Supreme Court of Illinois

November 17, 2026

JUSTICE JOY V. CUNNINGHAM ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE JUDICIAL VACANCIES IN COOK COUNTY

Supreme Court Justice Joy V. Cunningham has begun an application process for six judicial vacancies, two At-Large vacancies and four subcircuit vacancies, in Cook County.

The At-Large vacancies are for the seats of Judge Kelly Marie McCarthy (vacant effective December 4, 2026) and Judge Brendan A. O'Brien (vacant effective October 13, 2026).

The subcircuit vacancies are for the seats of Judge Scott Norris (20th Subcircuit, vacant effective February 6, 2026), Judge Kenneth J. Wadas (3rd Subcircuit, vacant effective December 1, 2026), Judge James J. Ryan (15th Subcircuit, vacant effective September 1, 2026), and Judge Leroy K. Martin, Jr. (1st Subcircuit, vacant effective October 17, 2026).

Under the Illinois Constitution, judicial vacancies are filled on an interim basis by Supreme Court appointment. Justice Cunningham will make recommendations to the Supreme Court after applicants for the position undergo a screening and evaluation process.

Applicants will be reviewed by a judicial selection committee chaired by attorney Tim Tomasik, former General Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee.

The application form and instructions may be obtained by visiting the Illinois Supreme Court's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov and following the instructions in the latest news scroller announcing the Cook County vacancies.

Applications must be filed electronically and the deadline for submission is **5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

The individuals appointed to fill the vacancies will serve until the first Monday in December following the November 2028 election.

To be eligible for consideration for appointment, the applicant must be a lawyer in good standing, licensed to practice law in Illinois, and a resident of the county or subcircuit at the time of appointment.

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