



Supreme Court of Illinois

March 5, 2020

JUSTICE RITA GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL SIXTH CIRCUIT VACANCIES

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman announced today the formation of a judicial screening committee for the Sixth 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 Sixth Judicial Circuit created by the upcoming retirements of Judge Jeffrey B. Ford on March 25, 2020, and Judge Heidi Ladd on July 1, 2020. Under the Illinois Constitution, the vacancies 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 appointments from among those applicants who have been screened by the committee. The persons appointed will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until Monday, December 5, 2022, following the November 2022 election.

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

The nonlawyer members of the committee are Lynn Barnes of Urbana, Grace Mitchell, Bradley Uken, and Mary McGrath, all of Champaign.

The lawyer members of the committee include Ed Wagner and William Brinkman of Champaign, and retired Judge Kitty McCarthy of Decatur.

Mary McGrath will serve as Chairperson of the Committee.

Applicants who are to be considered for appointment to the judgeship and will be screened by the committee are: Sami Anderson, Chad Beckett, Ellyn Bullock, Benjamin Dyer, Joel Fletcher, Cheralyn Kesler, Ronald Langacker, Sam Limentato, Curtis Lovelace, Troy Lozar, David Moore, and Mark Palmer.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to judicialselectioncomm2020@gmail.com. Comments should be received by the committee before

March 26, 2020. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the court.

The Sixth Judicial Circuit encompasses six counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie, and Piatt.

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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.)