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## President's Message

There have been as of late a number of articles regarding the work ethic of judges. It must be understood that judging is neither a nine to five job nor is it often confined to a specific room or building.

As many public officials both elected and appointed know, our job occurs often seven days a week and twenty four hours a day. Many judges work on Saturdays and Sundays in bond court, work on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving or Christmas in holiday court, sign warrants at twelve o'clock midnight at police stations or courthouses, prepare for their courtroom duties on trains, on weekends or at the dining room table late into the evening.

Whether it be a mayor, a commissioner, a representative or a senator, our work is not confined to specific hours, days or places.

The real question is, are we completing the work that has been assigned to us and our courtrooms, are the cases being disposed of efficiently and fairly, are attorneys and the public having their cases decided within the resources of the court system? I believe they are and am proud of the work that the overwhelming majority of judges do day in and day out.

## Happenings...

• Justice Moses Harrison II will be greatly missed. Please see the upcoming *Gavel* for a feature story on our dear friend.

• Congratulations Justice Mary Ann McMorrow on your upcoming position as Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

• S. Louis Rathje has been nominated to receive the *Award of Judicial Excellence* from the National Conference of State Trial Judges for his endeavors to save literally millions of dollars in income tax liability, not only for judges in Illinois, but judges in several other states. We owe him our heartfelt thanks.

• Kudos to retired Appellate Court Justice Charles W. Chapman on being honored by the Appellate Lawyers Association.

• 26 judges, including Supreme Court Justice McMorrow, and Appellate Court Justices Patrick J. Quinn and Ellis Reid gave Chicago-area high school students an insight into how the court works during the Joint Law Day celebration (IJA/Illinois Judicial Council/Cook County Bar Association).

• High School students in Lake County viewed the jail in the morning, conducted a mock trial and viewed presentations by the crime lab. A coloring contest was held for the grade school students and an essay contest for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The winners and their families came to the courthouse for an awards ceremony after the Law Day activities.

• Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans will receive the CBA's annual Earl Burrus Dickerson Award on June 6.

The award honors minority lawyers and judges who have worked to give minorities fair representation in the courts. Congratulations, Tim.

• Jesse Reyes was honored as *Person of the Year* by the Latin American Police Association on May 4.

• The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin featured Kenneth O. Wenzelman in the *In Chambers* column. We are proud of our fellow Board member.

• Congratulations on the retirement of Judge Dennis Huber, resident judge of Montgomery County, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

• 9 judges from across the state were given training as intervenors of the *Lawyers Assistance Program*. They are: Mike Caldwell, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; Chief Judge Rodney Lechwar, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; retired judges Sheila Murphy and Martha Mills; and Susan Fox Gillis, Joyce Murphy Gorman, Mike Murphy, Stuart Nudelman, Warren Wolfson.

• Jesse Reyes participated in the *Smart Choices* program (part of the Circuit Court of Cook County's traffic safety education campaign) on May 6-10 at Comiskey Park for over 1,000 Chicago-area high-school students.

• Thanks to the judges who volunteered for *Justice at Work* day May 31 across Cook County.

• Retired Judge Martha Mills will be honored at a CBA Alliance for Women luncheon on May 21.

• The *Red Mass* will be offered on October 6 at Holy Name Cathedral, followed by brunch at Loyola Law School. The cost is \$35. For further info contact Judge Reyes.