

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2001

JUSTICE KILBRIDE TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT AWARDS BANQUET

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court will be the featured speaker at a Pre-Law Awards Banquet at Illinois State University (ISU) on Sunday, April 8. The banquet will be held in the Bone Student Center's Circus Room.

Hosted by the university's College of Arts and Sciences and the Attorneys Advisory Council of Illinois, event organizers said this first-ever banquet will provide an opportunity for ISU attorney alumni to interact with ISU pre-law students to mentor, advise and socialize.

Justice Kilbride attended Illinois State University for one year as part of his undergraduate education.

The banquet starts at 5:30 p.m. The Bone Student Center is located at the corner of College Avenue and University Street in Bloomington.

Justice Kilbride will give the keynote address.

Illinois Appellate Court Justice James A. Knecht of Bloomington will receive the Attorneys Advisory Council Distinguished Service Award. Other awards will be presented to students recognizing academic and leadership excellence.

Justice Kilbride, 47, was elected to the Court in November, 2000 from the Third Judicial District which is composed of 21 Illinois counties.

He was born in LaSalle, raised in Kankakee and graduated from Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee. He received his B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., and his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington D.C. in 1981. While in law school, Justice Kilbride completed judicial internships for the administrative assistant to the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and for U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Hens Green.

Before ascending to the High Court, Justice Kilbride practiced law for 20 years in the Rock Island area, the last seven as a sole practitioner in general practice, including appeals, environmental law, employment matters and general civil and criminal matters. He has been counsel for the cities of Silvis and Moline, 17 township governments and several other local units of government.

From 1981 to 1987, Justice Kilbride practiced as a Legal Aid attorney with Prairie State Services, providing legal services to low-income clients on matters involving employment, housing, domestic violence, family law and federal benefits.

He is past president of the Illinois Township Attorneys Association; a charter member and past vice president of the Illinois Pro Bono Center; and a past member of the Local Government Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association.

Justice Kilbride has represented several environmental organizations, including the Izaak Walton League of Illinois. He represented citizens in opposition to landfills in Hancock, Henry, Macon Rock Island and Wayne counties.

He was a volunteer lawyer for the Childrens' Disability Project and an organizer for the United Farm Workers in Chicago and San Diego.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jay Groves at Illinois State University at 309/438-5743 or Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323)