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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE TO HOLD PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION
Signatories of Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Pledge to be Recognized

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee will celebrate National Pro Bono Week and recognize the achievements of pro bono attorney volunteers within the circuit at the Pro Bono Reception on Thursday, October 29th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and is being hosted by Deere & Company at its World Headquarters.

The event will recognize the signatories of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Pledge. The attorneys and law firms who have signed the Pledge have committed to expand pro bono legal services among low-income and underrepresented individuals and families in the Circuit. The Pledge was launched last fall and currently has fifteen signatories. Similar pro bono pledges were launched in four other circuits as well with a total of nearly 120 signatories statewide.

The Pledge calls upon law firms and corporate legal departments to:

1. Encourage attorneys and legal staff to provide pro bono legal services and, in doing so, provide an environment which is hospitable to the rendition of such services;
2. Designate a primary pro bono point of contact within the firm or corporate law department;
3. Consider adopting a written pro bono policy; and
4. Recognize attorneys and legal staff who participate in pro bono services, as appropriate.

This event will also recognize 40 Fourteenth Circuit attorneys who have provided pro bono legal assistance over the past year through Prairie State Legal Services, which is also co-sponsoring the event. “We are excited for this opportunity to recognize the strong volunteerism present in our community,” said Thomas Blade, Chair of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee. “These attorneys show a true commitment to pro bono service and to helping those in need.”

The Pro Bono Reception is open to attorneys, court staff and press. Keynote remarks will be delivered by Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride. Other speakers include Deere & Company Senior Vice President & General Counsel Mary K.W. Jones and Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Committee Member Jonathon Fox.

About the Committee: The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee strives to increase equal access to justice by enhancing and expanding pro bono legal services within the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. Learn more at www.pili.org/14thcircuit.

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.

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.