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JUSTICE THOMAS L. KILBRIDE TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will preside, and administer the attorney’s oath to 42 new lawyers who will be admitted to practice in ceremonies in Rock Island on Thursday, November 8.

Lester Munson, an attorney who is a writer and producer at ESPN specializing in legal affairs and investigative reporting, will be the primary speaker at the event.

The program in the Third Judicial District begins at 11:15 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, 226-17th Street in Rock Island.

The new group of lawyers are among 2,351 men and women statewide who were certified as candidates, and are to be sworn in as Illinois attorneys at ceremonies in the state’s five Supreme Court judicial districts.

In Rock Island, Justice Kilbride will preside, and administer the oath.

George Mahoney, whose daughter, Marron, is among the candidates, will make the motion to admit the group. Mr. Mahoney, a founding member of Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, Ltd., in Joliet, has long been active in the Illinois State Bar Association and community affairs. Parents joining in the motion to admit the class are: Chief Judge Stuart P. Borden of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Judge Marc Bernabei of the 13th Judicial Circuit, and attorneys Steve Andich, Robert Geiger, and Joseph Mueller

John L. Cantlin, managing partner of a law firm bearing his name in Ottawa, will second the motion. Mr. Cantlin’s sons, Joseph and Timothy, are among the new lawyer candidates.

Many of the judges of the Illinois Appellate Court, Third District, will attend. David Andich, president of the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar, also will be in attendance.

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A reception will follow, and media coverage is invited.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and an ethics examination, and were certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys to approximately 84,000.

Mr. Munson is a well known figure in sports journalism and legal reporting. Before joining ESPN, he was on the staff of Sports Illustrated from 1991 to 2007. Recent assignments have included the dog-fighting prosecution of Michael Vick, the investigation into gambling by a referee for the National Basketball Association, the dismissed rape charges against members of the Duke lacrosse team, and grand jury and congressional investigations into the use of steroids by professional athletes.

He is a frequent commentator on National Public Radio, the Public Broadcasting System, Comcast Sports Network and Court TV. He has received numerous awards, and his work has appeared in the series, “Best American Sports Writing.”

He has a B.A. degree from Princeton University and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. He practiced law before he entered journalism.

Mr. Munson lives in Chicago with his wife, Judith, who is an attorney with an emphasis in international public health issues.

The Third Judicial District is made up of these counties: Will, Iroquois, Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, Bureau, Whiteside, Henry, Stark, Peoria, Fulton, Knox, Whiteside, Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, Hancock and McDonough.

Ceremonies in the other judicial districts will be held in Chicago, Carbondale, Springfield, and Elgin.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323)