

## **An Interview with Moses Harrison II Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission**

Moses Harrison II practiced law in Collinsville, Illinois before becoming a circuit judge, an appellate court justice, and an Illinois Supreme Court justice from Illinois's Fifth District. He served as Chief Justice from 2000 to 2002.

Interview Date:  
June 30, 2010

Interview Location:  
Home of Moses Harrison II, Caseyville, Illinois

Interview Format:  
Digital Video

Interviewer:  
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## **Abstract**

### **Moses Harrison II**

#### Biographical:

Moses Harrison was born in Collinsville, Illinois on March 30, 1932. He graduated from Colorado College in 1954 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. After a year off from school, he went to law school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, graduating in 1958. Harrison immediately began practicing law in Collinsville as a general practice attorney. He married his wife Sharon in 1961. After fifteen years of practicing law, he accepted an appointment as judge of the Third Judicial Circuit in 1973 and won election the following year. In 1979, he accepted an appointment to the Fifth District Appellate Court and won election the following year. In 1992, he won the election for Illinois Supreme Court for the Fifth District. He served as chief justice from 2000 to 2002, when he retired from the court. He currently lives in Caseyville, Illinois.

#### Topics Covered:

Growing up in Collinsville in 1930s and 40s; Great Depression; World War II; Collinsville High School Basketball team and state tournament; Colorado College; Organizing with Teamsters; Law School at Washington University; McCarthyism; Private practice cases; Car bombing of law partner; Circuit Judge and cases; Appellate Judge and cases; Election to Illinois Supreme Court; Illinois Supreme Court Building; Dissenting opinions: *First Springfield Bank v. Galman*, *Barnett v. Zion Park District*, *Spritzma v. Mercury Marine*; Justice James Heiple; Death Penalty, *People v. Kokoraleis*, *People v. Bull*; Death Penalty moratorium and clemency; General Observations on Judiciary.

#### Note:

Readers of this oral history should note that this is a transcript of the spoken word. The interviewer, interviewee, and editor attempt to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the oral history, nor for the views expressed therein.