



Supreme Court of Illinois

April 8, 2021

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS AMY SHOLAR AS RESIDENT JUDGE IN THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Justice David K. Overstreet and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointment of Amy E. Sholar as a Resident Circuit Judge of Madison County, in the Third Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Sholar is being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Richard L. Tognarelli, effective January 4, 2021.

The appointment takes effect on May 1, 2021, and will conclude on December 5, 2022, when the vacancy will be filled by the winner of the November 2022 general election.

“Amy Sholar brings a breadth of courtroom experience to the bench,” Justice Overstreet said. “Her work in recent years as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* in cases involving children is especially noteworthy. She is a proven leader with a heart for serving the community, and she will be an outstanding addition to the judiciary.”

Justice Overstreet recommended the appointment to the full Court following a review of applicants by a nine-person screening committee, who provided him with four finalists. The committee members were: The Honorable James Hackett (ret.); attorney Benjamin Edwards of The Edwards’ Law Offices; attorney Jeff Hebrank of Hepler Broom, LLC; attorney Amanda Highlander of The Law Office of Jamie Mitchell, LLC; attorney Thomas Lech of Goldenberg Heller & Antognoli, P.C.; attorney Dawn Sallerson of Hinshaw & Culbertson; attorney Bill Walker of Law Offices of Bill T. Walker; attorney Mary Beth Williams; and attorney Justin Zimmerman of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

“I want to thank Justice Overstreet, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the screening committee for this appointment,” said Ms. Sholar. “I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Madison County.”

Ms. Sholar is a founding partner at Sholar Stephan Law where she has worked since 2016. Her primary focus is on matters of domestic litigation which sees her serve as either a court appointed mediator or guardian *ad litem*. From 2004 to 2016 she worked in solo practice at The Law Office of Amy Sholar, P.C. Before entering private practice, Ms. Sholar served as Planning Coordinator for the City of Alton for three years and was an intern with the Madison County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Ms. Sholar was appointed to the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees by Governor Bruce Rauner in April 2015 to a six-year term from which she resigned in December 2020. During her term she served as Chairperson of the Board from 2018 to 2019.

Ms. Sholar earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern Illinois University and her *Juris Doctor* from the Saint Louis University School of Law.

Ms. Sholar's professional associations include the the Illinois State Bar Association, the Madison County Bar Association, and the Alton-Wood River Bar Association where she is a past President and Secretary.

The Third Judicial Circuit encompasses Bond and Madison Counties.

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