

Illinois Supreme Court Justices

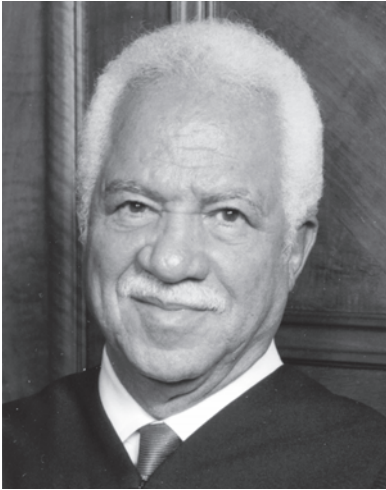


LLOYD A. KARMEIER
Chief Justice
5th District

Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier was born Jan. 12, 1940, in rural Washington County. He received a B.S. in 1962 and his J.D. in 1964, each were earned from the University of Illinois.

Justice Karmeier served as a clerk for former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House from 1964 to 1968 and was elected as state's attorney of Washington County from 1968 to 1972. He then served as a clerk for former U.S. District Court Judge James L. Foreman from 1972 to 1973. He engaged in general law practice from 1964 to 1986.

Justice Karmeier was a resident Circuit Court judge in Washington County from 1986 to 2004, when he was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, 5th District. Voters retained Justice Karmeier for a second 10-year term to the court in 2014. He was sworn in as chief justice on Oct. 26, 2016.



CHARLES E. FREEMAN
1st District

Charles E. Freeman, the Supreme Court's senior member, graduated from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, with a B.A. in liberal arts in 1954. He received his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1962.

Early in his career, Justice Freeman served as an assistant attorney general, assistant state's attorney and attorney for the Board of Election Commissioners. He was appointed an arbitrator to the Illinois Industrial Commission in 1965. From 1973 to 1976, he served as a commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Justice Freeman engaged in the general practice of law from 1962 to 1976, when he was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court. While a circuit judge, he became the first African-American to swear in a mayor of Chicago, his good friend Harold Washington. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 1986.

Justice Freeman was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1990 — the first African-American to serve on the high court. He served as chief justice from 1997 to 2000. He was retained for another 10-year term to the court in 2010.



ANNE M. BURKE
1st District

Anne M. Burke was born in Chicago. She received a B.A. from DePaul University and her J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Justice Burke was admitted to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois in 1983 and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 1985, as well as certified for the Trial Bar, U.S. District Court in 1987. That same year, she was appointed to the Illinois Court of Claims and was re-appointed to the court in 1991. She was appointed special counsel to former Governor Jim Edgar for Child Welfare Services in 1994.

Justice Burke was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1995 and elected to the court in 1996. She was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court, 1st District, in 2006 and elected to the court in 2008.

MARY JANE THEIS
1st District

Mary Jane Theis was born in Chicago and received her bachelor's from Loyola University Chicago. She received her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law and served as an assistant public defender in Cook County from 1974 to 1983.

Justice Theis was appointed an associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1983. In 1988, she was elected to the Circuit Court, where she was assigned to the Criminal and Chancery Divisions until 1993. She was appointed to the Appellate Court, 1st District, in 1993 and elected to the court in 1994, serving as presiding judge for 17 years. She was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010 and elected to the court in 2012.

Justice Theis has served as president of the Appellate Lawyers Association and the Illinois Judges Association. Additionally, she was a president and founding member of the Illinois Judges Foundation. She has taught at numerous judicial education programs, conferences and seminars and is the recipient of various prestigious awards.



ROBERT R. THOMAS
2nd District

Robert R. Thomas was born Aug. 7, 1952, in Rochester, New York. He received his B.A. in government from the University of Notre Dame in 1974, and was named an Academic All-American that year. He received his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1981.

Justice Thomas was elected a Circuit Court judge in DuPage County in 1988 and presided over civil jury trials. He was acting chief judge from 1989 to 1994. In 1994 he was elected to the Appellate Court, 2nd District.

He was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame in 1996 and received the prestigious NCAA Silver Anniversary Award in 1999.

Justice Thomas was sworn in as an Illinois Supreme Court justice for the 2nd District in 2000 and served as chief justice from 2005 to 2008. He was retained for another 10-year term to the court in 2010.





THOMAS L. KILBRIDE
3rd District

Thomas L. Kilbride was born in LaSalle. He received a B.A. from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, in 1978 and his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1981.

Justice Kilbride engaged in the general practice of law for 20 years in Rock Island. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, 3rd District, in 2000 and served as chief justice from 2010 to 2013.

Justice Kilbride received an honorary law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 2002 and an honorary doctorate from St. Mary's in 2014. He received the Hiram H. Lesar Distinguished Lecturer Award from Southern Illinois

University School of Law in 2003, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Voices of Freedom Award in 2007 and the Justice John Paul Stevens Award in 2014.



RITA B. GARMAN
4th District

Rita B. Garman is a native of Oswego. She received a B.S. in economics from the University of Illinois in 1965 and her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1968.

Justice Garman began practicing law at the Vermilion County Legal Aid Society in Danville. Later, she became an assistant state's attorney. In 1973, she entered private practice in Danville.

In 1974, Justice Garman was appointed associate circuit judge for the 5th Judicial Circuit. After 12 years in this position, she was elected circuit judge, and from 1987 to 1995, she served as the presiding judge for Vermilion County. She was assigned in 1995 and elected

in 1996 to the 4th District Appellate Court.

Justice Garman was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2001 and elected in 2002. In 2012, she was retained for a second term. She served as chief justice of the court from October 2013 to October 2016.

She has received numerous awards, including the Harold Sullivan Award for Judicial Excellence from the Illinois Judges Association in 2011 and the Spirit of Lincoln Award from the Abraham Lincoln Association in 2014.