

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

COURT CONVENEED AT 9:30 A.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R. 1403 - In re: Judicial Vacancy

Pursuant to the authority of section 12, subsection (c) of article VI of the Constitution of this State, the following appointment is made:

Circuit Judge of Cook County, Thirteenth Subcircuit

Effective January 25, 2010, and terminating December 3, 2012, Ketki Shroff Steffen is appointed Circuit Judge of Cook County, Thirteenth Subcircuit, Judgeship A.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R. 14618 - In re: New Judge Mentoring Program.

Amended order attached.

M.R. 23632 - In re: Peer Judge Mentor Program.

Order attached.

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE PRESENTED AND ORDERS WERE ENTERED AS INDICATED:

REHEARING DOCKET

No. 107028 - Toni Thornton, Indv., etc., appellee, v. Francisco J. Garcini, M.D., appellant.

Motion by American Physicians Assurance Corporation, ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company, and ProAssurance Casualty Company for leave to file a motion for leave to file brief of amici curiae in support of appellant's petition for rehearing.

PEOPLE'S DOCKET

No. 108319 - People State of Illinois, appellee, v. Rene Amigon, appellant.

Unopposed motion by appellant for leave to file brief instanter.

No. 108441 - People State of Illinois, appellant, v. Samuel Absher, appellee.

Motion by appellant for an extension of time for filing brief to and including February 17, 2010. Motion allowed. Final extension.

Order entered by Justice Karmeier.

No. 108846 - People State of Illinois, appellee, v. Howard J. Hillier, appellant.

Second motion by appellee for an extension of time to file brief to and including February 3, 2010. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Justice Kilbride.

No. 108855 - People State of Illinois, appellee, v. Dennis Ligon, appellant.

Motion by appellant for an extension of time for filing brief to and including February 3, 2010.

No. 108953 - In re Veronica C., a Minor (People State of Illinois, appellee, v. Veronica C., appellant).

Second motion by appellee for an extension of time to file brief to and including March 2, 2010. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Justice Thomas.

CIVIL DOCKET

No. 109632 - Jeffrey D. Woods et al., movants, v. Appellate Court, First District, et al., respondents.

Motion by movants to consolidate motion for supervisory order with the petition for leave to appeal in case No. 109643, Ravenswood Properties, Inc. v. Woods.

No. 109742 - Honeywell International Inc., movant, v. Hon. Thomas M. Harris, Jr., Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, et al., respondents.

Emergency motion by movant for a supervisory order.

No. 109743 - Honeywell International Inc., movant, v. Hon. G. Michael Prall, Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, et al., respondents.

Emergency motion by movant for a supervisory order.

LEAVE TO APPEAL DOCKET

No. 108763 - Robert More, petitioner, v. Circuit Court of Cook County et al., respondents.

Motion by petitioner, pro se, for an extension of time for filing petition for leave to appeal to and including August 7, 2010, and for certain other relief.

No. 109687 - People State of Illinois, petitioner, v. Adam Rosenfeld, respondent.

Motion by petitioner for an extension of time for filing petition for leave to appeal to and including February 21, 2010.

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R. 23618 - In re: Manu Chopra, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner, pro se, for an extension of time to and including March 5, 2010 to file his petition for review of the decision of the Character and Fitness Committee.

M.R. 23619 - In re: Lauren Beth Sosin, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Lauren Beth Sosin to Lauren Sosin Bender. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23620 - In re: Ruth Arlene Dan, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Ruth Arlene Dan to Ruth Arlene Walstra. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23621 - In re: Dominika Szreder, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Dominika Szreder to Dominika Szreder Fard. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23622 - In re: Destiny R. Porter, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Destiny R. Porter to Destiny R. Woods. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23623 - In re: Dana Leigh Dettlaff, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Dana Leigh Dettlaff to Dana Leigh DeMars. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23624 - In re: Ilya Aurnyn Bakke, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Ilya Aurnyn Bakke to Ilya Aurnyn Iussa. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23625 - In re: Michelle Lynn Zurawski, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Michelle Lynn Zurawski to Michelle Lynn Grasso. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23626 - In re: Shannon Marie Travis, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Shannon Marie Travis to Shannon T. Harell. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23627 - In re: Katie Leigh Belpedio, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Katie Leigh Belpedio to Katie Belpedio Schreiber. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23628 - In re: Jane W. Chen, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Jane W. Chen to Jane C. Klinger. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23629 - In re: Jalissa Athena Bauman, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Jalissa Athena Bauman to Jalissa Athena Bauman Horne. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23630 - In re: Diane Marie Billings, an attorney, petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name on the roll of attorneys from Diane Marie Billings to Diane Marie Wilkins. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 23631 - In re: Angela Marie Fyans, an attorney,
petitioner.

Motion by petitioner for leave to change her name
on the roll of attorneys from Angela Marie Fyans
to Angela Fyans-Jimenez. Motion allowed.

Order entered by Chief Justice Fitzgerald.

M.R. 14618

NEW JUDGE MENTORING PROGRAM

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the New Judge Mentoring Program is to assist new trial judges in the transition from attorney to judge; to provide basic assistance to the new judge prior to the mandatory new judge seminar; and to provide such assistance after the new judge seminar as the new judge may need. The mentoring program is limited to new circuit and associate judges, as it is felt that new judges in reviewing courts will be able to continue to rely upon their colleagues for assistance on an informal basis.

(b) Provisions of New Judge Mentoring Program.

(1) Administration. (A) Judicial Mentor Committee. There is created in the Illinois Judicial Branch a New Judge Mentoring Program which shall be administered by a seven-judge Judicial Mentor Committee which shall consist of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, and five additional judges appointed by the Supreme Court for three-year staggered terms. One judge, who is either a Chief Circuit Judge or a judge responsible for the supervision of other judges, shall be appointed from each judicial district. Upon appointment of the members of the Committee, the Committee may commence any necessary organizational work to prepare for the assumption of its administrative responsibilities.

It shall be the responsibility of the Judicial Mentor Committee to develop criteria for the matching of mentors with new judges, to review the mentors' contact reports to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for modifications to the New Judge Mentoring Program, and to make an annual report to the Supreme Court relating to the operation of the program. The Committee shall be assisted by the staff of the Administrative Office.

(B) Chief Circuit Judges. The Chief Judge of each circuit shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that each new judge in his or her circuit participates in the New Judge Mentoring Program and determining whether the mentor assigned to each new judge provides the proper guidance and assistance contemplated by the Program.

(2) Operation. (A) Selection. The Chief Judge of each circuit shall determine the number of mentor judges necessary in order to provide for the operation of the New Judge Mentoring Program in his or her circuit. Thereafter, the Chief Judge shall solicit volunteers from the circuit and associate judges of the circuit who possess the qualification set forth below to act as mentors. The Chief Judges shall forward to the Judicial Mentor Committee the names of the proposed mentors within their respective circuits. It shall be the obligation of the Judicial Mentor Committee to: (1) monitor the availability of mentors throughout the State, and (2) annually certify the mentors for each circuit from the names submitted by the Chief Judges. Once certified by the Judicial Mentor Committee, the mentors shall be available for assignment by the Chief Judge as a mentor to a new judge.

The Chief Judge shall notify the Judicial Mentor Committee of any mentor nominee who is charged with a Class C or more serious offense, or is the subject of a Courts Commission complaint.

(B) Qualifications. Each judge nominated by his or her Chief Judge for certification as a mentor shall possess the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Three years of prior judicial service;
- b. The willingness to devote the additional time needed to fulfill the duties of a mentor;
- c. A demonstrated commitment to judicial education; and
- d. The ability to interact positively with new judges.

(C) Training. ~~At the request of t~~ The Judicial Mentor Committee, ~~the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education~~ shall develop a training seminar, in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, for new mentors and a mentoring manual for use by each mentor. If permitted by the Judicial Mentor Committee, a judge may satisfy the mentor training requirement by viewing, under conditions set by the Committee, the Judicial Mentor Training Seminar videotape recording produced by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

(D) Assignment. The Chief Judges shall assign a certified mentor to each new judge taking office. Once paired, the formal mentor/new judge relationship shall continue for a period of one year unless that relationship is extended for a longer period by the Chief Judge. No mentor may be assigned to more than one new judge at a time, except with the approval of the Judicial Mentor Committee.

(E) Duties. As soon as a mentor is assigned to a new judge, the mentor shall arrange an initial conference with the new judge to establish a mentoring relationship that is characterized by confidentiality, understanding and trust. At that initial conference, the mentor shall also familiarize the new judge with the policies and procedures of the circuit and other matters of concern to the new judge. The initial conference between the mentor and the new judge may take place either before or after the new judge takes office.

After taking office, but before independently hearing cases, each new judge will be afforded an opportunity to spend a minimum of two court days observing judicial proceedings, and be allowed to ask questions regarding the proceeding at the appropriate time. During these two days, the mentor should familiarize the new judge with the process of judging, placing particular emphasis upon judicial temperament and demeanor and the necessity for prompt and informed decisions.

Once the new judge begins to hear cases, the mentor should be available to meet with the new judge as necessary and should be readily available to answer any question that the new judge might have. Under no circumstances, however, should the duties of a mentor include substituting the mentor's judgment for that of the new judge in the decision making process.

Each new judge shall be required to attend a minimum of one Illinois Judicial Conference regional seminar during his or her first year in office. The choice of which seminar to attend shall be made in consultation with the new judge's mentor.

Each mentor shall complete a Contact Report in a form prescribed by the Judicial Mentor Committee containing the dates and methods of contact, and plans for follow-up meetings. Each such report shall be forwarded to the Chief Judge of the circuit who shall review and countersign the report before forwarding it to the Judicial Mentor Committee, which shall use the report to track the progress of the relationship of the mentor and the new judge, and for its overall evaluation of the New judge Mentoring Program. The Contact Report may contain a general description of the subjects discussed by the mentor and new judge, but shall not contain reference to the substance of those discussions. At a minimum, the Contact Report shall be submitted at the end of the first, third, and six months of the mentoring relationship and at the conclusion of the relationship.

(3) Local Mentoring Programs. A judicial circuit may develop its own mentoring program for new judges and submit it to the Judicial Mentor Committee which shall forward it to the Supreme Court for approval. Upon approval by the Supreme Court, the circuit may implement and administer its program in lieu of the above New Judge Mentoring Program. Any subsequent changes to the circuit's program after its initial approval shall also be submitted to the Committee which shall forward them to the Court for approval. The circuit shall submit to the Committee an annual report relating to the operation of its program in a form prescribed by the Committee which shall be included in the Committee's Annual Report to the Court.

(4) Confidentiality. Except as otherwise required by the Supreme Court Rules, information pertaining to the new judge's performance which is obtained by the mentor in the course of the formal mentoring relationship shall be held in confidence by the mentor.

State of Illinois Supreme Court

At a Term of the Supreme Court, begun and held in Springfield, on Monday, the 11th day of January, 2010.

Present: Thomas R. Fitzgerald, Chief Justice
Justice Charles E. Freeman
Justice Thomas L. Kilbride
Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier
Justice Robert R. Thomas
Justice Rita B. Garman
Justice Anne M. Burke

M.R. 23632

In re: PEER JUDGE MENTOR PROGRAM

(a) Purpose. In December 2008, the Illinois Supreme Court promulgated new measures of “Judicial Performance and Accountability Strategies” to enhance the performance of Illinois judges and improve public confidence in the state courts. The new measures include upgrading the New Judge Mentoring Program, which was established by the Supreme Court in 1998 and expanding mentoring to allow for mentoring of a judge beyond the first year of a judges term. Created herein, is the Peer Judge Mentor Program. The purpose of the Peer Judge Mentor Program, is to assist trial judges who have been on the bench in excess of one year, to improve judicial skills, and enhance judicial performance.

The Peer Judge Mentor Program is limited to circuit and associate judges.

(b) Provisions of Peer Mentor Program.

(1) Administration. (A) Judicial Mentor Committee. There is created by the Supreme Court in the Illinois Judicial Branch a Peer Judge Mentor Program which, together with the New Judge Mentoring Program, shall be administered by a seven-judge Judicial Mentor Committee which shall consist of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, and five additional judges appointed by the Supreme Court for three-year staggered terms. One judge, who is either a Chief Circuit Judge or a judge responsible for the supervision of other judges, shall be appointed from each Supreme Court judicial district. Upon appointment of the members of the Committee, the Committee may commence any necessary organizational work to prepare for the assumption of its administrative responsibilities.

It shall be the responsibility of the Judicial Mentor Committee to develop criteria for the matching of mentors with judges, to review the mentors’ contact reports to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for modifications to the Peer Judge Mentor Program, and to make an annual report to the Supreme Court relating to the operation of the program. The Committee shall be assisted by the staff of the Administrative Office.

(B) Chief Circuit Judges. The Chief Judge of each circuit shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that each judge assigned to the Peer Judge Mentor Program in his or her circuit participates in the Peer Judge Mentor Program and determining whether the mentor assigned to each peer judge provides the proper guidance and assistance contemplated by the Program (See Supreme Court Rule 21 (b)).

(2) Operation. (A) Selection. The Chief Judge of each circuit shall determine the number of mentor judges necessary in order to provide for the operation of the Peer Judge Mentor Program in his or her circuit. Thereafter, the Chief Judge shall solicit volunteers from the circuit and associate judges of the circuit who possess the qualifications set forth below to act as mentors. The Chief Judges shall forward to the Judicial Mentor Committee the names of the proposed mentors within their respective circuits. It shall be the obligation of the Judicial Mentor Committee to: (1) monitor the availability of mentors throughout the State, and (2) annually certify the mentors for each circuit from the names submitted by the Chief Judges. Once certified by the Judicial Mentor Committee, the mentors shall be available for assignment by the Chief Judge as a mentor to a peer judge.

The Chief Judge shall notify the Judicial Mentor Committee of any mentor nominee who is charged with a Class C or more serious offense, or is the subject of a Courts Commission complaint.

(B) Mentor Qualifications. Each judge nominated by his or her Chief Judge for certification as a mentor shall possess the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Three years of prior judicial service;
- b. The willingness to devote the additional time needed to fulfill the duties of a mentor.
- c. A demonstrated commitment to judicial education; and
- d. The ability to interact positively with judges.
- e. Judges who are retired from the bench, and who are not actively engaged in the practice of law, may also serve as mentors.

(C) Peer Judge Mentor Training. The Judicial Mentor Committee shall develop a training seminar in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, for new mentors and a mentoring manual for use by each mentor. Training shall contain components in addition to New Judge Mentoring training directed to mentoring a judge who has been assigned to Peer Mentor to address certain issues. Training topics and skill sets to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, such areas as working through resistance, understanding stages of change, and promoting mentee practice of new skills. If permitted by the Judicial Mentor Committee, a judge may satisfy the mentor training requirement by viewing, under conditions set by the Committee, the Judicial Mentor Training Seminar video recording produced by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

(D) Assignment. The Chief Judges shall assign a certified mentor to each judge who has been in office for more than one year and has self-referred and requested a mentor. Such a self-referral may be resultant from a judges participation in the mandatory Judicial Performance Evaluation Program (Supreme Court Rule 58) in which a specific

area of assistance or topical mentor is sought. The Chief Judges shall assign a certified mentor to a judge who has been in office for more than a year and it is determined by the Chief Judge to need to take appropriate measures to address the persistent failure of such judge to perform his or her judicial duties (pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 21 (b)), whether the failure is due to professional incompetence, poor caseload management, chronic absenteeism or other issue. An assignment to the Peer Mentor Program shall be for a period of not less than six months and not longer than one year. At the end of six months, the mentor judge and mentee judge shall recommend to the Chief Judge whether the mentoring shall continue for a length of time beyond six months. The Chief Judge shall consider the recommendations of the mentor and direct that the mentoring cease or continue on for such time as appropriate, limited, however, by the one year time period from when mentoring commenced, stating the reasons for continuance or discontinuance.

An assignment by the Chief Judge of a judge to Peer Mentor shall be done in writing, with a copy to the Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. The assignment shall include a recommendation of topics that should be addressed in the peer mentoring. If the mentoring judge believes that the mentee is not cooperating, such a report will be forwarded by the Chief Circuit judge to the Supreme Court for assignment to another certified mentor.

The assignment by the Chief Judge may be to a mentor judge from his or her circuit or to a judge from another circuit if the Chief Judge determines that that would be appropriate. In such instance as an out-of-circuit mentor is sought, the requesting Chief Judge shall request such from the Chief Judge of the circuit for which the mentor serves on the bench.

(E) Duties. As soon as a mentor is assigned to a judge, the mentor shall arrange an initial conference with the judge to establish a mentoring relationship that is characterized by confidentiality, understanding and trust. At the initial conference, the mentor shall also familiarize the judge with the issues to be addressed per the assignment by the Chief Judge. The initial conference between the mentor and the judge shall take place within thirty days of the assignment. Additional meetings shall be as directed by the mentor judge, but not less than once every thirty days. To the extent practical, face-to-face meetings are supported and encouraged.

Each mentor shall complete a Contact Report in a form prescribed by the Judicial Mentor Committee containing the dates and methods of contact, and plans for follow-up meetings. Each such report shall be forwarded to the Chief Judge of the circuit who shall review and countersign the report before forwarding it to the Judicial Mentor Committee, which shall use the report to track the progress of the relationship of the mentor and the mentee judge, and for its overall evaluation of the Peer Judge Mentor Program. The Contact Report may contain a general description of the subjects discussed by the mentor and mentee judge, but shall not contain reference to the substance of those discussions. At a minimum, the Contact Report shall be submitted at the end of the first, third, and six months of the mentoring relationship and at the conclusion of the relationship.

(3) Local Peer Mentor Programs. A judicial circuit may develop its own mentoring program to address issues that a judge who has been on the bench for more than one year may have. This circuit program may be more informal than this Peer Judge Mentor Program. Circuits are not prohibited from having such an informal program.

(4) Confidentiality. Except as otherwise required by the Supreme Court Rules, information pertaining to the judge's performance which is obtained by the mentor in the course of the formal mentoring relationship shall be held in confidence by the mentor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
subscribed my name and affixed the
Seal of said Court this 19th day
of January, 2010.

Clerk,
Supreme Court of the State of Illinois.