

## Illinois Supreme Court Justices



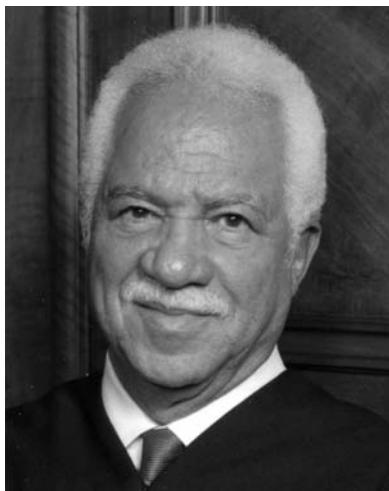
**RITA B. GARMAN**  
**Chief Justice**  
**4th District**

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

Justice Garman began practicing law at the Vermilion County Legal Aid Society in 1968. She was assistant state's attorney of Vermilion County from 1969 to 1973, and served as an associate judge for 12 years. She was a judge in the 5th Judicial Circuit from 1986 to 1995, serving as presiding judge from 1987 to 1995.

Justice Garman was assigned to the Appellate Court, 4th District, in 1995 and elected to the court in 1996. She received the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' Mary Heftel Hooton Award in 2001.

Justice Garman was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2001, elected to the court in 2002 and retained in 2012. She was sworn in as chief justice on Oct. 28, 2013.



## **CHARLES E. FREEMAN**

### **1st District**

Charles Freeman, the Supreme Court's senior member, graduated from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va., with a B.A. degree in liberal arts in 1954. He received his J.D. degree 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 was 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 on the court in 2010.



## **ANNE M. BURKE**

### **1st District**

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

Justice Burke was admitted to the Federal Court, Northern District of Illinois in 1983, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 1985, and certified for the Trial Bar, Federal 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 degree from Loyola University Chicago. She received her J.D. degree 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 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, as well as 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.



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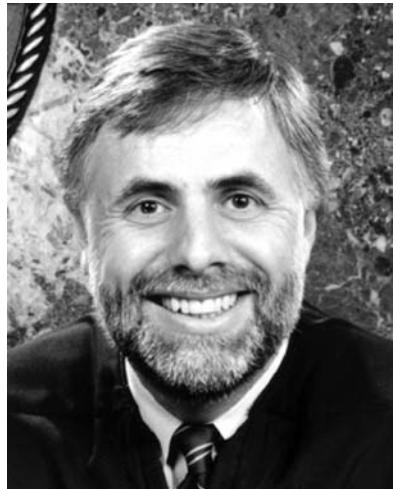
**ROBERT R. THOMAS**  
**2nd District**

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

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

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 on the court in 2010.





**THOMAS L. KILBRIDE**  
**3rd District**

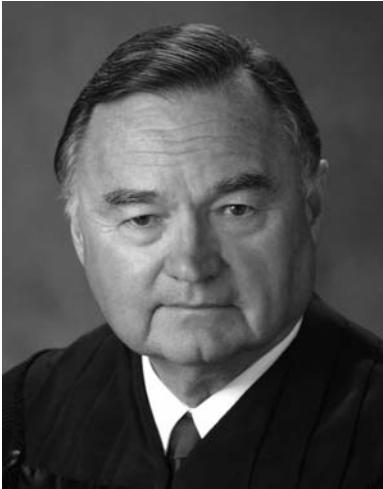
Thomas Kilbride was born in LaSalle and received his B.A. degree from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., in 1978. He received his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1981.

Justice Kilbride was 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 of the court from 2010 to 2013.

Justice Kilbride received an honorary law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 2002, and in 2003 received the Hiram H. Lesar Distinguished Lecturer Award from Southern Illinois University School of Law

and the S. Bruce Skidmore Award from the Illinois Township Attorneys Association. He received the Harriet Beecher Stowe Voice of Freedom Award in 2007.

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**LLOYD A. KARMEIER**  
**5th District**

Lloyd Karmeier was born Jan. 12, 1940, in rural Washington County. He received his B.S. degree in 1962 and his J.D. degree in 1964, both from the University of Illinois.

Justice Karmeier was a clerk for former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House from 1964 to 1968, and served 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 was 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.