

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 29, 2001

**JUSTICE THOMAS L. KILBRIDE HONORED GUEST AT KANKAKEE  
DINNER**

Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court will be the honored guest and featured speaker at a dinner Friday, March 30, at the Kankakee Country Club sponsored by the Kankakee County Bar Association and Prairie State Legal Services.

Justice Kilbride, whose broad legal experience includes seven years as a legal aid attorney with Prairie State Legal Services, will be available for media questions at a press conference scheduled for 5 p.m., preceding dinner. Please keep in mind that Court rules may prohibit Justice Kilbride from commenting on some matters.

The evening starts with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$40 per person and tickets will be available at the door. The Kankakee Country Club is located at 2011 Cobb Boulevard in Kankakee.

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.

Prairie State Legal Services is a not-for-profit corporation that provides legal help at no charge to senior citizens and low income persons in 30 counties in northern and central Illinois. Joseph A. Dailing, its executive director, may be contacted at 815-965-2134; Mike O'Connor, managing attorney of the Kankakee office, may be reached at 815-935-2750.