

Ex-state Chief Justice Thomas Moran

By Kenan Heise

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Thomas J. Moran, 75, former chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, served as a judge of the Appellate Court, the Circuit Court and Probate Court as well as state's attorney for Lake County. He was on the state Supreme Court from 1976 to 1992 and was chief justice from 1988 through 1990.

A resident of Lake Forest, he died Thursday in Lake Forest Hospital.

A Tribune article at the time of his retirement from the Supreme Court noted: "As a young boy growing up in Waukegan, Thomas Moran used to bring cigarettes to prisoners in the Lake County Jail. As an adult, he has brought justice, not only to prisoners but also to common folk all over Illinois."

He credited his grandfather, Thomas Tyrrell, with "starting me on the straight and narrow."

His grandfather, who helped raise Justice Moran after his father left, was a chief of police in Waukegan and later the Lake County jailkeeper.



Thomas J. Moran in 1993

Justice Moran, who was elected state's attorney in 1956, led a crusade to eliminate slot machines from Lake County. He was appointed probate judge in 1958. In 1961, he was elected a Circuit Court judge and subsequently was made chief judge.

From 1964 to 1976, he was on the Appellate Court of the 2nd Dis-

trict, being chosen its presiding judge before being elected to the Supreme Court in 1976.

Speaking of his judicial duties, he said in 1979, "Just because my name is on an opinion doesn't mean I feel that way inside. You've really got to be objective. You're supposed to follow the law. That is the noble thing."

He was past chairman of the American Bar Association's Judicial Administration Division Committee on Technology and the Courts.

He is a past instructor for New York University Law School seminars conducted for state supreme court justices and federal appellate court judges.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane; three daughters, Avis Lennarson, Kathleen Litz and Jane Smythe; a son, Thomas (Tim); 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday in Wenban Funeral Home, 320 E. Vine Ave., Lake Forest.

Mass for Justice Moran will be said at 10 a.m. Monday in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest.