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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2000

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Johnson, Monroe and Porter Counties Picked for Pilot Family Court Projects

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Indiana Supreme Court has selected courts in Johnson, Monroe, and Porter counties to participate in a unique experiment to develop pilot family courts in Indiana, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The three counties were selected from among eight applicants, all of whom sought to develop innovative methods for dealing with cases involving families and children.

"The Family Court pilot projects usher in an exciting opportunity to better serve the children and families of our communities. If successful, the ultimate goal of these projects will be to transfer some or all of these family court concepts to other Indiana counties," explained Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

The family court idea was born out of the growing need to reduce repeat court appearances and avoid inconsistent judicial results for families and children involved in multiple legal proceedings. Under the current system, more than one judge may handle a single family's various legal problems. Each judge may be unaware of the other proceedings and may not have access to crucial information on the child and family.

During the 1999 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly approved a request by the Chief Justice to fund this project for \$150,000. A task force, chaired by Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Margret Robb, and a family law expert, Prof. Frances Hill, helped the Supreme Court define the outlines of the project. Each of the pilot county projects offer a unique approach to the common goal of helping families better resolve their problems in the judicial system.

The Johnson County effort, led by Judge Mark Loyd and Magistrate Craig Lawson, is taking a one family - one judge approach by utilizing a case manager to direct all of one family's related cases to the same magistrate. In Monroe County, Judges Viola Taliaferro and Marc Kellams are also taking a one family-one judge approach with an emphasis on developing procedural rules to consolidate several cases and making broader use of judicial notice. In Porter County, Judge Mary Harper is taking a different approach by utilizing a case manager to increase coordination of a single family's cases by making sure the court system is aware of all the legal problems that might affect that family.

The pilot programs will encourage innovative uses of alternative dispute resolution to avoid contested hearings in family law matters, and will utilize case management to increase access to services.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2000

Contact: Meg Babcock

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Candidates for court of appeals opening cut by commission

The pool of attorneys and judges seeking to fill the Court of Appeals vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. William I. Garrard was trimmed from fourteen to six, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The remaining candidates are Michael P. Barnes of South Bend, John S. Bloom of Fort Wayne, Lake Superior Court Judge Jeffery J. Dywan, Allen Superior Court Judge Paul D. Mathias, Starke Circuit Judge David P. Matsey, and Magistrate T. Edward Page of Crown Point.

These candidates will return on February 25, 2000 for further interviews with the 7-member Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission, which is chaired by Chief Justice Shepard.

Following the interviews on February 25th, the Commission will recommend three candidates to Gov. Frank L. O'Bannon. He will make the final selection.

A Court of Appeals candidate must have been an Indiana attorney for ten years or a trial judge for five years and must live in the Third Judicial District in the northern part of Indiana. A Court of Appeals judge receives about \$113,000 annually.

Any of the original 14 candidates not selected for this vacancy are eligible to be considered for the vacancy that will be created when Judge Robert H. Staton steps down from the Court of Appeals later this year. After Judge Garrard's successor has been named, the Nominating Commission will meet to select three candidates for the vacancy created by Judge Staton's retirement.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2000

Contact: Meg Babcock

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Candidates for Court of Appeals Opening Cut by Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2000

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Three Candidates Selected for Court of Appeals Opening

Two trial judges and a South Bend attorney were selected as finalists for the Court of Appeals vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Robert Staton, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The three candidates are Lake Superior Court Judge Jeffrey J. Dywan, Starke Circuit Judge David P. Matsey and South Bend attorney Michael Barnes.

These candidates were selected Tuesday by the 7-member Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission, which is chaired by Chief Justice Shepard. Public interviews were conducted earlier.

Gov. Frank L. O'Bannon will select one of the three to serve as Indiana's 113th Court of Appeal judge.

A Court of Appeals candidate must have been an Indiana attorney for ten years or a trial judge for five years. Candidates for this vacancy must live in the Third Judicial District in the northern part of Indiana. A Court of Appeals judge receives about \$113,000 annually. Judge Staton retired on March 15, 2000.

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Press Releases



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2000

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News Advisory

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard of the Indiana Supreme Court will hold a news conference in Lake County on Wednesday, April 26, 2000 at 1:30 p.m., to make an announcement about upcoming changes the Lake County judicial nominating process.

The news conference will be held in the Fox Room of the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza on U.S. 30 and I-65 in Merrillville, Ind. The Fox Room is in the Convention Center and can be reached through the convention center entrance on the eastside of the hotel.

Under state law, the Chief Justice, or a nominee, chairs the 9-member Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission. The Commission interviews candidates for vacancies in the Lake Superior Court and then forwards three names to the Governor, who makes the final selection.

Currently, the Lake Superior Court has judicial vacancies in two courts that were created earlier this year by the Indiana General Assembly.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2000

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Former Gary resident Justice Rucker to Lead County Judicial Nominating Panel

Merrillville, Ind. - Associate Indiana Supreme Court Justice Robert D. Rucker will assume the leadership of the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Justice Rucker, who formerly practiced law in Lake County before joining the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, will immediately begin on the Commission's first task: recommending candidates for Lake County's two newest courts.

Under state law, the Chief Justice, or a nominee, chairs the 9-member Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission. The Commission interviews candidates for vacancies in the Lake Superior Court and then forwards three names to the Governor, who makes the final selection.

Chief Justice Shepard asked Justice Rucker to take over the leadership of the Commission because of his standing in the community and his understanding of the needs of the Lake County judicial system.

"I felt that Justice Bob Rucker was exactly the kind of person who could make sure the most qualified candidates for Lake County judgeships put themselves forward for consideration," Chief Justice Shepard said.

Chief Justice Shepard, Justice Rucker and the Judicial Nominating Commission will meet today in the Lake County Government Center to design the solicitation process for the vacant judgeships. The Commission expects to forward three names to the Governor by the end of May.

Currently, the Lake Superior Court has judicial vacancies in two courts that were created last year by the Indiana General Assembly.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2000

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Chief Justice Shepard To Deliver Commencement Address at University of South Carolina School of Law

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard of the Indiana Supreme Court will deliver the spring commencement address at the University of South Carolina School of Law on Friday, May 12, 2000.

The address will take place at an outdoor ceremony on the oldest part of the university's campus in Columbia, South Carolina. Chief Justice Shepard was invited by John E. Montgomery, dean of the law school.

Chief Justice Shepard will speak to the 220 graduating law students. The title of the speech is "Good Lawyering Makes A Difference in the Lives of People."

In addition, the university's Board of Trustees will confer upon Chief Justice Shepard an honorary doctor of laws degree.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2000

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Twenty Four Lawyers Apply For Two Lake County Judgeships

Twenty-four attorneys have applied for the two newly created Lake County Superior Court judgeships, Supreme Court Justice Robert D. Rucker announced today.

Justice Rucker, who chairs the 9-member Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission, said interviews will be held on May 30 and 31st in the Lake County Commissioners Court Room. A former Gary resident, Justice Rucker was named chairman last month by Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

"We were very impressed by both the number and the quality of the candidates who have applied. I am looking forward to interviewing each of them. Based on the caliber of the applicants, I am confident the Commission will be able to forward six well-qualified individuals to Gov. O'Bannon," Justice Rucker said.

The applicants are: Kenneth L. Anderson, Charles D. Brooks, Jr., Glenn D. Commons, Kris Costa-Sakelaris, Cliff E. Duggan, Jr., Cordell R. Funk, Gregory A. Gillis, Amy J. Godshalk, Kristen D. Hill, George S. Ivancevich, William C. Jones, Diane Kavadias-Schneider, Frank R. Martinez, Christina J. Miller, William A. O'Rourke, John R. Pera, Robert A. Pete, Patrick A. Schuster, John M. Sedia, Susan M. Severtson, Frederick M. Stultz, III, Timothy M. Swan, Karen D. Szumlanski, and Bessie M. Taylor.

The Commission will forward two lists with three names each to Governor O'Bannon. The makeup of each list will be determined by a blind draw. The Governor will select one person from each list to become Lake County's newest judges.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2000

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Six Finalists Selected for Two Lake County Judgeships

Six finalists have been selected for the two newly created Lake County Superior Court judgeships, Supreme Court Justice Robert D. Rucker announced today.

Justice Rucker, who chairs the 9-member Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission, said interviews of 24 candidates were held on May 30th and 31st in the Lake County Commissioners Court Room. A former Gary resident, Justice Rucker was named chairman in April by Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

"It was difficult to narrow the field to just six candidate because so many of the applicants were very qualified. But I feel the Commission has selected six fine people. Any of them would serve the people of Lake County with distinction," Justice Rucker said.

Governor O'Bannon has 60 days to select one person from each of two panels of three candidates.

The first panel includes Hammond attorney Cordell R. Funk, Lake County Superior Court Magistrate Diane Kavadias-Schneider and Gary attorney Bessie M. Taylor.

The second panel includes Lake County Superior Court Juvenile Court Magistrate Glenn D. Commons, Merrillville attorney John R. Pera, and Lake County Superior Court Magistrate Robert A. Pete.

In addition to Justice Rucker, the Judicial Nominating Commission is made up of four attorneys elected by their peers and four lay persons appointed by the Lake County Commissioners. The Commission deliberated for nearly three hours before selecting the six finalists.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2000

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Former ABA Staffer to Coordinate Court Technology Systems

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Kurt Snyder, former Assistant Consultant on Legal Education to the American Bar Association, was recently named the Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology for the Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration.

He will help enhance and update the Indiana judicial technology system by serving as the principal staff person of the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee. Under the chairmanship of Justice Frank Sullivan, this committee will advise the Supreme Court on a vision for the way the judicial system will use information technology to serve Indiana. Mr. Snyder will also be responsible for the continued development of the Supreme Court and related agency websites. "Kurt Snyder is especially well regarded in law school circles and the ABA, and soon people in the state of Indiana will come to know him as the person who will bring our court system into the 21st Century," said Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard

Mr. Snyder's supervisor, Lilia Judson, Executive Director of the State Court Administration said Mr. Snyder "will provide leadership and innovative approaches to information management systems."

For the past four years, Mr. Snyder has been the Assistant Consultant on Legal Education to the American Bar Association where he worked on issues involving legal education, bar admission matters, and the law school accreditation process. He conducted research projects and studies, helped evaluate law schools both nationally and internationally, and handled complaints against law schools. As Assistant Consultant, he was responsible for the production of many publications and was heavily involved in all technology initiatives.

Jim White, the Consultant on Legal Education to the ABA, said "Kurt Snyder has served with distinction for the past four years as Assistant Consultant on Legal Education to the American Bar Association. His innovative initiatives coupled with his great energy and enthusiasm has greatly enhanced this Office. The Indiana courts gain is the American Bar Association's loss."

While working for the ABA, Mr. Snyder was an adjunct professor for the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University; teaching business law and computer classes. He graduated from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis in 1996 and from Wabash College in 1989. During law school Mr. Snyder clerked as an intern for the Indiana Attorney General, a local Federal Bankruptcy Judge, Golden Rule Insurance, and Kaufman Financial Corporation. Prior to entering law school he was involved in marketing in Atlanta, Georgia.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2000

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Mary Godsey Named Bar Administrator of the Year

Mary Place Godsey, Executive Director of the Indiana State Board of Law Examiners, was recently honored as Bar Administrator of the Year, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mrs. Godsey received this award earlier this month from the National Conference of Bar Examiners in Portland, Maine. She was selected by Conference Chair Sarah N. Hall

Godsey's agency directs all admissions to the Indiana Bar. She has been active with the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA), an arm of the National Conference whose members are all bar admission administrators from U.S. jurisdictions.

Godsey has served on numerous CBAA committees and chaired that organization in 1992-1993. She has also served on the National Conference's Education Committee which is responsible for planning national educational seminars for bar admission administrators and bar examiners.

"The Supreme Court was gratified to see that the national leaders in the field of bar examinations have acknowledged what we have known for a long time - that Mary Godsey is an exceptional administrator. We are very proud of the work she has done for the Court and the people of Indiana," said Chief Justice Shepard.

In 1974, Godsey began night law school at Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis while she was secretary to Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Norman F. Arterburn. During law school, Godsey continued her work for Chief Justice Arterburn and also worked for his successor, Associate Justice Alfred J. Pivarnik; she clerked for Justice Pivarnik after receiving her law degree until her appointment as executive director of the Board of Law Examiners in 1982.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners is a nonprofit organization whose missions include providing information on admissions standards and practices to bar examiners, working with other institutions to develop reasonable educational and character standards for eligibility for bar admission, and conducting education programs for those interested in bar admissions. The National Conference produces the standardized tests used for bar admission such as the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2000

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Elkhart Attorney Cynthia S. Gillard Named Law Examiner

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Elkhart attorney Cynthia S. Gillard was appointed to the State Board of Law Examiners, Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mrs. Gillard will begin a five-year term on December 1st with the 10-member Board of Law Examiners. A member of the Indiana bar since 1982 and the Michigan bar since 1983, Mrs. Gillard is a partner with the Elkhart business and commercial law firm of Warrick & Boyn, LLP.

"I know that Mrs. Gillard will be a strong addition to our Board of Law Examiners. She has a sharp mind and great capacity for the kind of careful work this position entails," said Associate Justice Frank Sullivan Jr., who recommended her appointment to the Court.

Mrs. Gillard earned her bachelor's degree in political science at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She began her legal studies at Indiana University School of Law and received her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School. A frequent lecturer and author, she has written extensively about e-mail and Internet issues and employment and business law matters.

She replaces Mary Davis, of Elkhart, who has served on the Board of Law Examiners for 17 years.

"Nearly a generation of bar exam applicants have benefited from the skill and enthusiasm exhibited by Mary Davis. We are very grateful for the work she has done for all of us," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The Board of Law Examiners is appointed by the Supreme Court and is primarily responsible for conducting the Indiana Bar Examination and grading the answers. It also is charged with making sure bar examination candidates have the requisite character and fitness to practice law in Indiana.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2000

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Indianapolis Attorney Alonzo Weems Named Law Examiner

Indianapolis attorney Alonzo Weems was appointed to the State Board of Law Examiners, Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mr. Weems will begin a five-year term on December 1st with the 10-member Board of Law Examiners. A member of the Indiana bar since 1995, he received his bachelor's degree in English from Wabash College in 1992.

Mr. Weems is an attorney for Eli Lilly & Company for the firm's Global Medical and Regulatory Affairs division and previously worked as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. He is the chairman of the Opportunities for Minorities Commission of the Indiana State Bar Association and has served on the board of directors for Indiana Advocates for Children and the Indiana University School of Law Alumni Board.

"I was very pleased that Mr. Weems accepted our invitation to join the Board of Law Examiners. His background in business and in government will be extremely valuable to the Board," said Associate Justice Theodore "Ted" Boehm, who recommended the appointment of Mr. Weems to the Board.

He replaces Marya Jones Lee, of Indianapolis, who has served on the Board of Law Examiners for nine years.

"We have been very fortunate to have had the benefit of her insight and intellect," said Chief Justice Shepard of Ms. Lee's service to the Court.

The Board of Law Examiners is appointed by the Supreme Court and is primarily responsible for conducting the Indiana Bar Examination and grading the answers. It also is charged with making sure bar examination candidates have the requisite character and fitness to practice law in Indiana.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 18, 2000

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Court Opens Education Effort on November Ballot Referendum

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Indiana Supreme Court has begun an effort to educate voters about the importance of Public Question No. 1 – a ballot initiative that will amend the Indiana Constitution and give the Court the ability to hear those cases which have the most impact on Indiana's citizens.

If passed during the general election on November 7th, Public Question No. 1 would remove the provision that now allows a criminal defendant with a sentence of greater than 50 years to by-pass the Indiana Court of Appeals and take an appeal directly to the Indiana Supreme Court.

Under the amended Constitution, criminal defendants, except those sentenced to death, would have an automatic, guaranteed appeal that would first go to the Court of Appeals. Defendants could still petition the Supreme Court for further review. Defendants sentenced to death would continue to appeal the conviction directly to the Supreme Court.

This change is needed because the Court's docket is growing increasingly crowded with criminal appeals that come directly from the trial court. In the past 12 months, these appeals consumed 62 percent of the Court's docket. As a result, appeals from Hoosier families and businesses often take a back seat.

"It is unacceptable to me and I hope it would be to all Hoosiers that the Court's doors would be wide open to criminals with long sentences and virtually closed to everyone else. Yet this is the future of Indiana appeals if the Supreme Court's docket continues to be held hostage to so many criminal cases that come here directly from the trial court," said Chief Justice Shepard.

This proposal has been endorsed by the Indiana State Bar Association, the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana, and the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association. The Indiana General Assembly approved it twice by overwhelming, bi-partisan margins.

Opposition to this proposal has been virtually nil so I hope all voters will consider this important ballot initiative," Chief Justice Shepard said.

For more information, visit www.ai.org/judiciary. Click on "Public Question No. 1."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 27, 2000

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Supreme Court Schedules Press Conferences on Ballot Question

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Supreme Court of Indiana will hold a series of press conferences on Wednesday, November 1st to continue its public education effort on Public Question No. 1 - a November 7th ballot initiative to amend the Indiana Constitution and give the Court the ability to focus on the cases which have the most impact on Indiana's citizens.

Press Conference Schedule (All Times Local)

9 a.m. - LOUISVILLE: Galt House- East, Sampson Room, 1st Floor, 141 N. 4th St. Galt House contact: David Greenlee (502)589-5200.

9:45 a.m. - CLARKSVILLE: Clark County Airport, 7001 Airport Drive. Airport contact: Hap's Flight Service 1-800-872-5277.

11:15 a.m. - FORT WAYNE: Court Room No 1, Allen County Court House, 3rd Floor, 712 S. Calhoun. Court House Contact: Jerry Noble (219)449-7681.

1 p.m. - SOUTH BEND: 1855 Court House, 2nd Floor Court Room, Lafayette and Washington streets. 1855 Court House contact: Patty Godsey (219)235-9534.

PLEASE NOTE: To enter the 1855 Court House, use the tunnel in the basement of the current Court House.

4 p.m. - INDIANAPOLIS: Indiana Supreme Court Room, Indiana State House. Supreme Court Contact: Doug Cressler (317)232-2540.

If you would like to schedule an individual interview with a member of the Court before or after a press conference, please contact David J. Remondini at (317)233-8684.

For more information about this amendment, visit www.ai.org/judiciary. Click on "Public Question No. 1."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard
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October 31, 2000

**Meg Babcock
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Explanation Of The Rules Of Ethics For Judges And Judicial Candidates

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Candidates for judicial office are bound by specific ethical rules which set judicial campaigns apart from other political contests. The rules are in place to protect the integrity of the judicial system. The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications enforces these rules of conduct. The Commission issues this press release in response to an event which occurred during the Vanderburgh County judicial campaigns.

Among the many obligations imposed by Canon 5, one in particular is the focus of this press release. The Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a candidate for judicial office from making statements which appear to commit the candidate to the outcomes of cases or issues which could come before that candidate as judge. Therefore, it is inappropriate for a candidate to make statements which give the impression that he or she favors the maximum sentence or enhanced sentencing opportunities for a particular class of crimes or group of defendants. A judge must decide each case on its own merits, and only after the parties have had the opportunity to present their evidence and arguments. Judicial candidates who appear to commit themselves to the toughest sentences in a class of crimes violate that duty.

Questions about this Press Release may be directed to Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, Chairman of the Commission, at (317) 232-2550, or to Meg Babcock, Counsel to the Commission, at (317) 232-4706.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard
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October 31, 2000

**Meg Babcock
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Judge Under Investigation For Potential Violation Of The Rules Of Ethics For Judges And Judicial Candidates

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications has notified Judge Fredrick Spencer, candidate for re-election to the Madison Circuit Court, that it has begun a formal investigation into whether he violated the rules of ethics for judges and judicial candidates.

A judge's duty is to hear each case on its merits, without prejudice. The ethics rules for judicial candidates state that a candidate may not make pledges or promises of conduct in office other than to judge faithfully and impartially, and that a judicial candidate may not make statements which commit or appear to commit the candidate with respect to cases over which the judge will preside. A judge who promises, or impliedly promises, to treat certain cases or alleged offenders in a particular way violates that rule.

The Commission's investigation into Judge Spencer's campaign ethics arises from a recent television advertisement in which Judge Spencer appeared in his robe and at the bench. A voice-over stated, "When Judge Spencer ran for judge of the Circuit Court, he promised to send more child molesters to jail"... (the viewer sees and hears the slamming of a cell door)... "burglars to jail" (same picture and sound of the cell door)... "drug dealers in jail" (same picture and sound of the cell door). Judge Spencer reappeared on the screen, and the voice-over stated, "He's kept his promise. Let's keep Judge Spencer."

An ethical judicial candidate may not run on this platform. Judge Spencer's advertisement appears more akin to a campaign promise of a prosecuting attorney, and not that of a neutral and detached judge. While promises to put certain offenders in jail may appeal initially to citizens concerned about crime in our society, the implied promise by a judge that his mission is to put more offenders in jail undermines the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and creates distrust in the fairness of the system. The Commission members reject Judge Spencer's claim that the advertisement about keeping past promises is not an implied promise of the same future conduct.

After this investigation is complete, the Commission will decide whether it should file formal disciplinary charges with the Indiana Supreme Court seeking sanctions against Judge Spencer.

Questions about this Press Release may be directed to Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, Chairman of the Commission, at (317) 232-2550, or to Meg Babcock, Counsel to the Commission, at (317) 232-4706.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2000

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State Pro Bono Commission Executive Director Receives Award

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Kelly Kann Davidson, executive director of the Indiana Pro Bono Commission, was named as the co-winner of the Indianapolis Bar Association Women in the Law Division Service Award, it was announced today.

Davidson received the award on Wednesday, November 15, 2000 at the monthly meeting of members of the Indianapolis Bar Association at the Columbia Club in downtown Indianapolis.

Davidson and fellow attorney Brenda Freije of Baker & Daniels received the award for their efforts at fund raising and coordinating the volunteer construction work at the Women in the Law Division's "House Built by Women." This house was built with the assistance of over 200 volunteer women attorneys for a needy family under a program of the non-profit Habitat for Humanities.

An attorney since 1994, Davidson has been executive director of the Pro Bono Commission since 1999. The Commission is a joint project of the Indiana Bar Foundation and the Supreme Court that seeks to encourage pro bono work by the state's attorneys for people of modest means who cannot afford attorneys for their civil legal matters.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2000

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Court to Begin Implementation of Constitutional Amendment

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The Indiana Supreme Court has authorized the changes in Court rules and procedures made possible by the approval of Public Question No. 1 by Indiana's voters on November 7th, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Public Question No. 1 amended the Indiana Constitution by removing the requirement that the Supreme Court review every criminal conviction that draws a sentence of 50 years or more. The amendment became effective on the day it was approved by the voters. It passed by a margin of 64% to 36% (913,211 "Yes" votes to 500,858 "No" votes).

"The support for this amendment shown by the voters, the state's bar associations, Indiana's trial judges and the members of the General Assembly has been remarkable. The five of us on the Court were gratified to see that the majority of the voters of Indiana approved our effort. We will continue to work very hard to show their trust in us was justified," said Chief Justice Shepard.

Instead of going directly from the trial court to the Supreme Court, convictions with a term of years will now go first to the Indiana Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court made this change permanent on November 9th by amending the Indiana Rules of Appellate Procedure. Defendants would retain the right to ask the Supreme Court to review any decision reached by the Court of Appeals.

Left unchanged by the amendment was the requirement that each person sentenced to death by a state trial court judge in Indiana be allowed to appeal the conviction directly from the trial court to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will also continue to review post-conviction relief petitions filed in death penalty cases.

Even though the amendment would allow the Supreme Court to direct the appeals of defendants sentenced to life in prison without parole to the Court of Appeals first, the Supreme Court has decided to continue to review those cases as well.

Cases currently on file at the Clerk of the Courts office in the Indiana Statehouse will continue to be appealed directly to the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals will handle the appeals of all criminal defendants, except for those sentenced to death or life in prison, who file a Notice of Appeal on or after January 1, 2001.

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November 21, 2000

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Attorney Annual Registration Fee To Increase By \$10

The annual registration fee paid by Indiana's attorneys will increase by \$10, the Indiana Supreme Court announced today. Beginning with the annual fee due on October 1, 2001, attorneys will pay \$95 each year to remain licensed to practice law.

Even with the increase, the annual fee by Indiana attorneys remains among the lowest in the nation. Indiana is one of 15 states which do not require attorneys to pay state bar association dues as well. In those states, annual fees range from \$85 to \$280. Indiana's annual fees support the work of the Court's Disciplinary Commission, which oversees lawyer conduct; the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, which educates and assists the legal community in regard to addiction, mental health and related issues; and the Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE), which enforces the mandatory continuing legal education rule, regulates attorney specialization and maintains a registry of mediators. Expenses for the work of the Disciplinary Commission prompted the increase. Of the \$95 fee, \$70 will be for the Disciplinary Commission; \$15 will support the CLE Commission; \$10 will be used for the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program.

Prior to this increase, \$60 of the \$85 fee was for the Disciplinary Commission and that portion of the annual fee has not increased since 1991. The overall fee was last raised in 1997 when \$10 was added to fund the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program.

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November 27, 2000

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Indiana Judicial Center Receives Two Grants

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Indiana Judicial Center will benefit from two grants from the Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving that will be used to enhance court-related drug and alcohol programs, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The first grant \$150,000 has been awarded to the Hudson Institute to determine the effectiveness of Indiana's existing 52 court-based Drug and Alcohol programs.

The second \$100,000 grant will be implemented by the Prevention Research Institute of Lexington, Ky., which will adapt their Prime for Life substance abuse education course for use by Indiana Court Alcohol and Drug Programs.

This curriculum will then be used as a pilot program for instruction for serious or repeat substance abuse offenders. The grant will also include the training and evaluation of about 120 court substance abuse instructors throughout the state.