



October 24, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE TO HOLD PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION
Area Attorneys to be Honored for Pro Bono Commitment

The Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee will recognize National Pro Bono Week and celebrate attorneys who have provided pro bono legal services within the circuit at their 3rd Annual Pro Bono Week Celebration on Tuesday, October 28 at the Clubhouse at Eagle Ridge. There will be a cocktail reception at 5:30, awards ceremony at 6:30 and dinner to follow at 7:00. The event is open to attorneys, court staff, and to the press. Featured speakers include Illinois Appellate Court Justice Lisa Holder White and Fifth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Millard Everhart.

The Pro Bono Week Celebration will recognize the 50 area attorneys who have provided pro bono legal services in the last year through Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. The Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee will also posthumously present an award to Karen Fuqua for her outstanding pro bono service, providing significant legal assistance to those in need. Karen's entire adult life was marked by reaching out to help the downtrodden and the powerless in society. Her law practice spanned all the counties of the 5th Judicial Circuit, and she spent countless hours representing persons of limited means in securing justice through the court system. The door to her law office was always open to those in need of legal help, regardless of whether they could pay, and throughout her career she helped hundreds of people secure the right to equal justice under the law.

In addition, Land of Lincoln will recognize pro bono leaders from each county within the circuit, including:

Clark County: Bennett, Schroeder & Wieck
Coles County: Brent Holmes of Heller, Holmes & Associates
Cumberland County: Jennifer Koebele of Heller, Holmes & Associates
Edgar County: David Frisse of Frisse & Brewster Law Offices, LLC
Vermillion County: Dave Ryan of Dukes, Ryan, Meyer, & Freed, Ltd.

About the Committee: The Fifth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee is a joint effort of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, and local representatives of the bench and bar to enhance equal access to justice by encouraging and promoting pro bono work in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. The Committee was launched on May 31, 2013 and is chaired by Angelica W. Wawrzynek of Tapella & Eberspacher LLC in Mattoon. Learn more about the Committee at www.pili.org/5th-circuit.

About PILI: PILI's mission is to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service within the Illinois legal community to expand the availability of legal services for people, families and communities in need. PILI envisions a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of service, where law students, lawyers and legal professionals at all stages of their careers engage in public interest law or pro bono work, and remain committed to addressing the unmet legal needs of the poor and underrepresented.

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To learn more about PILI, visit our website at www.pili.org, or contact PILI Executive Director Michael Bergmann at mbergmann@pili.org or 312-832-5129.