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**CHIEF JUSTICE MOSES W. HARRISON TO RETIRE FROM ILLINOIS
SUPREME COURT**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II announced Monday that he was retiring from the Illinois Supreme Court effective September 4.

On the first day of the Court's May term, Chief Justice Harrison told his colleagues in Springfield that he was retiring because of "personal reasons."

"It has been my great honor and privilege to serve 29 years as a judge in Illinois," Chief Justice Harrison said. "I have had the opportunity to be associated with many jurists of outstanding character and ability who were completely dedicated to their work and who were a true inspiration to me.

"I have enjoyed all of my public service," said Chief Justice Harrison, "but my most recent service on the Supreme Court of Illinois has been my most satisfying."

The Court also announced Monday that it has appointed Justice Philip J. Rarick, of the Appellate Court of Illinois in Chief Justice Harrison's Fifth District, to fill Chief Justice Harrison's vacancy on the Court.

Chief Justice Harrison's three-year tenure as Chief Justice was to run until Dec. 31, 2002. It was uncertain Monday who will fill the Chief Justice's position in the interim after his retirement becomes effective.

"I am deeply honored and I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court of Illinois, and I'm greatly honored to follow Chief Justice Harrison whom I've known and been associated with for over 35 years," said Justice Rarick. "His are big shoes to fill, and I just don't mean size 11 or 12. He's a great man and a great jurist."

The appointment of Justice Rarick terminates December 6, 2004. He said Monday that at this time his intentions are to run for election to a full 10-year term in the year 2004.

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Chief Justice Harrison was elected to the Supreme Court in 1992 and was to run for retention to a second 10-year term this November. He had served on the Illinois Appellate Court of the Third District and the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit since 1973. Before that, he was in private practice in East St. Louis and in Collinsville.

During his tenure on the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Harrison has been cited for demonstrating a commitment to justice and human welfare, writing either in the majority or dissent, to defend the poor, the weak, the young and the elderly against corporate or governmental policies which went against their interests.

In November 1998, Chief Justice Harrison wrote a dissenting opinion in which he said he believed the Illinois death penalty was unconstitutional because “the execution of an innocent person is inevitable.”

Three months later, Death Row inmate Anthony Porter was exonerated and released when another man admitted that he committed the two slayings for which Porter had been convicted.

In October 2000, Chief Justice Harrison was honored with the Humanitarian Award by the East St. Louis Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is the highest award a local chapter may confer. The organization presented the award to Chief Justice Harrison, citing his constitutional stance on the Illinois death penalty and for “his persevering commitment to justice and human welfare.”

There are some who say Chief Justice Harrison was the first to call for a stop to executions in Illinois. In February 1999 – eleven months before Gov. George Ryan announced his moratorium – Chief Justice Harrison issued a public statement noting that the governor had the constitutional power to grant a reprieve to stop executions and that a moratorium could be achieved by invoking that authority in every case that came before the governor.

“Chief Justice Harrison took an unpopular stance when he didn’t have to,” noted the Rev. Johnny Scott, then president of the NAACP East St. Louis chapter. “In addition to showing courage, when you take an unpopular stance like that it shows he cares for people. He made his pronouncements on the death penalty unashamedly, unabashedly and unafraid.

During his tenure as Chief Justice, the Court adopted sweeping and, in some cases, unprecedented new rules governing the conduct and trial of death penalty cases to ensure a fairer system.

Under his tenure, the Court amended its rules governing conduct by judges and attorneys to specifically prohibit discrimination based on disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

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Chief Justice Harrison was an intense advocate that lawyers volunteer time and service to represent the poor. In February 2001, he was honored with the Illinois State Bar Association's "Access to Justice" Award. In a speech accepting the award, Chief Justice Harrison challenged each Illinois attorney to give at least one hour a day in free legal services to the poor.

During his tenure, the Court also established a special Supreme Court committee to study and make recommendations on how to encourage every practicing attorney in the state to render some form of free legal work those who cannot afford it.

Chief Justice Harrison also was an advocate of educating citizens about the courts. He was the guiding force behind the establishment by the Court and the Illinois Judges Association of the Illinois Judicial Speakers Bureau, which attempts to match judges from around the state with requests from community groups for speakers.

Chief Justice Harrison, 70, was born in Collinsville and educated in Collinsville public schools, and said his beliefs were forged in his small-town southern Illinois upbringing. He was the son of a dentist and a registered nurse. He said he emerged from Collinsville with the philosophy that "The reason for our existence is to help other people.

"I also learned that the way you should judge people is how they treat the other people around on a day-to-day basis."

He received his undergraduate degree from Colorado College, and law degree from Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis in 1958.

After the private practice of law, he was appointed as a circuit judge in 1973 by the Illinois Supreme Court and was elected in 1974 to that position.

In 1979, Chief Justice Harrison was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Appellate Court, Fifth District, in Mt. Vernon. He was elected in 1980 and was retained by the voters in 1990 as an Appellate Judge. During his serve on the Illinois Appellate Court, he served two terms as presiding judge of the Fifth District Appellate Court. He also served on term as chairman of the Illinois Appellate Court and on numerous Supreme Court committees. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1992.

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

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Chief Justice Harrison was a former senior warden of Christ Episcopal Church of Collinsville and a member of the Vestry. He was a member of the Board of the Collinsville Lions Club and secretary of the Maryville Colonial Nursing Home. His family includes his wife, Sharon, his two sons, Clarence and Luke, and his four grandchildren: Sarah, Lauren, Jacob and Rachel.

Justice Philip J. Rarick was born in Troy in 1940. He received his B.A. degree from Southern Illinois University and his law degree from St. Louis University. He engaged in private law practice in Collinsville from 1966 until 1975, during which time he served as attorney for the City of Collinsville, township attorney for Collinsville and Jarvis Townships, and assistant state's attorney in Madison County.

He assumed judicial office in 1975 and served as chief judge of the Third Judicial Circuit from 1985 to 1987. He also served as presiding judge of the Criminal Division in Madison County from 1982 to 1985 and from 1987 to 1988. He served as a member of the Illinois Courts Commission from 1992 through 1999, and as an alternate member from 1999 to the present. From 1987 to 2002, he served on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, and as chairman of the Complex Litigation Study Committee from 1988 through 2001. In addition, he has served on a number of other Judicial Conference committees. Justice Rarick also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges Association. He was elected to the Fifth District Appellate Court in 1988, and was retained in 1998. He has also served on the Industrial Commission Division of the Appellate Court since 1992.

Justice Rarick has participated as a faculty member for numerous education conferences and regional seminars as well as new judges' seminars. He is married and has one son and one granddaughter.