



Supreme Court of Illinois

January 22, 2016

CHIEF JUSTICE GARMAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCY IN EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita B. Garman announced today the formation of a judicial screening committee for the Eighth 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 Eighth Judicial Circuit created by the retirement of Judge William O. Mays. Under the Illinois Constitution, the vacancy 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 appointment from among those applicants who have been screened by the committee. The person appointed will serve as a judge of the Circuit Court until the general election to be held in November 2018.

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

The non-lawyer members of the committee include Clairice Hetzler, Amy Looten, Dr. Harry Ruth, and Ray Scheiter, all of Quincy.

The lawyer members of the committee include Thomas Leeper and James Rapp, both of Quincy, and Judith Lozier of Mason City.

Dr. Harry Ruth 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: Babette L. Brennan, Talmadge G. Brenner, John E. Clark, Drew T. Erwin, Amy C. Lannerd, Anita M. Rodriguez, and Ryan C. Schnack, all of Quincy; Kristen L. Miller of Mason City; and Mark L. Vincent of Mount Sterling.

Member of the public are invited to submit comments concerning the applicants by writing to Amy Looten, Secretary, Eighth Judicial Screening Committee, c/o Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce, 300 Civic Center Place, Suite 245, Quincy IL, 62301. Comments should be received by the committee before **February 8, 2016**. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the Court.

The Eighth Judicial Circuit includes Adams, Brown, Cass, Calhoun, Mason, Menard, Pike, and Schuyler counties.