



Supreme Court of Illinois

Joseph R. Tybor
Director of Communications

222 North LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone (312) 793-2323
Mobile (312) 636-0479
Fax (312) 793-0871
jtybor@illinoiscourts.gov

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CHIEF JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCY IN EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced Friday the formation of a judicial screening committee for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

The screening committee was formed for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of those persons who have applied for appointment to the Office of Judge of the Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit created by the retirement of Judge Scott Walden. 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 the Illinois Supreme Court, which will make the appointment from among those applicants who have been screened by the committee. The person appointed will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2016.

The screening committee consists of seven persons who reside in the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Four of the committee members are non-lawyers and three are lawyers.

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Clairice Hetzler, Amy Looten, Dr. Harry Ruth, and Ray Scheiter of Quincy.

The lawyer members of the committee include attorney Thomas Leeper and attorney James Rapp of Quincy and retired Circuit Judge Alesia Mcmillen of Rushville.

Dr. Harry Ruth will serve as chairperson of the committee.

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**CJ Garman Announces Screening Committee
Add One**

Applicants who are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship, and will be screened by the committee are: Jonathan Barnard, Adams County State's Attorney; attorney Talmadge Brenner, attorney Scott Larson, Assistant State's Attorney Anita Rodriguez, attorney Ryan Schnack, and attorney Jennifer Winking, all of Quincy; and Associate Judge Chet Vahle, Quincy.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Amy Looten, secretary, Eighth Judicial Screening Committee, 300 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 245, Quincy IL 62301. Comments should be received by the committee before, **Friday, June 12, 2015**. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the Court.

The Eighth Judicial Circuit includes Adams, Brown, Cass, Calhoun, Mason, Menard, Pike and Schuyler Counties.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323 or Bethany Krajelis, senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.0870)