Supreme Court of Illinois

November 17, 2026

JUSTICE MARY K. O'BRIEN ANNOUNCES NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR AT-LARGE CIRCUIT JUDGE IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Justice Mary K. O'Brien of the Supreme Court of Illinois has begun the application process for an At-Large Circuit Judge vacancy in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. The Thirteenth Circuit includes LaSalle, Grundy and Bureau counties. Please be advised that any candidate seeking appointment to this vacancy shall reside within the circuit boundaries.

The vacancy is created by the retirement of Chief Judge Howard Ryan Jr., effective October 31, 2026.

Under the Illinois Constitution, judicial vacancies are filled by Supreme Court appointment. The application process will lead to full Court approval.

Notice of the vacancy has been posted at the LaSalle, Grundy and Bureau County Courthouses. 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 Thirteenth Judicial Circuit vacancy. Please submit application and supporting documents to Yolanda Reyes at **yreyes@illinoiscourts.gov**

Deadline for submission of an application is **5 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2026.**

The applicants will undergo an evaluation and screening process. The person selected to fill the vacancy will serve until the first Monday in December following the November 2028 general election.

To be eligible for consideration for appointment, the applicant must be a lawyer licensed to practice law in Illinois.

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