

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2002

**SUPREME COURT TO HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
JUSTICES WILLIAM G. CLARK AND MICHAEL A. BILANDIC**

SPRINGFIELD -- The Illinois Supreme Court will hold a memorial service in honor of the late Justices William G. Clark and Michael A. Bilandic Wednesday, May 22 at 2 p.m. in the courtroom of the Supreme Court Building in Springfield.

Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II, along with Justices Mary Ann G. McMorrow and Thomas R. Fitzgerald, will give opening remarks.

Illinois Appellate Court Justice Allen Hartman, retired Appellate Court Justice William R. Quinlan, former Senate President Philip J. Rock and attorney William G. Clark, Jr. will pay tribute to the late Justices.

“The members of the Court wanted to have this memorial in remembrance of two great men who were members of the Court, both having served the Court as Chief Justice,” said Chief Justice Harrison. “By having this ceremony we wish to honor their memory in a formal way in a formal session of the Supreme Court dedicated to them.”

William G. Clark was born in Chicago on July 16, 1924. He received his law degree from DePaul University and was admitted to the practice of law in Illinois in 1947. Justice Clark was the third generation of his family to engage in public service.

Justice Clark served in the Illinois Senate and House in the 1950s, and was Majority Leader of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in the 1960s and a member of its Platform Committee and co-author of its proposed “Peace Plank” in 1968. He was elected Illinois Attorney General in 1960 and re-elected in 1964.

From 1968 to 1976, Justice Clark was a senior partner in the law firm of Arvey, Hodes, Costello and Burman in Chicago. He was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1976 and was retained by voters in 1986. He served as chief justice from 1985 to 1988.

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During his tenure as chief justice, the Court established the Chicago branch of the Supreme Court Clerk's office and started the court-annexed mandatory arbitration for civil claims of up to \$15,000. Justice Clark's tenure as chief justice also saw the Court's adoption of a new Code of Judicial Conduct and a revised rule governing financial disclosure by judges. Justice Clark retired in December, 1992.

At the time of his death, Justice Clark was survived by his wife, Rosalie, five children and eleven grandchildren.

Michael A. Bilandic was born in Chicago on Feb. 13, 1923. He graduated from St. Mary's College in Minnesota with a B.S. degree and from DePaul University College of Law with a J.D. degree. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps during World War II on Iwo Jima.

Justice Bilandic began practicing law in Chicago in 1949. He was a member of the Chicago City Council from 1969 through 1976. He was elected Mayor of the City of Chicago in 1976 and served until 1979. He is a former Master in Chancery, Circuit Court of Cook County, and a former special assistant Illinois Attorney General. He was elected to the First District Appellate Court in 1984 where he served until his election to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1990. He served as Chief Justice from 1994 to 1997. He was a member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association.

During his tenure as chief justice, Justice Bilandic streamlined the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, which serves as the administrative arm of the Court. He encouraged the use of mandatory arbitration, increasing the efficiency of courts. His term as chief justice also saw the rewriting of important rules of discovery in trials.

While on the Supreme Court, Justice Bilandic authored more than 225 opinions and reviewed thousands of other cases in which litigants sought review by the Court.

At the time of his death, Justice Bilandic was survived by his wife, Heather, and his son, Michael.

Justice Clark passed away on August 17, 2001; Justice Bilandic passed away on January 15, 2002.

A reception for the Clark and Bilandic families will be held following the memorial service.