

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 25, 2015**

**Administrative Director Declares Two Illinois Associate Judges  
Appointed in the Third Judicial Circuit**

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Michael J. Tardy, Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, announced today that the Third Judicial Circuit judges voted to select Jennifer L. Hightower and Sarah D. Smith as associate judges of the Third Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Hightower received her undergraduate degree in 2005 from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Columbia, MO and her Juris Doctor in 2009 from Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI. Ms. Hightower is currently affiliated with Simmons Hanly Conroy, LLC in Alton, IL; Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL and the Madison County State's Attorney's Office in Edwardsville, IL.

Ms. Smith received her undergraduate degree in 1998 from Millikin University in Decatur, IL, her Master's Degree from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA and her Juris Doctor in 2002 from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. Ms. Smith is currently affiliated with the Madison County State's Attorney's Office in Edwardsville, IL.