

**For Immediate Release
December 13, 2001**

JUSTICE FITZGERALD TO SPEAK AT SUPREME COURT DINNER

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald will be the featured speaker at the annual Illinois Supreme Court dinner co-hosted by the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association on Friday, December 14. The event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Chicago.

The dinner is held in conjunction with the midyear meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association. Justice Fitzgerald will talk about the process and responsibility of being a Supreme Court Justice, with an emphasis on the importance of dissent.

The reception will get under way at 6 p.m., with dinner being served at 7 p.m. and Justice Fitzgerald is scheduled to speak at 8:30 p.m. The event will occupy Ballrooms 8, 9 and 10 at the Sheraton Hotel, which is located at 301 East North Water Street.

Justice Fitzgerald was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court for the First Judicial District in November, 2000. Before that time he served as the presiding judge of Cook County's Criminal Courts, starting in 1989. When he was first elected to the bench in 1976, he was the youngest Cook County judge.

The son of a circuit court judge, Justice Fitzgerald began his own career in the law as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He is a native of Chicago and attended Loyola University before enlisting in the United States Army. Following his tour of duty in the Navy, he graduated with honors from The John Marshall Law School.

He has served as a law professor at The John Marshall Law School and Chicago-Kent College of Law, and also received the Kogan Media Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

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He served as chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committee on Capital Cases, president of the Illinois Judges Association, along with being on the State Supreme Court's Planning and Oversight Committee for Judicial Performance Review.