

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ILLINOIS CHIEF JUSTICE THANKS CITIZENS FOR JURY SERVICE**

As the nation prepares to celebrate Law Day and Juror Appreciation Week, Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow of the Supreme Court of Illinois wishes to publicly thank all those citizens who have served the administration of justice by answering the call to sit on juries.

“A jury of one’s peers is a cornerstone of American democracy,” Chief Justice McMorrow said. “Along with voting, it is one of the primary ways people take part in the public life and government of this nation. It is important that we show our appreciation to the millions of Americans and thousands of Illinoisans who report each year at their local courthouse to report for this solemn duty.

“I publicly thank each and every one of you who has served and will serve in this very important capacity. And I thank you for all your sacrifice in doing so.”

Earlier this month, Chief Justice McMorrow and Ole Bly Pace III, president of the Illinois State Bar Association, sent letters to the presidents of more than 150 bar associations in Illinois encouraging them to make the American juror the centerpiece of their Law Day and Law Week celebrations from May 1<sup>ST</sup> through May 7<sup>TH</sup>.

Chief Justice McMorrow also has asked the Chief Judges of each of the 22 Circuit Courts in Illinois to promulgate jury appreciation events and urges them to regularly show appreciation for their sacrifice and the job that jurors perform.

For its part, the Illinois State Bar Association is distributing public service announcements to television stations and newspapers around the state, stressing the importance of serving when called to jury duty.

Law Day is an annual event typically celebrated on May 1. This year, the ABA’s Commission on the Jury has supported not only Law Day celebrations but a full week of juror appreciation events to follow.

**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, Contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323, or David Anderson, assistant executive director of the Illinois State Bar Association, at 217-525-1760)**