Supreme Court of Illinois

July 12, 2019

JUSTICE KILBRIDE ANNOUNCES ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT OF SUTTON AS CIRCUIT JUDGE IN NINTH CIRCUIT

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointment of Emily S. Sutton as an At Large Circuit Judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Sutton was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Paul L. Mangieri on July 3, 2019. The appointment is effective August 12, 2019, and will conclude December 6, 2020, when the position will be filled by the November 2020 General Election.

Justice Kilbride recommended Ms. Sutton's appointment to the Supreme Court after an extensive application, evaluation, and interview process that included the formation of a special judicial screening committee.

“I am honored to receive the appointment and thank Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court for their faith in me,” Sutton said. “My promise to the Ninth Judicial Circuit is that I will apply the law fairly and treat all who have business before the court with respect.”

Ms. Sutton has worked in private practice since 2008, first as an associate with Scholz, Loos, Palmer, Siebers & Duesterhaus, LLP, and most recently as a partner at Lucie, Scalf, Sutton & Bougher, Attorneys at Law, P.C. From 2012 to 2015, she was also a contract author for Thomson Reuters Corporation, and served as co-author of the Illinois Civil Trial Handbook. Sutton was a law clerk to Fourth District Appellate Justice Robert W. Cook from 2004-2008 and has also served on the Adjunct Faculty at Quincy University.

“I believe that Emily Sutton is an outstanding choice and selection for the circuit court judgeship in the Ninth Circuit,” Judge Mangieri said. “Based on her training, knowledge and experience, she has all the tools necessary to preside over any case that comes before her. She also possesses an all-encompassing world view that is the hallmark of fairness.”

Ms. Sutton earned her Bachelor of Arts from Quincy University and received her Juris Doctor from the Saint Louis University School of Law.

Her professional associations include the Illinois State Bar Association and the Appellate Lawyers Association. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Macomb Historic Preservation Commission.
Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court has the authority to fill judicial vacancies. To fill this vacancy, Justice Kilbride opened an application process for everyone interested in the appointment. He also sought and received public comment about six applicants, including Ms. Sutton.

The evaluation process included background checks by law enforcement authorities and with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, as well as a poll of attorneys in the Ninth Judicial Circuit conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association. The attorneys were surveyed on their opinions of the applicants’ integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills, and other qualifications.

Justice Kilbride also appointed a 10-person judicial screening committee made up of representatives from the community, including community members to evaluate the applicants. The committee was chaired by Timothy Bertschy, retired managing partner at Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen in Peoria and former president of the Illinois State Bar Association.

“Ms. Sutton has a broad background in civil law at both the trial and appellate levels and experience in criminal law at the appellate level. She has worked both in private practice and for the court system,” Bertschy said. “She is also the co-author of a legal handbook and active in our profession’s organizations and in her community.”

In addition to Mr. Bertschy, the members of the committee were: Virginia Campbell, a mental health professional at Bridgeway, Inc.; Mike Elam, retired Chief of Police for the Canton Police Department; John J. McCarthy, an attorney in Canton; Sandy Monari, a business owner and past Chairman of the Fulton County Board; Nancy L. Rabel, Attorney/Of Counsel at Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC; John W. Robertson, an attorney at Statham & Long, LLC; Donald F. Rosenberry, a retired plumber and project manager; Nancy A. Schell, a partner at Froehling, Weber & Schell; and the Hon. David L. Vancil, Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit encompasses six counties: Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren.

—30—

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