

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES EDITORIAL PAGE

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Augustine J. Bowe

Long before he was elected chief justice of the Chicago Municipal Court in 1960, Augustine J. Bowe was a well-known and respected pillar of society. His civic interests were broad, ranging from the Commission on Chicago Architectural Landmarks to the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, both of which he headed. While still a law student at Loyola University he was an early guarantor of Poetry magazine, founded by Harriet Monroe in 1912 and to which he contributed verse. After Miss Monroe's death in 1936, he helped found the Modern Poetry Assn. to keep the magazine going and was president of it.

Judge Bowe was asked by the Democrats in 1960 to run, at the age of 68, for chief justice. The municipal court was in disrepute because of traffic and bail bond

scandals. Bowe, a former president of the Chicago Bar Assn., was slated as a "blue ribbon" candidate to restore its reputation.

Judge Bowe, a humanitarian as well as lawyer, was outspoken and uninhibited as administrator of the court. He pushed many reforms, particularly concerning bail bonds. He bore down heavily on slum landlords. He drew criticism, in which we joined, for a seemingly tolerant attitude toward youngsters who steal cars for joy rides, but characteristically he did not retreat. A week ago, interviewed by Sun-Times reporter D. J. R. Bruckner he declared wage garnishments should be abolished as they have been in England.

For more than 50 years Judge Bowe served his community. He was a decent man with the courage of his convictions.