

Appellate Court Judges

1st District, 1st Division



John C. Griffin

John C. Griffin received his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. He was in private practice for 31 years and then appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2008. After three years in the Mortgage Foreclosure Section of the Chancery Division, he was assigned to the Commercial Calendar Section of the Law Division. From 2013 to 2018, he was the supervising judge of the Commercial Calendar Section. In May 2018, Judge Griffin was appointed to the Appellate Court.

Mary L. Mikva

Mary L. Mikva graduated from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in 1980. Following graduation, she was a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court. As an attorney, she practiced criminal and employment law. She worked in private practice and also for the city of Chicago. Judge Mikva was elected to the bench in 2004 and assigned to the Appellate Court in July 2016.



Daniel J. Pierce

Daniel J. Pierce was born in 1947. He received his B.S. in finance and his J.D. from DePaul University. He was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2008 and elected to the court in 2010. Judge Pierce was assigned to the Appellate Court in February 2013.



Carl A. Walker

Carl A. Walker is a native Chicagoan who was born and raised in the Englewood Community. He earned his B.S. in accounting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he served on the Iowa Law Review. Judge Walker is a certified public accountant. He was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2006. He served in the Law Division prior to his assignment to the Appellate Court in 2018.



1st District, 2nd Division



Michael B. Hyman

Michael B. Hyman graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and School of Law. A former Chicago Bar Association president, he served as an assistant attorney general before entering private practice. He was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2006 and elected to the court in 2008. Judge Hyman was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2013.

Terrence J. Lavin

Terrence J. Lavin was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. He received his B.S. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. Judge Lavin was a civil trial lawyer in Chicago for 27 years before being appointed to the Appellate Court in 2010. He was elected to the court in 2012.



Mary Anne Mason

Mary Anne Mason earned her B.A. from Boston College and her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She was a judicial law clerk, an assistant U.S. attorney and in private practice prior to her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2000. She was elected to the court in 2002, serving in the Chancery Division from 2004 to 2013. Judge Mason was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2013.



Aurelia Pucinski

Aurelia Pucinski is a native of Chicago. She received her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law and served as a circuit judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County from 2004 to 2010. Judge Pucinski was elected to the Appellate Court in 2010.





Cynthia Y. Cobbs

Cynthia Y. Cobbs was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her undergraduate degree from Morgan State University in 1972, received her master's from the University of Maryland in 1978 and graduated from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1988. She served as senior judicial law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Freeman from 1990 until joining the legal staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in 1997. The Supreme Court appointed her to serve as its administrative director in 2002. In 2011, she was appointed to serve as a Cook County Circuit Court judge and was elected to full term in 2014. Judge Cobbs was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2015.

David W. Ellis

David W. Ellis began his career specializing in commercial litigation, constitutional law and voting rights. He has served as chief counsel to the Speaker of the Illinois House, and in 2009, he was the house prosecutor who tried and convicted Gov. Blagojevich in the Impeachment Trial before the Illinois Senate. Over his career, he has litigated several constitutional issues of first impression in Illinois. Judge Ellis was elected to the Appellate Court in 2014.



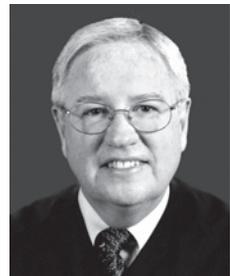
Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr.



Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. received his bachelor's from Loyola University Chicago and his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1998 and retained in 2004. Judge Howse was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and elected to the court in 2012.

James G. Fitzgerald Smith

James G. Fitzgerald Smith was born in Chicago in 1943. He attended Marquette University, The John Marshall Law School and the U.S. Army War College. He was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1989 and elected to the court in 1994. He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army Reserve in 1996. Judge Fitzgerald Smith was elected to the Appellate Court in 2002 and retained in 2012.





Robert E. Gordon

Robert E. Gordon was born in Chicago in 1937. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. He was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1996 and later elected to the court and retained. He was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2006 and has served as presiding judge of the 1st, 5th and 6th Divisions. On Sept. 1, 2015, Judge Gordon was appointed to serve as chair of the Executive Committee, serving until Aug. 31, 2016.

Margaret Stanton McBride

Margaret Stanton McBride received her J.D. from DePaul Law School. She was appointed an associate judge in 1987 and elected a Cook County Circuit Court judge in 1990. She served in the Municipal, Criminal, Law and Chancery divisions, and as presiding judge of the 3rd Municipal District. Judge McBride was elected to the Appellate Court in 1998 and retained in 2008 and 2018.



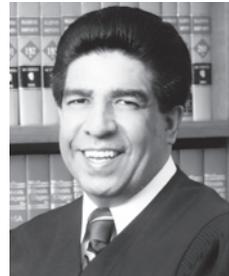
Eileen O'Neill Burke

Eileen O'Neill Burke earned her B.A. from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1987 and her law degree from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1990. She worked as a Cook County state's attorney for 10 years and then had her own practice focusing on criminal defense until her election to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2008. Judge Burke served in the Law Division until her election to the Appellate Court in 2016.



Jesse G. Reyes

Jesse G. Reyes received his B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He has been a member of the judiciary since 1997, serving both as an associate judge and an elected judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Reyes was elected to the Appellate Court in 2012.



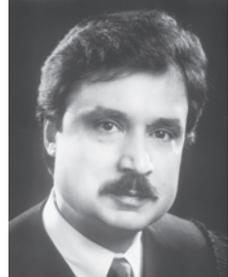


Shelvin L.M. Hall

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall was born in 1948. She received her B.A. from Hampton University and her J.D. from Boston University School of Law. She was appointed a circuit judge to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1991 and elected to the court in 1992. Judge Hall was assigned to the Appellate Court in 1999, elected to the court in 2000 and retained in 2010.

Thomas E. Hoffman

Thomas E. Hoffman was born in 1947 in Chicago. He received his B.B.A. from Loyola University Chicago and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He was appointed an associate judge in 1984 and elected a circuit judge in 1988. Judge Hoffman was assigned to the Appellate Court in 1993, elected to the court in 1994 and retained in 2004.



Bertina E. Lampkin

Bertina E. Lampkin received her B.A. from Roosevelt University and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. She served as an associate judge from 1987 to 1992, serving as assistant supervisor of Traffic Court, and as a circuit court judge from 1992 to 2009, serving as supervisor of the Criminal Division and the Domestic Violence Courts. Judge Lampkin was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and elected in 2016.



Mary K. Rochford

Mary K. Rochford is a lifelong resident of Cook County and graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School. She has been a member of the judiciary since 1991, serving as both an associate judge and an elected judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Rochford was elected to the Appellate Court in 2010.





Maureen E. Connors

Maureen E. Connors was born in Chicago. She received her J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. She became an associate judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1988. She was elected a circuit judge in 1994 and retained in 2000 and 2006. Judge Connors was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2010 and elected to the court in 2012.

Joy V. Cunningham

Joy V. Cunningham received her law degree from The John Marshall Law School. She served as a circuit judge and an assistant attorney general and practiced many years in the private sector. She was the first African-American woman president of the Chicago Bar Association. Judge Cunningham was elected to the Appellate Court in 2006.



Mathias W. Delort

Mathias W. Delort earned a B.S. in mathematics from DePaul University, an M.P.A. from the University of Illinois and a J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. Before becoming a judge, he was an attorney specializing in local government and election law. Judge Delort served in the Chancery Division of the Cook County Circuit Court from 2007 until his election to the Appellate Court in 2012.



Sheldon A. Harris

Sheldon A. Harris was born in Chicago. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Arizona at Tucson, where he received his B.S., and earned his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. Judge Harris served as a circuit judge on the Cook County Circuit Court from 2000 to 2010, when he was assigned to the Appellate Court. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 2014.



2nd District

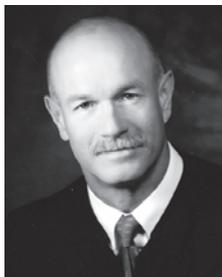


Joseph E. Birkett

Joseph E. Birkett was born in Chicago in 1955. He received his B.A. from North Central College and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He served as DuPage County assistant state's attorney from 1981 to 1996 and as state's attorney from 1996 to 2010. Judge Birkett was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2010 and elected to the court in 2012.

Michael J. Burke

Michael J. Burke was born in 1958 in Chicago. He received his B.S. from Northern Illinois University and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He served as an associate judge for the 18th Judicial Circuit from 1992 to 2001 and as a circuit judge from 2001 to 2008. Judge Burke was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2008.



Donald C. Hudson

Donald C. Hudson was born and raised in Chicago. He received his bachelor's from DePaul University and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He was appointed an associate judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in 1993 and elected a circuit judge in 2000. Judge Hudson was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2009.



Susan Fayette Hutchinson

Susan Fayette Hutchinson was born in 1950 in Monmouth. She received her B.A. from Quincy University and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. She was a judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit from 1981 to 1994. Judge Hutchinson was elected to the Appellate Court in 1994 and retained in 2004 and 2014.



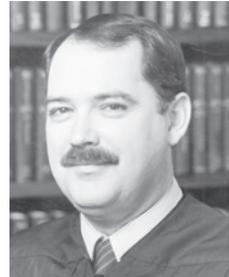


Ann Brackley Jorgensen

Ann Brackley Jorgensen was born in 1955. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and received her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. She was appointed an associate judge for the 18th Judicial Circuit in 1989, elected a circuit judge in 1994, and retained in 2000 and 2006. Judge Jorgensen was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2008 and elected to the court in 2010.

Robert D. McLaren

Robert D. McLaren was born in 1944 in Oak Park. He received his B.A. from Monmouth College and his J.D. from Drake University Law School. He was appointed an associate judge in 1981 and elected a circuit judge in 1984 for the 18th Judicial Circuit. Judge McLaren was elected to the Appellate Court in 1988 and retained in 1998, 2008 and 2018.



Mary Seminara-Schostok

Mary Seminara-Schostok was born in 1958 in Pennsylvania. She was an assistant public defender and in private practice in Pennsylvania before moving to Illinois. She was appointed an associate judge in 1998, appointed a circuit judge in 2001 and elected to the court in 2002. Judge Seminara-Schostok was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2008 and elected to the court in 2010.



Robert B. Spence

Robert B. Spence was born in 1955 in Bloomington. He graduated from Taylor University and received his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He served as an assistant state's attorney for 14 years and as an assistant attorney general for six years. Judge Spence was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2001, where he served until being assigned to the Appellate Court in 2012.





Kathryn E. Zenoff

Kathryn E. Zenoff was born in Chicago. She graduated from Stanford University and received her J.D. from Columbia University Law School. She was appointed an associate judge in 1995 and a circuit judge in 1998 for the 17th Judicial Circuit. She was then elected to the court and retained in 2004, 2010 and 2016. Judge Zenoff was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2007.

3rd District

Robert L. Carter

Robert L. Carter, a Vietnam veteran, received both his A.B. and J.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his M.A. from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He was elected an associate judge in 1979 and a circuit judge in 1988, serving as chief judge from 1993 to 2006. Judge Carter was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2006.



William E. Holdridge

William E. Holdridge received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He served as an elected full-circuit judge for the 9th Judicial Circuit and as director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Judge Holdridge was elected to the Appellate Court in 1994, was retained in 2004 and 2014, and serves as presiding judge of the Workers' Compensation Commission Division.



Tom M. Lytton

Tom M. Lytton was born in 1943 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He received both his B.A. and J.D. from Northwestern University. He also attended the International School of Law in The Hague, Holland. After more than 20 years practicing in the private and public sectors, Judge Lytton was elected to the Appellate Court in 1992 and retained in 2002 and 2012.





Mary W. McDade

Mary W. McDade was born in 1939 in South Carolina. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan. After raising her children, she enrolled in the University of Illinois College of Law, earning her J.D. in 1984. Judge McDade was elected to the Appellate Court in 2000 — the first African-American woman elected to the court outside of Cook County — and retained in 2010.

Mary K. O'Brien

Mary K. O'Brien was born in 1965 in Kankakee. She is a graduate of Western Illinois University and received her J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law. She served in the Illinois House from 1997 to 2003, when she was appointed to the Appellate Court. Judge O'Brien was elected to the court in 2004 and retained in 2014.



Daniel L. Schmidt

Daniel L. Schmidt was raised in Chillicothe. He received his B.A. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from Washington University, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif. He spent nine years as a police officer prior to earning his law degree, and then he tried civil cases and argued appeals in state and federal courts for 19 years. Judge Schmidt was elected to the Appellate Court in 2002 and retained in 2012.



Vicki R. Wright

Vicki R. Wright received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She was appointed an associate judge for the 14th Judicial Circuit in 1991, where she served for 15 years. Judge Wright was elected to the Appellate Court in 2006 and retained in 2016.



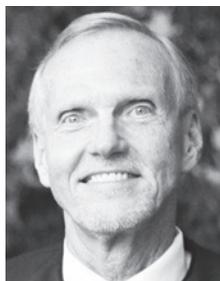


Peter C. Cavanagh

Peter C. Cavanagh was born in Springfield, Illinois. He received his B.S. in history from Illinois State University and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He practiced law from 1997 to 2008 as a general practitioner and served at various times as an assistant state's attorney in Cook and Sangamon counties and as an assistant public defender in Sangamon and Logan counties. Judge Cavanagh was appointed resident circuit judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 and then was elected and retained. He was assigned and then elected to the Appellate Court in 2018.

Craig H. DeArmond

Craig H. DeArmond received his B.A. from the University of Iowa and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1975. He served as an assistant state's attorney in Vermilion County and later as the state's attorney. Judge DeArmond worked in private practice at Kurth & DeArmond prior to being elected to the 5th Judicial Circuit in 2000. He was retained in 2006 and 2012. In 2015, Judge DeArmond was appointed chief judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit, a position he held until he was assigned to the Appellate Court on Sept. 1, 2017.



Thomas M. Harris

Thomas M. Harris was born in 1963. He received his B.A. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law. He was a civil trial lawyer from 1988 to 2007. He was appointed as an associate judge in 2007 and elected as a circuit judge in 2008. Judge Harris was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2013 and elected to the court in 2018.

James A. Knecht

James A. Knecht was born in Lincoln in 1944. He is a graduate of Illinois State University and the University of Illinois College of Law. He served as a law clerk for the Illinois Supreme Court from 1973 to 1974, as an associate judge from 1975 to 1978 and as a circuit judge from 1978 to 1986. Judge Knecht was elected to the Appellate Court in 1986 and retained in 1996, 2006 and 2016.



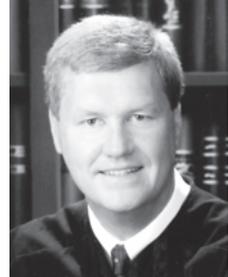


Robert J. Steigmann

Robert J. Steigmann was born in 1944. He received both his B.S. and J.D. from the University of Illinois. He served as a staff attorney with the state's Legislative Reference Bureau and was elected a circuit judge in 1976. Judge Steigmann was assigned to the Appellate Court in 1989, elected to the court in 1994 and retained in 2004.

John W. Turner

John W. Turner was born in 1956 in Lincoln. He received his B.A. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. He was a Logan County public defender and state's attorney prior to his election to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1994, where he served until 2001. Judge Turner was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2001, elected to the court in 2002 and retained in 2012.



Lisa Holder White

Lisa Holder White was born in 1968 in Decatur. She received her B.A. from Lewis University and her J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law. She was appointed an associate judge in 2001 and a circuit judge in 2008 and elected to the court in 2010. Judge Holder White was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2012 and elected to the court in 2014.



5th District

John B. Barberis, Jr.

John B. Barberis, Jr. was born in 1967. He earned his B.S. from Illinois State University and his J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law. He was in private practice for 18 years. Judge Barberis was elected circuit judge in Madison County in 2014 and to the Appellate Court in 2016.





Mark M. Boie

Mark M. Boie was born in 1967. He received his B.A. from the University of Mississippi and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. He joined his father, Wesley L. Boie, in the general practice of law. He was elected the resident circuit judge of Union County in 2000, and retained in 2006, 2012 and 2018. He was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2019.

Judy Lynn Cates

Judy Lynn Cates was born in 1952 in Belleville. She received a B.A. from Cornell University and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. She began her career as a prosecutor and entered private practice in 1982. After 30 years of civil litigation practice, Judge Cates was elected to the Appellate Court in 2012.



Melissa Ann Chapman

Melissa Ann Chapman was born in 1951 in Granite City. She received both her B.A. and M.A. from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She worked as a mental health counselor before earning her J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law. Judge Chapman was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2001, elected to the court in 2002 and retained in 2012.



James R. Moore

James R. Moore obtained his law degree from Southern Illinois University in 1977. He worked as an assistant city attorney in Carbondale for two years and then was a sole practitioner in Carterville until his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2007. He then was elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. Judge Moore was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2015 and elected in 2016.





David K. Overstreet

David K. Overstreet was born in 1966 in Mt. Vernon. He received his B.S. from Lipscomb University and his J.D. from the University of Tennessee. He practiced law from 1991 to 2007. He was appointed circuit judge in the 2nd Judicial Circuit in 2007, elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. Judge Overstreet was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2017 and elected in 2018.

Thomas M. Welch

Thomas M. Welch was born in 1939. He received his B.S. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from the University of Missouri. He served as Circuit Court magistrate from 1965 to 1971 and as Madison County assistant state's attorney from 1971 to 1972. Judge Welch was elected to the Appellate Court in 1980 and retained three times.



Appellate Court Clerks



Thomas D. Palella
1st District
Appointed 2017



Robert J. Mangan
2nd District
Appointed 2002



Barbara A. Trumbo
3rd District
Appointed 2014



Carla L. Bender
4th District
Appointed 2009



Jack Flood
5th District
Appointed 2009