## ABNER J. MIKVA Circuit Judge U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Abner J. Mikva was sworn in as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on September 27, 1979.

Prior to his appointment as a Judge, Mikva served in the United States Congress for five terms, representing portions of Chicago and its suburbs. As a freshman Congressman, he was appointed to the Brown Commission which provided the main impetus for efforts to recodify the criminal laws of the United States. Judge Mikva served on both the Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees while in Congress; he was Chairman of the Democratic Study Group which consisted of over 250 House Democrats.

Judge Mikva started his political career in 1956 in the Illinois House of Representatives -- serving five consecutive terms. He was Chairman of the Illinois Judiciary Committee, and helped enact a new criminal code for Illinois, as well as a new mental health code, consumer credit reforms, and improvements in judicial administration.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Judge Mikva served in the Army in World War II. He received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1951, graduating cum laude. He was editor-in-chief of the Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif, the national legal honor society. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was selected as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton. After his clerkship in Washington, he returned to Illinois where he entered law practice, becoming a partner of Justice Arthur Goldberg. His practice included extensive litigation and appellate work, as well as matters before various administrative agencies.

While he was out of the U.S. Congress for one term (1972-74), Judge Mikva returned to the law practice, and also served as Chairman of the Illinois Ethics Board. He has taught courses in "The Legislative Process" at Northwestern University School of Law and at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is currently teaching that course at Georgetown Law School. Judge Mikva is the co-author of a political science textbook on the Congress entitled "The American Congress: The First Branch."

Judge Mikva has been given the University of Chicago Alumni Professional Achievement Award. He also has received the "Excellence in Politics Award" from the Committee on Illinois Government for his years of public service. He was on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, the Institute for Psychoanalysis, and the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association.

As a member of the American Bar Association, Judge Mikva is Chair-Elect of the Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities and has been on the Governing Council of the Section on Litigation. He is a member of the American Judicature Society, the Chicago Bar Association, and the District of Columbia Bar. He also serves on the Committee on the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Judicial Conference.

Judge Mikva's wife, Zoe, is a businesswoman in Washington. They have three daughters: Mary (a lawyer), Laurie (a lawyer), and Rachel (a rabbinical student).