



Supreme Court of Illinois

May 13, 2020

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS TWO RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGES IN SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Justice Rita B. Garman and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointments of Sam A. Limentato and Benjamin W. Dyer as Resident Circuit Judges in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Limentato is being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of Judge Heidi Ladd on July 1, 2020. His appointment takes effect on August 3, 2020, and will conclude on December 5, 2022, when the vacancy will be filled by the winner of the November 2022 general election.

“I am very pleased that the Court has agreed that Sam Limentato will be an excellent addition to the bench in the Sixth Circuit and State of Illinois,” Justice Garman said. “He was ranked as extremely well-qualified by the screening committee, and he has been a member of the Champaign County Bar for over 20 years.”

Mr. Dyer is being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jeffrey B. Ford on March 25, 2020. His appointment take effect on June 1, 2020, and will conclude on December 5, 2022, when the vacancy will be filled by the winner of the November 2022 general election.

“The screening committee found Benjamin Dyer to be extremely well-qualified for the position of circuit judge in the Sixth Circuit,” Justice Garman said. “He has served the people of Champaign County in the Public Defender’s office since 2015, and I am confident that his experience in the courtroom will make him an excellent member of the judiciary.”

Justice Garman recommended the appointments to the full Court following a review of applicants by a seven-person screening committee consisting of four non-lawyers and three lawyers who reside in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The non-lawyer members of the committee were Lynn Barnes of Urbana, Grace Mitchell, Bradley Uken, and Mary McGrath, all of Champaign. The lawyer members of the committee were Ed Wagner and William Brinkman of Champaign, and retired Judge Kitty McCarthy of Decatur.

Mr. Limentato has over 25 years of experience in private practice as a civil litigation attorney. He spent 20 years as the Managing Partner and President of Torricelli & Limentato, PC, before becoming the owner and President of Limentato Law, PC, in 2019. He was previously an associate attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and Craig & Craig LLC.

Mr. Limentato earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oral Roberts University where he graduated *summa cum laude* and his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Illinois College of Law.

“I am honored by this appointment and thank Justice Garman, the Illinois Supreme Court and the selection committee, for their time and effort in this process and their confidence in me filling this role,” Limentato said. “I am looking forward to diligently serving the residents of Champaign County to earn their trust and confidence as well.”

Mr. Dyer has served as Assistant Public Defender with the Champaign County Public Defender’s Office since 2015, providing criminal defense for indigent clients in cases that include felonies, drug courts, and juvenile abuse/neglect. He also served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Young B. Kim of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for a year, and was an associate attorney with Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C. (now Husch Blackwell, LLP) for two years.

Mr. Dyer earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Grinnell College and his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Chicago Law School. He serves on the Board of Directors for the University of Chicago Public Interest Law Society.

“I am grateful to Justice Garman, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Selection Committee for their confidence,” Dyer said. “I will work as hard as I can to earn the trust of the community as a circuit judge, and I will devote myself entirely to the fair administration of justice for everyone.”

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

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