

THE GAVEL

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By Judge Daniel Gillespie

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WOMEN OF CHARACTER

By Judge Daniel T. Gillespie



Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow announced her retirement from the Illinois Supreme Court, effective July 6, 2006. Justice McMorrow was elected to the Supreme Court in 1992 and served as chief justice from 2002 through 2005. She was elected to the appellate court in 1986 after serving for ten years as a trial judge. The Loyola University law graduate compiled many firsts in her career. As an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, she was the first woman to prosecute felony cases in Illinois. She was the first woman to serve as the chair of the executive committee of the Illinois Appellate Court and became the first woman justice and chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice McMorrow has also been first in the hearts of attorneys and judges who knew her well. Michael Hyman, former Chicago Bar Association president, observed, "Justice McMorrow has endeared herself to the profession by showing us what a life of service to society means. Her tireless dedication to the law, inspiring involvement in the CBA and other organizations and her thoughtful and warm manner has earned the esteem and affection of all of us in the legal community."

Former Chicago Bar Association president and Justice-elect of the Illinois Appellate Court Joy V. Cunningham said of Justice McMorrow, "If I can be half the judge that she has been over the years, I would feel that

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By Judge Grace G. Dickler



Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow's reputation for honesty, integrity, intelligence and kindness is widely recognized. Clearly, Justice McMorrow's upcoming retirement will be a great loss not only to the legal community but to all the citizens of the State of Illinois. Thus, it is extremely fortunate that Justice Anne M. Burke, who has been chosen to replace Justice McMorrow, is widely believed to possess the very same characteristics that have made Justice McMorrow such a beloved figure in the Illinois Judicial System.

Justice Burke has had a varied and distinguished career. She began serving on the Illinois Appellate Court in 1995 as an appointee by the Illinois Supreme Court. Thereafter, she was elected to the Appellate bench in 1996. Justice Warren Wolfson, himself a highly respected Jurist and colleague of Justice Burke, stated that if he had to use one word to describe Justice Burke it would be "decent". Justice Wolfson met Justice Burke when she commenced her tenure on the Appellate Court in 1995. Since that time he often has sat on the same panel with Justice Burke. Through their work and deliberations over the years, he has had significant opportunity to observe Justice Burke. Justice Wolfson describes Justice Burke as a "great colleague, great judge". He explains why Justice Burke is such an excellent colleague by stating with admiration that: "she

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judge Jesse G. Reyes

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." —Theodore Roosevelt

I cannot envision a nobler means of contributing to those who are sworn to serve the people of this state than leading the organization that is committed to serving them. I am indeed honored to have this opportunity to "work hard at work worth doing" on behalf of the Association and its members. From its inception, IJA has dedicated itself to the advancing the interests, issues and independence of judges. Throughout the years, particularly in served as the voice for And, IJA has the changing and one and only judges.



Before looking to the tasks at hand, I gratitude and Wexstten on an president and for his Under President substantial gains in build in the years to privilege to serve with such a committed and conscientious member of our association. I look forward to his continued support, contributions and wisdom. We are also fortunate to have assembled a distinguished and dedicated array of officers in Judges Mark Schuering, James Epstein, Ron Spears, Jane Stuart and Mary Schostok. They will assist in planning and implementing this administration's goals. One could not ask for a better team.

I firmly believe in the old adage "To whom much is given, much is required." Therefore, at the outset of my term, I am inviting you to join in the extensive and expansive agenda we will put forth in the months to come. Join us as we enter into the schools, neighborhoods and communities throughout this state in an effort to create a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Join us as we attempt to create possibilities for our young people where none may have previously existed. Join us as we double our efforts to donate books to schools lacking the necessary and essential tools to educate our children. Join us as we increase our role in the Principal for a Day program. Finally, join us as we partner with other organizations to serve as mentors and provide guidance for those beginning their pursuits in life. This community-oriented agenda is directly intended to benefit the people of this state but, in the end, we too will benefit mightily from them.

In keeping with this administration's mission of having the Association interact more with the community at large, for the first time, we had as guests at the annual membership meeting and installation, a wide spectrum of the community from national, state and local bar leaders to representatives from a variety of civic and community organizations. It was an opportunity to have them become more directly acquainted with us, and, in turn, we with them. One of the chief benefits of this is that we have already begun to develop cooperative projects and programs. These projects and programs, which will take place throughout the state, will give our association and members greater exposure. I hope you will

judges. Throughout the time of crisis, IJA has continually strived to meet challenging needs of its constituency – state court

the future and focusing on want to give our sincerest congratulations to James outstanding year as exemplary leadership. Wexstten, IJA made many areas on which we can come. It has been a true

KUDOS: JUDGES HONORED

By Judge Daniel Gillespie

Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. was presented with a prestigious Vanguard Award at an April luncheon held at the Standard Club. In introducing Judge Wright, Chicago Bar Association President Michael Hyman declared, “The CBA recognizes a man who, as Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District, as a CBA leader and as a lawyer, lives Francis Bacon’s admonition, ‘Next to religion, let your care be to promote justice.’ Judge Wright’s passion is to



make the world a little more just, a little more compassionate, a little better for people of every ethnicity, faith, gender, sexual orientation and income. Equal justice for all is merely a noble goal, a possibility, a hope; it takes judges like Judge Wright to make it a reality.”

Mr. Hyman added of Judge Wright, “He speaks fondly of his high school coach who repeatedly told his players a simple game plan for living: ‘It’s nice to be nice.’ To appreciate what ‘It’s nice to be nice’ means, look no further than Judge Wright. He greets people with a smile and a handshake, and never ignores a stranger. He says a pleasant word here and a kind word there, spreading good cheer and goodwill. Whenever Judge Wright walks the halls of the Daley Center or the streets of Chicago, and he enjoys walking long distances, he is treated like a movie star; people

wave at him and run over to shake his outstretched hand. And no wonder, he is genuinely interested in people, and has a knack of recalling details about acquaintances that most of us wouldn’t remember. ...Judge Wright is an early riser. I don’t know if the sun gets up before he does or if he gets up before the sun, but it is neck-and-neck. The man doesn’t seem to know the word ‘rest’; he attends just about every event of every bar association or legal organization in town. He wants to be at all these places because he cares; he wants to show his support, his commitment. And this is someone who is loath to carry a cell phone and who professes a severe allergy to answering machines and e-mail. The judges serving in the First Municipal District will tell you that Judge Wright exudes warmth, humility and friendliness; energy and enthusiasm; and a firm sense of integrity and trust.”

Mr. Hyman concluded, “In following his coach’s advice, ‘It’s nice to be nice,’ Judge Wright, I suggest, lives Saint Augustine’s definition of love. Judge Wright has the hands to help others, the feet to hasten to the poor and needy, the eyes to see misery and want and the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. And to these I add the heart to stimulate respect and harmony among people regardless of their differences.”

Cook County Judge Rena M. Van Tine also received a Vanguard Award.



Acknowledged as the first female judge of Indian background to serve as a

judge in America, Judge Van Tine was recognized for her service in the Child Protection Division of Juvenile Court, where she enjoys a sterling reputation as a trial judge. Judge Van Tine was also recognized as a past president of the Asian American Bar Association and as a founding member of the Chicago chapter of the Indian-American Bar Association.

Retired Justice R. Eugene Pincham received the prestigious Earl B. Dickerson Award. In accepting the award he recalled proudly that he was reared in a Christian home where he learned the values that sustained him



throughout his life. He recalled that he was taught from an early age a responsibility to use his talents to help those less fortunate. Justice Pincham proclaimed:

“Don’t give in! Don’t give out! Don’t give up! Pursue the dream of what’s right. We must remain vigilant and strong. I do not believe I received the Dickerson award for being very nice. I may have been awarded it for being good at helping those in desperate need of help. Remember the mandate, ‘Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.’ We are all going to be asked some day what we did for the least of our brethren. When my time comes to meet Saint Peter at the pearly gates, I want there to be no debate. Keep me in your prayers.”

ADIOS, ADIEU, SAYONARA, GOOD-BYE . . .

Having written this column for about 5 years now and completing 6 years as a member of the IJA's Board of Directors, it's time to move on to new ventures – to be frank, I am now a soccer mom – yes, it's true – I've been designated the "team parent" and am in charge of snacks – I've already been reprimanded for bringing cookies as the league is concerned with childhood obesity (geez, my kid is one lean drink-of-water-relax). . .anyway, yes, I'm retiring from writing this column for now, I want to thank **Pat McGann** for recruiting me in the first place and Grace and Dan for letting me keep babbling in public. . . . and the news of retirement is the news of the day as my mail is flooded with news of retirement parties.

There are many leaving, but I'm only going to tell you about the ones that are public. First, we send a fond farewell to the always kind and even-tempered, wise woman who has been a role model and friend to many . . . **Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow**. Justice McMorrow remained a down-to-earth woman despite her being the first woman to attain many jobs including our own Supreme Court. She continued to give more than she received and remained active in the legal community. It is this latter character trait that gives us comfort as she is sure to continue to be visible. The justice has not announced her plans upon retiring, but she you can expect to see her working again just as soon as she cleans out her office. Word has it that she is donating many awards and mementos to a law school or library. We welcome Justice **Anne Burke** to the Court. She was awed that she received the appointment and will continue to remain active in the community.

Joining the First District and taking Justice **Alan Greiman**'s assigned seat is the leader of the Jewish Judges Association, **Robert Gordon**. Judge Gordon can best be described in one word: workaholic. He sets records

yearly for the number of trials he hears. The elected seat of Justice **Burke** went to a well-respected jurist and leader in the First District, chair of its Executive committee, **Alan Greiman**.

Speaking of the First District, who could help but notice that former associate judge and General Counsel of Northwestern Healthcare, **Joy Cunningham**, won the primary by a hair – less than 500 votes. She beat out **David Erickson** who had been appointed to the seat and a number of sitting judges in a race where hundreds of thousands of votes were cast.

Many experienced jurists are leaving or have left including **Julia Nowicki**, (now a mediator), **Edward Burr**, **Donald Devlin**, **Wayne Rhine** and our past-President, **Stuart Nudelman**. (I predict that Nudelman will end up teaching all over the world, don't you?) Also retiring were former Chief Judge, **Gene Nottolini**, (16th) **Kathleen Kallan** (Will) **George Moran, Jr.** (3rd), and **Michael Keehan** (Cook).

We can't mention who's leaving, without mentioning who has a chance to stay. For those of you who did not hear, three Cook County judges did not submit their written intention to stand for retention to the Secretary of State prior to the November election, their spots were declared vacant, others gathered petitions for the spots, a lawsuit was file, the judges won. (If we had known the outcome in advance, it wouldn't have caused half of the conversation). And luckily for three associates from the Lake County bench, there really were circuit judgeships available and so they have a chance of being elected in November.

For those of you who think that all "firsts" have happened, you hadn't considered the news that **Ann Callis** is the first woman to have been elected Chief in Madison County. She will join our former President, **Ann Jorgensen**, first Chief in DuPage, at the Chief

Judges meetings. My question is: do you have to be named Ann to be Chief? Just asking.

SOMETHING OTHER THAN LAW

For those of you following my ramblings, you are aware that I always want to know what people do other than law and judging. Was I surprised to find out that a judge who is particularly quiet (a rare quality in itself for any lawyer) and seemingly staid has a wild hobby? Yes, Judge **Charlie Winkler** (alias Carlos Winkler) runs back and forth to Acapulco to work on his pocket-sized travel guide to Acapulco titled: *The Gringo's Guide to Acapulco*. The third edition is now out and some of the proceeds go to charity. If I only knew about it before my trip there last year.

ROMANCE IN DANVILLE

You probably be surprised to know that the most romantic judges reside in Danville. Daredevil, **Craig DeArmond**, actually performed a wedding in a hot air balloon a year ago. It figures that the couple consisted of two hot air balloon pilots. No jurisdictional issues were reported. Then, Valentines Day of this year, **Jim Borbely** along with **Joseph Skowronski** practiced their wedding planner skills. All the judges chipped in a couple bucks for this major production. A courtroom was decorated with hearts and flowers, red carnations and vases were purchased, helium balloons were hoisted and the judge came in wearing a **rented red robe** to marry nine couples. Another couple came in before the weddings started to prove-up their divorce. Rumor has it they weren't bothered by the décor. Kudos to our colleagues in Danville – they make us all look good!

Get Well Soon . . . **Mel Cole** and **Roni Mathein**.

IN MEMORIAM

Judge **Barbara Badger** of Will County died at the young age of 56 of cancer. Also passing was retired DuPage jurist, **Charles Ruth**.

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I am really contributing to the citizens of this county. She has had so many 'firsts'. She has been an excellent lawyer, jurist, wife, mother, and all round role model for all of us. She has done it all and done it well. Her legacy has enriched the legal profession, the people of the State of Illinois and me personally. She has been a great friend to me. I hope she has big plans for lots of fun during her retirement; she has more than earned it."

Illinois State Bar Association president Irene Bahr observed, "I did not know Justice McMorrow before she went on the Supreme Court, but the first time that I met her, she made me feel as if I had always known her. She has a wonderful talent for making everyone she meets comfortable and at ease. I have had the pleasure to come to know her better through my many years in bar leadership. Her support for the organized bar and lawyers of this state has been tremendous. Although she was the first woman Justice and Chief Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court, and although she was a huge supporter and mentor to women attorneys, she was not just for women. In my leadership role of the Illinois State Bar, if I can emulate her in any small way, I will consider myself a huge success." Former Illinois State Bar Association president Robert Downs was quoted in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin as

saying of Justice McMorrow, "I never really even think of her as a pioneering woman, she's just a very good judge."

At last year's ABA annual meeting in Chicago, Justice McMorrow received the prestigious ABA Commission on Women's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement. This coveted national award is given in recognition of women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence in their field. She is a recipient of the Chicago Bar Association's Justice John Paul Stevens Award and is the 1996 recipient of the Fellows of the Illinois Bar Foundation award for Distinguished Service to Law and Society and has received four honorary degrees. Justice McMorrow received the Medal of Excellence award from Loyola University School of Law Alumni Association.

Justice Thomas Fitzgerald said, "Justice McMorrow is a dear and valued colleague who has become my close personal friend. As a judge, she has been gentle and thoughtful and at the same time a person who has defended her views with an iron will. Her retirement is a profound loss to our court and even a greater loss to the people of the state of Illinois whom she has served so well." Cook County Judge James Etchingham said that he often has occasion to recall Justice McMorrow's advice to him when he was first sworn in as a judge, "Jim,

remember that sometimes you have to think with your heart, not your head."

In an interview for this article, Justice McMorrow recalled that as a young practicing attorney, the qualities she found most impressive in a judge were firmness combined with kindness. The judge who personified that for her was the late George B. Weiss, who presided over women's court in Chicago. Justice McMorrow recalled that Judge Weiss was firm in instructing the young women who appeared before him not to become repeat offenders but kind in the manner in which he counseled and encouraged each of them to become a changed person. Rarely did any of those women he was able to reach ever come back to women's court, Justice McMorrow recalled. In describing the qualities of the judge she most admired, Justice McMorrow has described the firmness and kindness for which she is so admired by so many. When asked about her daughter, Mary Ann, a doctor of neuro-clinical psychology at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Justice McMorrow described her as a very compassionate and kind person. Justice McMorrow said, "I can see in her much goodness when she talks about how happy she is to be able to care for the less fortunate and those in dire need of help." In describing the compassion and kindness of her daughter, she describes her own best qualities, which her daughter has successfully emulated.

LOOKING FOR ALL JUDGES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

By Judge Ronald D. Spears

President Reyes wants to prepare a Veteran's Day (November 11, 2006) recognition for all Active and Retired Judges who have served in any branch of the United States Military, active or reserve components. If you have served, or know any judge in your circuit who has served, please let Al White (Chicago) or Ron Spears (Taylorville) know. You can also email Maureen at the IJA office (info@ija.org). We plan to put our cumulative list on the IJA website (www.ija.org) so you can check to see if you know anyone who is missing. At this time we only plan to list the judge by name.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

Judge Jesse G. Reyes hopes you will join him as a Chicago Public Schools' *Principal for a Day* on Thursday, **November 2, 2006**. Participants will visit the school in the morning and then gather for a light luncheon

at the Hilton Chicago and Towers at noon. If you are interested in participating, please let us know your school preference by **September 29th**. If you do not have a preference, the school system will make the assignment for

you. Contact Maureen McClelland at the Illinois Judges Association at info@ija.org, fax: 312/554-2054, or by mail to 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

participate and take advantage of the momentum created when we join with other organizations.

Although, the major objective of this administration will be to direct attention outwardly, there will be three specific areas where we will be concentrating to recognize certain segments of our membership, which, to date, have gone unnoticed to a large extent:

PAST PRESIDENTS. As I proceeded in the planning of my year as president, I realized that I follow 34 illustrious men and women who have unselfishly served IJA. Through their stewardship and support, we have become the organization that we are today. So, with that thought in mind, during our mid-year meeting, I want our members to take a moment to recognize our past presidents. I have asked two of our esteemed past presidents, Judges James Wexstten and Patrick McGann, to establish a Past President’s Council. The members of this council will be a rich resource of history and information from which we may all draw from and benefit.

JUDGES IN THE MILITARY. Humorist and showman Will Rogers once said, “We can’t all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.” We owe a thanks and a proud salute to members, active and retired, which are or have served in the U. S. military. We have been gathering names of judges who have served their country since World War II. These brave men and women left the security and comfort of their homes to defend and protect the rights and liberties we hold precious. So, with this thought in mind, I have formed an ad hoc committee appropriately named “Heroes in History”. It is co-chaired by Judges Alexander White and Ron Spears. The charge of this committee is to develop a roster of names to be displayed and appropriately acknowledged so that we can all applaud their defending peace and freedom here and throughout the world.

RETIRED JUDGES. Lastly, the needs of our retired judge members need to be addressed. We will be convening a summit of retired judges to discuss how we can best serve this segment of our

membership and how we can best use their resources to continue their active involvement in association activities and programs. Through the coordination of the Retired Judges Committee co-chairs Bill Madden and Patricia Brown Holmes, we look forward to identifying avenues for input and participation of this important group of members as well as addressing many of their concerns.

Although our agenda will be taking us down new paths, this administration will not lose sight of problems that remain unresolved. For example, we are coordinating with our sister bar associations to formulate a means to respond to the unfair and constant barrages directed at the judiciary and its independence. Your officers and I have drafted a schedule to meet with the editorial boards of the major Illinois newspapers to discuss what is printed in the papers and the effects of what is printed on the public and the third branch of government.

The work ahead will be difficult and, at times, taxing, but in the end, it will be work that will be worth doing.

IJA Swearing In Ceremonies - June 2, 2006



Retired judges wishing to get a retired judge’s identification card for Cook County court buildings may do so at the Sheriff’s office on the 7th floor of the Daley Center. They should bring a document reflecting their status as a retired judge.

JRS CORNER

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

by Tim Blair

The Reciprocal Act is often misunderstood by the members of Illinois' public employee pension funds and retirement systems. Effectively, the Reciprocal Act ensures continuous pension credit for public employment in Illinois by allowing periods of service of at least one year in the reciprocal system to be used to meet retirement and survivor eligibility requirements in all systems in which a member has service credit. The member receives a benefit directly from each system in which they have service credit at retirement.

Retiring under the Reciprocal Act

A public employee establishes pension service credits by participating in one of Illinois' reciprocal retirement systems or pension funds. If an employee has service credit in more than one reciprocal fund, the employee's combined service from all funds may be used to meet each fund's service credit requirements for retirement. In other words, the Reciprocal Act does not override or change any provisions of any individual system, but merely allows an employee's retirement eligibility in each reciprocal fund. Specific retirement eligibility requirements for each system must be met when reciprocity is applied.

There are a few exceptions to service credit that may be used in reciprocal calculations. Credit of less than one year in any system is excluded, with a few minor exceptions. Credits that have been forfeited by the acceptance of a refund are excluded, unless the credits

have been reinstated through the repayment of a refund. Credits that have been used to retire may not be used again to retire under the Reciprocal Act. In addition to these limitations, if service credit has been granted by more than one system for the same time period, the duplication of credits is eliminated by reducing the credit proportionately in each reciprocal system.

Reciprocal Retirement Benefit Application and Amounts

A member applying for benefits under the Reciprocal Act must apply for benefits from all systems in which they have service credit. Upon application to all systems involved, the systems exchange information regarding service credit, earnings, and other data required to compute a pension benefit. The systems then compute the benefits payable by each system, including the maximum amount payable by all systems combined, which is the highest benefit payable if all service credit had been established in one system. For members of the Judges' Retirement System (JRS), the benefits payable from all reciprocal systems may not exceed the maximum JRS benefit amount of 85% of the judge's final salary rate.

Other Reciprocal Issues

The Reciprocal Act contains other provisions that are advantageous to members of the JRS.

Calculation of Final Average Salary

The Reciprocal Act allows a JRS member's benefits from all reciprocal

systems to be based on the member's judicial salary, subject to each individual system's definition of final salary. For most reciprocal systems, benefits are based on a member's average salary over the last 4 years of employment. The Reciprocal Act allows non-JRS systems to base the retirement benefit on the salary received during the last 4 years of service as a judge, rather than the last 4 years of employment under a non-JRS system.

Refund Repayment

Members of JRS may reinstate pension credit that was forfeited in other reciprocal systems after the completion of 2 years of service in JRS. The refund repayments must be made under the laws of the system that paid the refund. The repayment may occur at any time after 2 years, as long as the judge has not retired.

Re-entry after Retirement

If an annuitant reenters service that is covered by a system that requires the retirement benefit to be suspended, all reciprocal systems that are paying that annuitant a benefit will suspend the benefit. The pension is reinstated when the service ends and any recomputation of benefits for additional service is based on the laws of the affected systems.

If you have any questions about the Reciprocal Act or the calculation of retirement benefits, please contact the Judges' Retirement System at (217) 782-8500.

SAVE THE DATE -- IJA CONVENTION

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completes her work with dispatch and addresses the work of other members of the division without delay". Wolfson went on to say: "Justice Burke is a jurist who approaches every issue with an open mind and who does not reach a decision until she has thoroughly considered all aspects." Justice Wolfson considers Justice Burke "incisive, intelligent and compassionate".

It is clearly this compassion that has caused Justice Burke to dedicate most of her life to working on behalf of abused, neglected and handicapped children. While a teenager on the south side of Chicago, she taught disabled children in park district programs. In part, as a result of this experience, at the age of twenty-three, she founded the Chicago Special Olympics which has now grown into an international concern known as "The Special Olympics" and represented in more than 160 countries. Her dedication to children and the disabled is the thread that runs through Justice Burke's life and

career. She was appointed as Special Counsel for Child Welfare Services by Governor Edgar as well a member of his Legislative Committee on Juvenile Justice. She also served as Interim Chair of the National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops investigating the causes and effect of the clergy abuse scandal. Justice Burke's other efforts in the arena of child protection are too numerous to mention. However, it is evident that her commitment goes well beyond a professional interest. A number of years ago, Justice Burke and her husband, Alderman Ed Burke, tried to improve the red-taped cluttered foster parent system. To this end, they obtained licensing as foster parents and began to take short custody of drug-addicted babies. Obviously, Justice Burke's priority is to provide a voice to society's most fragile citizens.

Before joining the Bench, Justice Burke has enjoyed an extremely successful legal career after her graduation from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1983. Justice Burke was in private practice from 1983-1994 specializing in

cases involving unwanted and delinquent youngsters. In 1987 she was appointed as a judge to the Illinois Court of Claims, she was reappointed in 1991 and served until she resigned in 1994. In addition to the aforementioned she has served on numerous civic positions and Boards including the Board of Admission to the Bar.

Justice Anne Burke will bring to the Illinois Supreme Court a strong judicial and legal background, a reputation for diligence, intelligence, fairness and compassion, and the admiration of her colleagues and members of the legal community. Michael K. Demetrio, partner at Corboy and Demetrio and former President of the Chicago Bar Association states: "Justice Burke's life experiences and legal acumen will be a tremendous benefit to the judicial system of the State of Illinois. As aptly stated by Justice Wolfson, "the Appellate Court's loss is the Supreme Court's gain".

We wish Justice Burke well and look forward to her leadership.

HELP HONOR LINCOLN

By Judge Ronald D. Spears

Abraham Lincoln practiced law for nearly twenty-five years in Illinois courts. He had contact as a lawyer with many of the counties in the state and even served as judge on occasion. Lincoln formed a close relationship with Circuit Judge David Davis while traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit and Lincoln later appointed Davis as the first Justice of the United States Supreme Court from Illinois. Illinois judges can now help honor Lincoln during the upcoming celebration of his 200th Birthday.

Congress has created the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to commemorate Lincoln's 200th Birthday by emphasizing the contribution of his thoughts and ideas to America and the world. The official commemoration launches February 2008 and closes February 2010, with many special events planned for Lincoln's birth date on February 12, 2009.

Illinois judges are encouraged to work with local bar groups to explore Lincoln's connections to their county and judicial circuit and consider a bicentennial activity. Across the country communities are planning events such as exhibitions, school projects, and lecture series concerning Lincoln. The Illinois Judge's Association is considering a project with the Illinois State Bar Association to help sponsor distribution of a video documentary on Lincoln's life as a lawyer in Illinois. A special committee of the IJA will be formed to work on the Lincoln Bicentennial activities. If you would be interested in serving on such a committee, please let an IJA Board member know. The IJA will also be interested in stories about Lincoln projects across the state.

In Christian County we have several ongoing projects. Lincoln came to the county as part of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The courthouse in which Lincoln tried cases has been restored and is available to the public as part of the county historical museum. The local bar association has reenacted the Lincoln "Almanac" trial in that courthouse (I got to play Judge Davis!). One of the Lincoln stories out of Taylorville is that during a trial the noise from pigs under the courthouse was so great that Lincoln had to request Judge David Davis to issue a "writ of quietus" to stop the nuisance. A local business person was inspired to commission a renowned Lincoln sculptor, John McClarey, to produce a statute for the courthouse square. The grade school children had a contest and named the pig, Liberty. Other projects are ongoing to develop a museum on the first floor of the courthouse showing Lincoln's connections to the county as a surveyor, legislator, lawyer, and President. This is just one example of the type of activities a county or circuit can pursue. With the talent and creativity of Illinois judges, we could have Lincoln events all over the state.

JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL CZECH STUDY TRIP

By Judge Alexander P. White

On Wednesday, October 12, 2005, a group of lawyers, judges and law school professors left Chicago at 5:00 p.m. on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and arrived in Prague, Czech Republic, for the Thirteenth Annual John Marshall Law School Czech Study Trip, led by Professor Michael Seng. The group was briefed on the geography and history of the Czech Republic and visited the College of Information Studies to present an all day seminar for the Czech Chamber of Lawyers. This included presentations on land use by Randall Kadler and Judge Alexander P. White; the American System of Taxation by Donna Hansberry; "Health and Property Powers of Attorney: The Lessons of the Terry Schiavo Case by George Drost, the Honorary Consul to the Consulate of the Czech Republic in Illinois. An abbreviated mock personal injury trial took place with Joseph Vosicky for the plaintiff, Michael Hennessy for the defendant and Judge Barbara Disko as the judge. The Czech lawyers acted as the jury. Justice Denise O'Malley of the Illinois Appellate Court made comments in respect to the trial.

On Monday, October 17, the group checked out of the Hotel Gong and departed for Zlin where they had an architectural tour of Bata Town, a mixed use building complex and the "Moving Office" in which an entire room is lifted like an elevator. The group toured the R. Jelinek Distillery which was followed by lunch at Valasky Senk. The group then departed for Brno and checked into the Hotel Continental for four nights. The group spent a day making presentations to the faculty and law students at Massaryk University School of Law. That evening, a duck dinner at a local restaurant was hosted by Daniel Hrbac, a former John Marshall law student.

The group visited with the Supreme Court Judges of the Czech Republic and engaged in a lively discussion of the Czech Republic legal system, learning that during the "First Republic" period, courts were established on the basis of democratic principles, such as independence, impartiality and irremovability of judges. Judiciaries were distinguished, with the former governed by civil courts (ordinary, extraordinary and arbitration) and the latter by civilian criminal, martial criminal courts and jury courts. While the district, regional and highest courts, in conjunction with the Supreme Court, were the ordinary courts, labor courts, aldermen courts and the State Court were some of the extraordinary courts. Furthermore, there were public law courts in Czechoslovakia, such as the Supreme Administrative Court, Constitutional Court and Electoral Court (established as a part of the Supreme Administrative Court). The major principle affecting the whole legal system in this period was legal dualism. Based on the Reception Act, Czech lands, i.e. Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, adopted the Austrian legal system, in contrast to Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus which opted for the Hungarian legal system. This dualism persisted throughout the whole period of the First Republic. The judiciary in the republic of Czechoslovakia was based on both the Austrian and Hungarian judiciaries.

The group visited the offices of The Public Defender of Rights and learned the history of the institution the division of state power between legislature (Chamber of Deputies and Senate) and the Executive President and ministries and the judiciary consisting of the Supreme Judiciary – the Constitutional, Supreme and Administrative Courts and the local the local District, Regional and High Courts. The group visited the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic which is a separate "Supreme Court" and only addresses constitutional issues. That evening, John Marshall law School hosted a reception at the Hotel Continental. This annual event provided a rewarding and memorable experience for all judges and lawyers on the tour.

RACE JUDICATA - "WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED"

Judge Jesse Reyes and the IJA would like to enter a team in the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services' annual Race Judicata, which will take place on August 10, at 6:30 p.m., at Upper Hutchinson Field, near Columbus and Balbo. Race Judicata is a 5K event, and you can run or walk with "All Deliberate Speed," if you choose to participate. Those who have attended in the past have found the event to be fun and entertaining.

This year, we would like to have an even better showing than last. Our team name remains, "With All Deliberate Speed." If you intend to participate in the race, please register under the team name "With All Deliberate Speed." That way, we can coordinate all participants and ensure a good turnout of judges.

You can register on line, active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1314174, by faxing your form to (312) 332-1460) or by mailing or hand delivering it to

the CVLS office, at 100 N. LaSalle St., Suite 900. Try this link for more information about the race and registration: www.cvls.org/judicata.htm.

The IJA will furnish a t-shirt for those judges participating. Please let Maureen McClelland know the size that you wish at 312/431-1283 or info@ija.org by July 25th. We'll plan to meet at a designated spot on the day of the race. So watch for future announcements as the date approaches.

As you know, through the CVLS Foundation, volunteer attorneys have served hundreds of thousands of clients with everyday legal problems. These clients would otherwise not have access to legal services. Last year, Race Judicata raised \$150,000 to assist CVLS' provision of legal services. Hope to see you on August 10th. Stay turned for future announcements. Judges Nancy Katz, Rita Novak, Richard Stevens, Race Coordinators.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO LAW JOURNAL

The *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* is pleased to inform you of a unique opportunity for publication.

Each year, the *Law Journal* devotes an entire issue to topics relating to Illinois law and the Illinois judiciary, entitled the *Illinois Judicial Symposium*. Through this special issue, the *Law Journal* hopes to provide Illinois judges, practitioners, and scholars with a valuable source of information concerning significant trends and developments in Illinois law as well as recent cases and controversies. Moreover, the readership of this issue is substantial, as the *Law Journal*, together with the Illinois Administrative Courts, sends a copy of the issue to every judge in Illinois.

The *Illinois Judicial Symposium* issue is scheduled for publication in the early spring of 2007. Accordingly, the *Law Journal* will be pleased to accept any submissions, relating to an Illinois topic, by September 30, 2006.

Additionally, the *Law Journal* will continue the Judicial Mentorship Program. The Judicial Mentorship Program pairs a judge with a first-year member of the *Law Journal* to write an article on an Illinois topic of interest to both the judge and the student. The program began two years ago, and in 2006 resulted in the publishing of two articles in the current issue of the *Illinois Judicial Symposium*. The Judicial Mentorship Program provides you with a unique opportunity to work with a future member of the profession and to share your experience and expertise.

If you are considering submitting an article, participating in the Judicial Mentorship Program, or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Seth Jaffe, Executive Editor of the *Illinois Judicial Symposium*, at 312.505.5952, or via e-mail at sjaffe1@luc.edu. We look forward to receiving your article.

FOURTH ANNUAL BOOK DRIVE

The IJA is having its fourth annual Book Drive this fall. This year we're collecting books for the students of three schools in underprivileged areas. We would like to double the books received last year with the hopes of getting 6,000 books donated. Would look around your house for those gently used books that your children have outgrown or would like to donate? You can send them to us at Room 2811, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602 by September 30th.

**Illinois Judges Association
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