Chief Judge John Phillips received official word today from Michael Tardy, Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, that twenty-two attorneys have timely filed their applications for the existing associate judge vacancy in Lake County. This vacancy is due to the appointment of the Honorable Mitchell L. Hoffman to Circuit Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Fourth Subcircuit.

In the next few weeks, the applicants will be interviewed by the Circuit Judges and they will be evaluated by members of the Lake County Bar Association. The public is also given the opportunity to comment by letter on the applicants. The letters should be addressed to the Office of the Chief Judge, Lake County Courthouse, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL 60085-4369 and will be accepted until April 11, 2014. After the review process is completed, the nominating committee consisting of Circuit Judges will select the names of two candidates to be placed on a ballot. Said ballots will be returned to and tallied by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in Springfield.

The applicants are sole practitioners Nandia P. Black of Kildeer; Rhonda K. Bruno of Mundelein; David A. DeRose of Lake Villa; John L. Joanem of Lake Forest; Christopher M. Kennedy of Libertyville; Jerald Novak of Long Grove; Paul B. Novak of Gurnee; and Harold L. Wallin of Riverwoods.

Other applicants include Hugo M. Chaviano of North Barrington, partner in the firm of Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman, LLP; Walter Diambri of Libertyville, partner in the firm of Diambri & Vicari, P.C.; Joann M. Fratianni-Atsaves of Lake Forest, arbitrator and former commissioner of the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission; Laura D. Horner of Lindenhurst, partner in the firm of Fox, Lunardi, Zeit & Polenzani; Pamela J. Kuzniar of Deerfield, partner in the firm of Kuzniar & Simons, P.C.; David C. Lombardo of Vernon Hills, partner in the Law Office of D. Christopher Lombardo; Joseph B. Royster of Lake Bluff, partner in the firm of Litchfield, Cavo, LLP; Stacey L. Seneczko of Libertyville, partner in the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP; and Alan J. Spellberg of Highland Park, supervisor in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Five Lake County assistant state’s attorneys also applied; namely, Janelle K. Christensen of Lindenhurst; Irene H. Curran of Libertyville; Stephen M. DeRue of Antioch; Ari P. Fisz of Deerfield; and Daniel L. Jasica of Lake Forest.

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