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March 29, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU APPOINTS LEGAL COUNSEL

CHARLESTON -- Chicago native Lisa Huson has been named to Eastern Illinois University's legal counsel position.

Huson, who will join Eastern on May 1, is currently an Assistant Attorney General in the litigation division for the State of Kansas where she has had a great deal of experience with higher education law.

She was among four candidates for the position. One candidate, Peggy Bradford, a consultant for Elgin Community College, withdrew herself from consideration before the selection process was completed.

In making the announcement, Eastern President David Jorns said, "Ms. Huson is an attorney with the background and skills that will serve the university well. She made an excellent impression in her interview. We are very pleased she will be joining the university."

Huson will assume a variety of legal responsibilities formerly performed by the staff of Eastern's previous governing board, the Board of Governors. She will

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LEGAL COUNSEL

provide general legal service and representation on all aspects of university matters for administration and staff. She also will establish a university legal office.

"Ms. Huson's experience representing several universities and state agencies in the Kansas Attorney General's Office enables her to practice effective preventative law for Eastern. She brings enthusiasm and drive to the task of setting up the legal counsel office. Also, she is familiar with Eastern and with central Illinois," noted Cynthia Nichols, search committee chair.

Huson said she is looking forward to returning to Illinois, where most of her family is located, and to establish a legal office from the ground up. "It's the nice mix of being able to return to my roots and to do what I love doing that attracted me to Eastern."

Her first tasks will be to complete a thorough review of university documents and policies, to become acquainted with the various campus constituents she will be working with frequently, and to take the Illinois Bar exam.

Huson brings to Eastern two years of experience working in the Kansas Attorney General's Office where she represented four public universities in Kansas and also worked with several others. She also provided legal counsel to several large state agencies, including the Kansas Board of Regents, the Secretary of State and the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System. Her area of expertise is civil litigation with an emphasis on higher education law and civil rights cases.

As a litigator for several universities in Kansas, she has defended against many

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different types of claims dealing with diverse causes of action such as sexual and racial discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination and Employment Act, contract actions, medical malpractice, negligence, wrongful discharge, and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Huson also has experience working as a law clerk for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in Topeka, where she specialized in employment law.

She is licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas and in the United States District Court, District of Kansas. She is a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

Huson has associate's and bachelor's degrees in business administration from Lincoln Land College in Springfield and Chaminade University of Honolulu, respectively. She earned a juris doctor degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka.

She will be relocating to Charleston with her 10-year-old daughter, Alex, whom she enjoys coaching in volleyball, basketball and softball.

Huson, an avid sports fan herself, enjoys playing volleyball and tennis.