



Supreme Court of Illinois

March 15, 2021

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS PENTUIC AS AT-LARGE JUDGE IN FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Justice Robert L. Carter and the Supreme Court of Illinois have announced the appointment of Fourteenth Circuit Associate Judge Carol M. Pentuic as an At-Large Circuit Court Judge in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Pentuic is being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Mark A. VandeWiele. The appointment takes effect on March 19, 2021, and will conclude on December 5, 2022, when the vacancy will be filled by the winner of the November 2022 general election.

"I would like to thank Justice Carter, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the screening committee," Judge Pentuic said. "I have been an associate judge for 18 years and look forward to serving the 14th Circuit in this new capacity."

Justice Carter recommended the appointment to the full Court following a review of applicants by a nine-person screening committee. The committee consisted of attorney John Ames of Ames Law Offices, Chief Justice Sara Darrow of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, 14th Circuit Chief Judge Frank R. Fuhr, the Hon. Jeffrey W. O'Connor (retired 14th Circuit Chief Judge), attorney Diane Reinsch of Lane & Waterman LLP, attorney Maureen Riggs of Churchill & Churchill, P.C., Bill Sowards, a retired Lieutenant of the Rock Island Police Department, Scott Verschoore, a retired Business Manager of IBEW Local 145, and attorney Lester Weinstine of Lester Weinstine Law Office. Judge O'Connor served as the chair of the screening committee.

Judge Pentuic is currently the Rock Island County Arbitration Supervising Judge and has served as a 14th Circuit Associate Judge since 2003. Prior to joining the bench, she was a partner at Brooks Law Firm, P. C., from 1997 to 2003. From 1987 to 1997 she worked at Prairie State Legal Services where she represented low-income persons in civil matters such as eviction, domestic abuse, and wrongful termination of governmental benefits.

Judge Pentuic earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and her *Juris Doctorate* from The University of Iowa College of Law.

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit includes Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Chris Bonjean, Communications Director to the Illinois Supreme Court at 312.793.2323 or cbonjean@illinoiscourts.gov.)