



Supreme Court of Illinois

October 9, 2019

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS DOSCOTCH AS CIRCUIT JUDGE IN TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointment of Christopher R. Doscotch as a Resident Circuit Judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Doscotch was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Jodi M. Hoos on September 1, 2019. The appointment is effective Oct. 28, 2019, and will conclude December 6, 2020, when the position will be filled by the November 2020 General Election

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

"It's an honor to receive the appointment and I look forward to serving the citizens of the 10th Judicial Circuit with humility, respect and hard work," Doscotch said.

Mr. Doscotch is the owner of the Law Office of Chris Doscotch, LLC, which he founded in 2010 and which serves 400 new clients per year. He previously spent 16 years as a litigation attorney for the Janssen Law Center where he handled all aspects of litigation work for 200 personal injury and Workers' Compensation cases annually.

Mr. Doscotch earned his Bachelor of Arts from Knox College in Galesburg and received his *Juris Doctor* from the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Doscotch served in the Illinois Army National Guard from 1990 to 1998 and received an honorable discharge. He currently serves on the board of directors for Friends of Fatherless Boys as well as America's Gold Star Families.

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 two applicants, including Mr. Doscotch.

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

Tenth 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 16-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.

“Mr. Doscotch is a well-respected local attorney who has had a distinguished career in litigation,” Bertschy said. “He is known to be fair and knowledgeable. He will make a fine addition to our local judiciary.”

In addition to Mr. Bertschy, the members of the committee were: Ryan Brady, a firefighter in Peoria; Jonathan Burklund Chairman, CEO of Burklund Distributors, Inc.; Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools District 150; Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan of the Tenth Judicial Circuit; Timothy J. Howard, a retired attorney at Howard & Howard and former President of the Peoria County Bar Association; Donald R. Jackson, an attorney and sole practitioner; William R. Kohlhase, an attorney at Miller, Hall & Triggs LLC.; Jimena Lopez, a Spanish interpreter/translator; Janaki Nair, an attorney and member at Elias, Meghinnes & Seghetti, P.C.; John P. Nicoara, an attorney and sole practitioner; Laura A. Petersen, Corporate Counsel at OSF HealthCare; Deb Rochford, an office manager at Jim Rochford & Associates; L. Lee Smith, a retired attorney/former Partner-in-Charge at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Peoria; John Stenson, the retired Chief of Police of Peoria; and Stanley Valentine, retired from Caterpillar.

The Tenth Judicial Circuit includes Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, and Tazewell counties.

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