

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2001

JUSTICE KILBRIDE TO SPEAK AT LAW DAY LUNCHEON

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court will be the featured speaker at a Law Day luncheon on Friday, May 4. The luncheon will be held at the Deer Park Country Club.

The luncheon starts at noon. Deer Park Country Club is located at 100 Deer Park Lane in Oglesby.

Hosted by the LaSalle County Bar Association, the luncheon is one of several activities to celebrate Law Day. This year's Law Day theme is "Celebrate Your Freedom".

The annual Law Day observation, now in its 44th year, provides members of the legal community with a special opportunity to promote greater understanding and appreciation of the law and the legal system. As part of the day's celebration, LaSalle County Bar Association members will hold presentations on legal issues and conduct mock trials at local schools Friday morning.

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 Todd Martin at the LaSalle County Bar Association at 815/223-0111 or Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323)