

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2009

**JUSTICE KILBRIDE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM
LEWIS UNIVERSITY**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will be honored and will receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Lewis University during the 2009 Winter Commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, December 19 at 4 p.m.

Justice Kilbride will be the recipient of the Doctorate of Humanities during Saturday's Graduate Ceremony that will be held in the University's Student Recreation and Fitness Center at its main campus in Romeoville.

"The University is honored to recognize Justice Kilbride for his ten years of distinguished service as a highly-respected member of the Supreme Court of Illinois and as an accomplished attorney and advocate for the poor," said Lewis University President Brother James Gaffney, FSC.

Justice Kilbride, who grew up in Kankakee, received his B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from Saint Mary's in 1978; 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.

Justice Kilbride was elected to the Supreme Court in November 2000 from the Third Judicial District. He recently was named Judge of the Year by the Illinois Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an organization of civil trial lawyers comprised of an equal number of well-respected plaintiff and defense attorneys.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Kilbride practiced law for 20 years in Rock Island, engaging in the general practice of law, including appeals, environmental law, labor law, employment matters and other general civil and criminal matters.

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

MORE

**Justice Kilbride to Receive Honorary Doctorate Degree
Add One**

He had been counsel for cities, townships and other local units of government. He was admitted to practice in the United States District Court of Central Illinois and the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justice Kilbride serves as the Court's liaison to several important Supreme Court committees and the Lawyers Trust Fund. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association; past president of the Illinois Township Attorneys Association; and a past board member of the Illinois Pro Bono Center. For nearly two decades, he was a volunteer legal advisor to the Community Caring Conference; he also assisted the Quad-City Harvest, Inc.; the Children's Disability Project; and in organizing an interfaith coalition of church and community organizations in the Quad Cities area.

The Third Judicial District is comprised of 21 Illinois counties straddling Interstate 80 from Indiana to Iowa. Those counties are: Will, Iroquois, Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, Bureau, Whiteside, Henry, Stark, Peoria, Fulton, Knox, Tazewell, Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, Hancock and McDonough.

–30–

**(FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois
Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**