



# Supreme Court of Illinois

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## **JUSTICE GARMAN TO KEYNOTE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY BANQUET**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will be the keynote speaker at the Champaign County Bar Association's Law Day dinner to be held Wednesday, May 2 at the Champaign County Club.

The banquet is an annual event hosted by the Champaign County Bar Association as part of a nationwide celebration of Law Day which was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, according to John Gadau, president of the local bar group, and partner with the Champaign firm of Zimmerly, Gadau & Otto. Also during the program, five area attorneys will be honored for their pro-bono work. They are Champaign attorneys John Elder and Mary Manning; and Urbana attorneys Tony Bruno, Roger Marsh and Brett Olmstead, according to Mr. Gadau.

This year's theme for Law Day, as designated by the American Bar Association, is "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom".

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. The Champaign Country Club is located at 1211 S. Prospect Avenue.

Justice Garman has served on the courts of Illinois for almost 40 years and has sat on the Illinois Supreme Court since 2001. She was first selected as an associate judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 1974 and served in that position until 1986. She was elected a Circuit Court judge in 1986 and served until 1995 when she was assigned to the Appellate Court from the Fourth Judicial District. She was elected to the Appellate Court in 1996; appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001 and was elected to the Supreme Court in 2002.

Throughout her judicial career, Justice Garman has played a prominent role in Illinois judicial education. She has served as faculty at numerous seminars and programs for Illinois judges and has been a member and chairperson of the Education Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, which drafted the Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois judges and which sets the curriculum for Illinois judges each year. She is a member of the Vermilion County, Illinois State and Iowa Bar Associations, and the Illinois Judges' Association.

**MORE**

**Justice Garman to Keynote Banquet  
Add One**

Justice Garman serves as liaison to several Supreme Court committees. One of them is the Committee on Child Custody Cases. Justice Garman was instrumental in the establishment of that committee by the Supreme Court in 2002 and it has resulted in several reforms to ensure that custody cases, adoption and related matters be expedited when a child's welfare is at stake. Another is the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee. She also serves as co-liaison to the Illinois Historic Preservation Commission with Justice Anne M. Burke. The Commission is co-sponsoring several statewide events this year regarding Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of President Abraham Lincoln, including a retrial of her insanity commitment. More information can be found at [www.wasmarylincolncrazy.com](http://www.wasmarylincolncrazy.com)

Justice Garman received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics with highest honors from the University of Illinois in 1965, and was named to the University of Illinois' Bronze Tablet. She was one of a handful of women in the University of Iowa College of Law where she received her *Juris Doctor* degree with distinction in 1968.

Following graduation from law school, Justice Garman began her legal career serving indigent clients with the Legal Aid Society. She later worked as Vermilion County Assistant State's Attorney, and was in private practice for a year before becoming an associate judge.

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**(For more information: Contact Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**