

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 11, 2001

**CHIEF JUSTICE HARRISON TO BE HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED  
LAW ALUMNI AWARD**

Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II of the Illinois Supreme Court will be honored Friday, October 12 when he is presented with the 2001 Distinguished Law Alumni Award from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

Chief Justice Harrison, who received his juris doctor from Washington University in 1958, is being honored not only for his professional achievements but for his contributions to the community and to the legal profession.

Recipients of the Distinguished Law Alumni Award are known for their “characteristics of leadership, progressive-thinking, high standards, uncompromising integrity, commitment, courage and confidence,” the program notes.

The award will be conferred at the annual law alumni dinner which begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel at 100 Carondolet Plaza in Clayton, Mo.

Justice Harrison was elected chief of the seven-member Illinois Supreme Court by his colleagues in November 1999 for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2000. Under his tenure, the Court has been in the forefront of encouraging lawyers to give more time representing the indigent and needy, adopted ground-breaking rules to help ensure and improve the fair administration of justice in capital cases, and worked to make Illinois a model for other states in judicial education.

He is known for taking unpopular stances, and suggested a stop to executions in Illinois 11 months before Illinois Gov. George Ryan announced his moratorium. He has written that the Illinois death penalty is unconstitutional because it is inevitable that an innocent person will be put to death.

**MORE**

When he was awarded the Humanitarian Award by the East St. Louis Chapter of the NAACP last October, Chief Justice Harrison was lauded for displaying a commitment “to defend the poor, the weak and the young against powerful corporate and governmental interests.”

Chief Justice Harrison also is the recipient of the Justinian Society Award of Excellence and the Illinois State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Award.

Chief Justice Harrison, 69, was born in Collinsville and educated in Collinsville public schools. He received his undergraduate degree from Colorado College before entering Washington University School of Law.

He practiced law in East St. Louis and Collinsville, Illinois. In 1973, he was appointed Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court and was subsequently elected in 1974 to that position. At the time of his appointment, he was senior partner in the law firm of Harrison, Rarick and Cadagin in Collinsville.

In 1979, Chief Justice Harrison was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Appellate Court. He was elected in 1980 and was retained by the voters in 1990 as an Appellate Judge. He served two terms as presiding judge of the Fifth District Appellate Court. He also served one term as chairman of the Illinois Appellate Court and on numerous Supreme Court committees.

Chief Justice Harrison has been a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Metropolitan Bar Association, the Tri-City Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association, American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, Justinian Society of Lawyers and the Illinois Judges Association.

He is a former senior warden of Christ Episcopal Church of Collinsville and a member of the Vestry. He has long shown a commitment to his community, having served as city councilman and as finance commissioner. He was a member of the Board of the Collinsville Lions Club and an officer of the Maryville Colonial Nursing Home.

He and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, Clarence and Luke, and four grandchildren, Sarah, Lauren, Jacob and Rachel.