



Supreme Court of Illinois

November 1, 2024

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO ADMINISTER OATH TO 1,331 NEW ATTORNEYS IN CHICAGO

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr. and Justice Joy V. Cunningham will administer the attorney's oath to 1,331 new lawyers over two bar admission ceremony sessions on Wednesday, November 6, in the First Judicial District.

The group is among 1,604 individuals who will be sworn in and admitted to the practice of law in Illinois during bar admission ceremonies held in the state's five Supreme Court judicial districts.

The first bar admission ceremony in the First Judicial District will begin at 10 a.m. at the University of Illinois Chicago's Dorin Forum located at 725 W. Roosevelt Road. The second bar admission ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Chief Justice Theis will preside over the first ceremony.

The speaker for the first ceremony will be President-Elect of the Illinois State Bar Association the Hon. Bridget C. Duignan.

Bar association representatives for the first ceremony will include Mona Naser of the Arab American Bar Association of Illinois, Weeya Young of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, David Schrodt of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, Nicholas E. Cummings of the Cook County Bar Association, Athena Farmakis of the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, Brian Monico of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, and Patricia Cintrón-Bastin of the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas M. Donnelly will make the motion to admit the class for the first ceremony. Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Nowinski, First Vice President of the Advocates Society of Polish Lawyers, will second the motion.

The second bar admission ceremony in the First Judicial District will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the University of Illinois Chicago's Dorin Forum located at 725 W. Roosevelt Road.

Justice Neville and Justice Cunningham will preside over the second ceremony.

The speaker for the second ceremony will be Kenneth Matuszewski, one of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association.

Bar association representatives for the second ceremony will include Joseph Sung of the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, Reginald Guy of the Black Men Lawyers' Association, Joel Buckman of the Decalogue Society, Dora Cornelio of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Adam M. Zebelian of LAGBAC – Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association, David Saunders of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, and Sarah F. King of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. Rhandi Childress Anderson will be a representative from the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar.

First Appellate Court Justice Carl Anthony Walker will make the motion to admit the class for the second ceremony. His son be taking the attorney's oath during the ceremony. Maliha Siddiqui, President of the South Asian Bar Association of Chicago, will second the motion.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and a required ethics examination and were certified by the Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys sworn in at the November 6 bar admission ceremonies will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to approximately 98,000. In addition to Chicago, ceremonies will be held Wednesday in Elgin, Joliet, Springfield, and Carbondale.

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