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President's Message

As the year closes, we can reflect on the events that have occurred. Some of them have certainly brought smiles to our faces while others have pained our hearts. Any problems we have had personally, I hope, seem small by comparison to those that have made headlines in our papers and our news shows.

My wish for my friends on the bench is that this coming year will bring us peace, health, happiness and contentment.

The Illinois Judges Association strives to continue in its work on behalf of the judges of the state of Illinois. Your membership is the foundation of our organization. The membership roll allows all to know that the IJA, as an organization, speaks for the judges of our state. Your dues allow us to remain an organization dedicated to the improvement of our court system and the education of its users as to who judges are and what they do. If you are already a member, please don't forget to send in your membership dues. If you are not yet a member, please join us. Ann Jorgensen, the incoming president of the IJA, her Executive Committee and Task Force are poised to begin 2003 and make it one of the brightest years for judges in our state. I wish to thank the Appellate Court Justices, Chief Judges of the State of Illinois and many of the Presiding and Supervising Judges in Cook County who have helped bring this Newsletter to all the judges that serve on our courts. Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Happenings...

- Congratulations to Judge **Jane Stuart** on her election as President of the Illinois Judicial Council.
- The President of the Illinois Judges Association was invited to the Justinian Society and the Sicilian American Cultural Association's luncheon honoring retired Chief Justice **Moses Harrison II** whereupon Justice Harrison received a *Plaque of Commendation* and the Sicilian American Cultural Association's *Medal of Honor*.
- The President of the Illinois Judges Association was seated at the dais with other dignitaries at the Justinian Society's Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers where Judge **Joseph Casciato** received the *Man of the Year Award*.
- Congrats to Judges **Ron Davis** from Cook County on receiving *The Honorable John Powers Crowley Award* and **Robert Anderson** from the 18th Circuit on receiving the *Gratitude Award* from LAP.
- Congrats to retired Judge **Willie Whiting** upon receiving the *Pioneer in Justice Award* from the Black Women Lawyers Association. Judge Whiting has truly been an inspiration to many in her role as judge and mentor.
- Congrats to Justice **Themis Karnezis** and Judge **Dorothy Kirie Kinnaid** on being recognized for their service to the bar and the court system by the Hellenic Bar Association.
- Judge **Stephen Mathers** is one of five judges involved in a pilot project using computer links in conference phone system to conduct hearings via the internet. This is an ISBA sponsored initiative.
- The IJA/ISBA will present a seminar on Supreme Court Rule 63A(8) and (9), as well as Supreme Court Rule 8.4 regulating attorneys' conduct. On the panel will be Chief Justice **Mary Ann McMorro**, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, **Timothy Evans**, and Judges **Stuart Nudelman**, President of the IJA, and **Nancy Katz**. The Seminar will take place on Friday, December 13 between 11 and 12 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel.
- Judge **Susan Fox Gillis** was recently sworn in a President of the Lawyers Assistance Program. Judge Gillis takes over the position from retired Judge **Sheila Murphy**.
- Justice **Robert Chapman Buckley** was praised by members of the bar and bench at a recent surprise retirement reception in Chicago.
- Incoming President **Ann Jorgensen** recently spoke at the DuPage Association of Women Lawyers at their annual advocacy seminar.

Haven't made reservations for the Annual Convention Luncheon or Run For Justice on Friday, December 13th? Call or e-mail the Association at the number or e-mail address below.