



Supreme Court of Illinois

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CHIEF JUSTICE KILBRIDE ANNOUNCES NAMES OF APPLICANTS TO FILL VACANCY IN 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced on Thursday the names of 10 attorneys who have applied to fill a judicial vacancy in the 14th Judicial Circuit.

The Illinois Constitution gives authority to the Supreme Court to fill Circuit Court vacancies on an interim basis; and Chief Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make a recommendation to the Court for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District.

That process now will proceed to background checks by law enforcement authorities and with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Chief Justice Kilbride also will use a poll of all attorneys residing in the 14th Judicial Circuit. The Illinois State Bar Association will conduct the poll, asking attorneys their opinions of the applicants' integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills and other professional qualifications.

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

The attorneys who have applied are David W. Andich of Rock Island; Associate Judge Raymond J. Conklin of Moline; Marita M. Griffith of Moline; Norma Kauzlarich of Taylor Ridge; Christine A. Keys of Bettendorf, Iowa; Michael J. Kraycinovich, currently in the U.S. Army stationed in Alabama; Kathleen E. Mesich of Coal Valley; Benjamin J. Samuelson of Moline; Katherine Varlas Teel of Rock Island and Linnea E. Thompson of Moline.

Those wishing to send written comments about the candidates during the selection process may address them to: Judge Appointment Comments, 14th Judicial Circuit, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62704. Comments must arrive by **Friday March 1, 2013**. 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 November 19, 2012 at various court-houses within the 14th Judicial Circuit, comprised of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside counties.

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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, character and personality necessary for the judicial temperament required by a Circuit Court judge.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 1, 2014, when the position will be filled by the 2014 General Election.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the
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