalle County. He also was in private practice with White, Marsh, Anderson, Brusatte, Vickers & Deobler in Ottawa. He is a former partner at the law firm of Brusatte & Vickers.

Judge Brusatte received his *juris doctor* degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. He received his B.A. degree in political science from Drake University and was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa.

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

Chief Justice Kilbride has publicly asked for and taken applications for Judge Lanuti's vacancy, and eight persons have applied. They are: 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 do so until January 24, 2011. They should address them to: Judge Appointment Comments, 13th Judicial Circuit, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62704.

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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 the applicants.

The evaluation process includes background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Chief Justice Kilbride also will use a survey of all attorneys residing in the 13th Circuit, which will be conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association. The attorneys will be asked their opinions of the applicants' integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills and other professional qualifications.

The 13th Judicial Circuit is comprised of Bureau, Grundy and LaSalle counties.

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