

September 24, 2002

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHIEF JUSTICE MCMORROW RECIPIENT OF THREE AWARDS**

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow will receive the 2002 Justice John Paul Stevens Award in a ceremony on Wednesday, September 25. The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton and Towers, located at 720 S. Michigan Avenue.

Chief Justice McMorrow also will receive two other awards: from the Chicago Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta during Judges' Night October 1; and from the Illinois Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates October 3.

At the urging of Justice Stevens' former law clerks, the Chicago Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Foundation established the Justice John Paul Stevens Award in 2000 to honor Chicago-area attorneys whose careers have exemplified the highest standards of the legal profession.

Justice Stevens will be the featured speaker at this year's awards ceremony, which begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m.

The Chicago chapter of Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) will honor Chief Justice McMorrow during its annual Judges' Night October 1 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Loyola University. Chief Justice McMorrow is being honored for meeting the ideals of compassion, courage, integrity and professional competence, the same ideals the fraternity is built upon. Chief Justice McMorrow was initiated into PAD in 1992, and since has served as Honorary Justice of the Chicago chapter.

The Illinois chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) will confer the "Judge of the Year" award to Chief Justice McMorrow during an awards dinner October 3 at the Metropolitan Club in the Sears Tower. She will receive a 1789 Constitution flag and a specially designed plaque commemorating the event.

Justice McMorrow became Chief Justice on September 5, the first woman to head any branch of government in Illinois, and continuing her path as a pioneer in opening up opportunities for women.

She was the only woman in her graduating class at Loyola University School of Law in 1953 and was elected class president and associate editor of the law review.

**MORE**

## **Chief Justice McMorrow**

### **Add One**

She also was the first woman to prosecute major criminal cases in the Cook County State's Attorney's office and in 1992 became the first woman elected to the Illinois Supreme Court.

In her formal installation ceremony as Chief Justice on September 9, Chief Justice McMorrow touched on her agenda for her three year tenure.

She urged further study on how to improve the death penalty process, emphasizing the importance of giving the most severe scrutiny possible to death penalty cases. She also is committed to providing legal services to the poor; ensuring expeditious proceedings in child custody and termination of parental rights; and developing the area of elder law and the investigation of elder abuse.

Chief Justice McMorrow was elected a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1976; was assigned to the Appellate Court in 1985 and was elected to that court in 1986, where she was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Appellate Court.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Medal of Excellence from the Loyola University School of Law Alumni Association; the Freedom Award from John Marshall School of Law and the Illinois State Bar Association's Fellows Award for Distinguished Service to Law and Society.

Chief Justice McMorrow is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and recipient of its highest award, the Myra Bradwell Woman of Achievement Award, named for the first woman lawyer in Illinois.

She is a member or former member of several bar associations and judicial boards and associations.

Chief Justice McMorrow was a faculty adviser at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and has often served as a faculty member at Illinois Judicial Conferences. She has lectured extensively in seminars and symposiums for judges, lawyers, social workers, psychiatrists and students, and has been active in community programs.

She is a lifelong resident of Chicago, a widow and the mother of one daughter.