

Veteran Justice Thomas E. Kluczynski

By Kenan Heise

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Justice Thomas E. Kluczynski, 90, served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1966 to 1976 and from 1978 to 1980.

A resident of East Lake Shore Drive, he died Monday in Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Prior to his term on the state Supreme Court, Justice Kluczynski had been a judge in Cook County, where he had presided over Family Court and had been chief justice of Criminal Court and later of the Circuit Court.

From 1964 to 1966, he served on the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District, First Division.

A native of Chicago, Justice Kluczynski graduated cum laude in 1927 from the University of Chicago Law School. He was a general practitioner, specializing in trial work until 1948 when he was made a commissioner of the Illinois Industrial Commission.

In 1950, Gov. Adlai Stevenson appointed him to fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was selected chief justice of Criminal Court in 1951, served as head of Juvenile (Family) Court in



Thomas E. Kluczynski in 1970.

1952 and 1953 and as chief justice of the Circuit Court.

He subsequently was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, and served 10 years before retiring in 1976. He returned to private law practice but was selected by the members of the court in 1978 to fill out two years of a vacancy cre-

ated by the death of Justice James A. Dooley.

"He was a very enjoyable companion and had a great sense of humor," former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon said. "I am honored that I replaced him on the court. He and his family contributed a great deal to ... this state."

His wife, Melanie, was a longtime member of the board of the Chicago Public Library.

Justice Kluczynski was named man of the year in 1974 by the United Polish-American Council. His late brother, John, after whom the Kluczynski Federal Building is named, was a longtime U.S. congressman.

Survivors, besides his wife, include a son, Thomas Jr.; six daughters, Diane Calderon, Nancy Millichap, Cynthia Haviland, Karen Lullo, Janet and Marisia Touche; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Blake-Lamb Funeral Home, 1035 N. Dearborn St.

Mass for Justice Kluczynski will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Holy Name Cathedral, Superior and State Streets.