



## Supreme Court of Illinois

September 8, 2023

### **JUSTICE LISA HOLDER WHITE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF SCREENING COMMITTEE TO FILL FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT RESIDENT JUDGE VACANCY**

*Public invited to submit comments on 3 applicants by Sept. 20*

Justice Lisa Holder White of the Supreme Court of Illinois has announced the formation of a judicial screening committee for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

The screening committee was formed for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of those who have applied for appointment to the office of Resident Judge of the Circuit Court for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit – Mercer County. The retirement of Judge James G. Conway, Jr. effective August 10, 2023, created the vacancy. 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 Supreme Court of Illinois who will make the appointment. The person appointed will serve as a Circuit Judge until the general election to be held in November 2024.

The screening committee consists of non-lawyers and lawyers who reside in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. The non-lawyer members of the committee are Grace Diaz Shirk, Michael Bell, Dr. Edward Connolly, and Kristin Relander. The lawyer members of the committee are Judge Mark A. VandeWiele (ret.), Attorney Tionn Fambro Carter, and Attorney Jonathon Fox.

Attorney Tionn Fambro Carter will serve as chairperson of the committee.

Applicants being considered for appointment to the judgeship are attorney Jeffrey Scot McKinley, attorney Matthew Voigts, and Judge Richard Zimmer.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments concerning the applicants by U.S. mail to: Fourteenth Judicial Screening Committee, Rock Island County Courthouse, 1317 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 or by email to [VBluedorn@co.rock-island.il.us](mailto:VBluedorn@co.rock-island.il.us). Comments must be in writing and received no later than **5 p.m. on September 20, 2023**. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee and the court.

**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: James Brunner, Public Information Officer of the Illinois Supreme Court at 217.208.3354 or [jbrunner@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:jbrunner@illinoiscourts.gov).)**