

Daniel P. Ward, former chief justice of Illinois

By Kenan Helse

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Daniel P. Ward, 76, former chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and from 1960 to 1966 state's attorney of Cook County, had been dean of the DePaul University Law School and a professor there before entering political life.

A resident of Westchester, he died Sunday in Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood.

"Law mirrors our society," he once said, "and all of the tremendously complex problems and issues eventually get to us [in the Illinois Supreme Court] in one form or another.

"It is this mirroring that at once makes our work both fascinating and difficult. . . ."

In 1960, when Mayor Richard J. Daley needed a man with a reputation for integrity to challenge Republican Cook County State's Atty. Ben Adamowski, his choice was Ward, then the scholarly dean of DePaul's law school.

Politicians were amazed to discover the zest with which he entered the political fray, often being the last to leave a campaign rally.

He was elected and was chosen the "nation's outstanding prosecutor" in 1964 by the National District Attorneys Association. He was re-elected state's attorney that same year by the widest margin of any county Democrat.

He resigned in 1966 to accept the

Democratic nomination to the Supreme Court and in 1975, his colleagues on the high court voted him chief justice.

Among the decisions he authored was the 1985 ruling that upheld laws that banned night baseball at Wrigley Field.

He was chief justice from 1976 to 1979 and retired in 1991.

Justice Ward was remembered by Michael Bilandic, now chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, as "a great teacher and a warm human being." Bilandic, who succeeded him on the Illinois Supreme Court, was a student when Justice Ward taught at DePaul University.

Justice Ward worked his way through law school at DePaul, where he graduated in 1941.

Returning from his service with the 41st combat engineers in World War II, he became a member of the DePaul Law School faculty in 1947.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; three daughters, Mary Jane Bailey, Susan Dombro and Elizabeth Collins; a son, Circuit Judge John Ward; and eight grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home Inc., 10501 Cermak Rd., Westchester.

Mass for Justice Ward will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Divine Providence Catholic Church, 2550 S. Mayfair Ave., Westchester.