

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Reception to Promote Legal Services for the Underserved**

PEORIA, Illinois (September 24, 2014) - The Peoria County Bar Association is proud to join with the Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, the Legal Services Division of Caterpillar Inc., Prairie State Legal Services and the Public Interest Law Initiative in sponsoring the Celebrate Pro Bono Reception to be held on Monday, October 20, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Caterpillar Visitors Center, 110 SW Washington Street in Peoria.

The guest speaker will be Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, who will discuss the importance of identifying and providing needed legal services to the underserved in the community. The reception will celebrate the efforts of individuals, law firms, and corporations throughout the Tenth Judicial Circuit (comprising Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell Counties) that have provided exceptional pro bono services over the past year.

The need for legal services for the underserved—such as the elderly, the disabled, veterans, and children—continues to grow in Illinois. With the help of area attorneys, efforts are underway to assist those who are otherwise unable to afford an attorney. Building on a history of pro bono legal assistance within the region, the Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, which is comprised of judges and lawyers from across the Circuit, launched its Pro Bono Pledge last year. This effort, chaired by Associate Judge Lisa Y. Wilson, has resulted in nearly 40 area law firms and corporations agreeing to provide free legal services to those in need.

The Celebrate Pro Bono Reception will recognize those who have made the Pro Bono Pledge and encourage others to join the effort.

Since 1879, the Peoria County Bar Association has promoted the administration of justice, facilitated legal education, and elevated the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession.

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