

**For Immediate Release  
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## **CHIEF JUSTICE NOTES ANOTHER YEAR OF COURT PRODUCTIVITY**

Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II of the Illinois Supreme Court on Thursday released statistics showing another year of high productivity by the Court in the number of opinions issued and the number of cases resolved.

“This is a Court that is working very hard to improve the administration of justice and to decide cases fairly,” Chief Justice Harrison said.

For the calendar year ending December 31, the Court filed 111 opinions and disposed 130 cases, including cases that were consolidated. Three other cases were dismissed by Court order, putting the final count of cases disposed of at 133. The number does not include the number of concurring or dissenting opinions written by justices.

In 2000, the Court filed 127 opinions, disposing of 144 cases. In 1999, the Court filed 91 opinions, disposing of 104 cases.

Chief Justice Harrison heralded the Court, particularly in view of the fact that four justices were new to the bench.

“Although we have four new members on the Court, this hasn’t slowed down our productivity in any way,” Chief Justice Harrison said. “To think they (new justices) had to set up offices, start from scratch, interview and hire staff and read all of the briefs...what they have done is remarkable.”

Three of the newest members of the Court were sworn in Dec. 4, 2000 and heard their first oral arguments during the January 2001 term. They are: Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald of the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District; Justice Robert R. Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District; and Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District.

They replaced retired Justices Michael A. Bilandic from the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District; James D. Heiple from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District; and S. Louis Rathje of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District who was appointed in December 1998.

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## **Chief Justice Notes Court Productivity**

Justice Rita B. Garman of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, the newest member of the Court, was appointed to the Court effective February 1, 2001. She replaced Justice Benjamin K. Miller who retired January 29, 2001.