

Appellate Court Judges

1st District, 1st Division



Maureen E. Connors

Maureen Connors was born in Chicago. She received her J.D. degree 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 Cunningham received her law degree from The John Marshall Law School. She served as a circuit judge and as an assistant attorney general. 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 Delort earned his B.S. degree in mathematics from DePaul University and his J.D. degree from The John Marshall Law School. Before becoming a judge, he was a shareholder in the Robbins Schwartz law firm, 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.



Thomas E. Hoffman

Thomas Hoffman was born in 1947 in Chicago. He received his B.B.A. degree from Loyola University Chicago and his J.D. degree 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.





Sheldon A. Harris

Sheldon 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. degree, and earned his J.D. degree from The John Marshall Law School. Judge Harris served as a circuit judge on the Cook County Circuit Court from 2000 through 2010, when he was assigned to the Appellate Court.

Daniel J. Pierce

Daniel Pierce was born in 1947. He received his B.S. degree in finance and his J.D. degree 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.



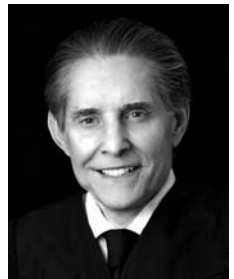
Patrick J. Quinn

Patrick Quinn was born in 1953 in Chicago. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his J.D. degree from The John Marshall Law School. He was a Cook County assistant state's attorney from 1981 to 1996, serving in the Public Integrity and Organized Crime Units. Judge Quinn was elected to the Appellate Court in 1996 and retained in 2006.



John B. Simon

John Simon received his B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin and his J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. He served as president of the Chicago Bar Association and was a principal partner at the law firm of Jenner & Block before joining the judiciary. Judge Simon was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2012.





Michael B. Hyman

Michael 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.

Mary Anne Mason

Mary Anne Mason earned her B.A. degree from Boston College and her J.D. degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She was a judicial law clerk, assistant U.S. attorney and in private practice before 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.



P. Scott Neville, Jr.

Scott Neville graduated from Culver-Stockton College and Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. He was appointed a Cook County circuit judge in 1999 and elected to the court in 2000. Judge Neville was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2004, elected to the court in 2012, and serves as presiding judge of the 3rd Division.

Aurelia Pucinski

Aurelia Pucinski is a native of Chicago. She received her J.D. degree 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.





James R. Epstein

James Epstein was born in 1953. He received both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Northwestern University. He was appointed a Cook County circuit judge in 1999 and elected to the court in 2000. Judge Epstein was elected to the Appellate Court in 2010.

Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr.

Nathaniel Howse received his bachelor's degree from Loyola University Chicago and his J.D. degree 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.



Terrence J. Lavin

Terrence Lavin was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois and his J.D. degree 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.



James G. Fitzgerald Smith

James 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.



1st District, 5th Division



Robert E. Gordon

Robert Gordon was born in Chicago in 1937. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his J.D. degree 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. Judge Gordon was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2006 and has served as presiding judge of the 1st and 6th Divisions.

Margaret Stanton McBride

Margaret Stanton McBride was born in 1951 and received her J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. She was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1987 and elected a circuit judge in 1990, where she served as presiding judge of the 3rd Municipal District. Judge Stanton McBride was elected to the Appellate Court in 1998 and retained in 2008.



Stuart E. Palmer

Stuart Palmer was born in 1954 in Chicago. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and his J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law. He was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1994, elected to the court that same year and retained three times. Judge Palmer was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2012.



William Henry Taylor II

William Taylor was born in 1954. He received his B.A. degree from Cornell College and his J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law. He served as a judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County from 1994 to 2012. Judge Taylor was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2012. (No photo provided.)





Shelvin Louise Marie Hall

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall was born in 1948. She received her B.A. degree from Hampton University and her J.D. degree from Boston University School of Law. She was appointed a circuit judge on 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.

Bertina E. Lampkin

Bertina Lampkin was born in 1948 in Chicago. She received her B.A. degree from Roosevelt University and her J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. She served as an associate judge from 1987 to 1992 and as a circuit judge from 1992 to 2009 on the Cook County Circuit Court. Judge Lampkin was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2009.



Jesse G. Reyes

Jesse Reyes received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his J.D. degree 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.



Mary K. Rochford

Mary Katherine 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.



2nd District

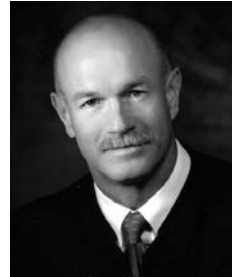


Joseph E. Birkett

Joseph Birkett was born in Chicago in 1955. He received his B.A. degree from North Central College and his J.D. degree 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 Burke was born in 1958 in Chicago. He received his B.S. degree from Northern Illinois University and his J.D. degree 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 Hudson was born and raised in Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University and his J.D. degree 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 Hutchinson was born in 1950 in Monmouth. She received her B.A. degree from Quincy University and her J.D. degree 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.





Ann Brackley Jorgensen

Ann Jorgensen was born in 1955. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and received her J.D. degree 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 McLaren was born in 1944 in Oak Park. He received his B.A. degree from Monmouth College and his J.D. degree 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 and 2008.



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 Spence was born in 1955 in Bloomington. He graduated from Taylor University and received his J.D. degree from The John Marshall Law School. He served as an assistant state's attorney for 14 years and 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 Zenoff was born in 1946 in Chicago. She graduated from Stanford University and received her J.D. degree 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 and 2010. Judge Zenoff was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2007.

3rd District

Robert L. Carter

Robert Carter, a Vietnam veteran, received both his A.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his M.A. degree from the former Sangamon State University. 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 Holdridge was born in Peoria. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He served as a 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 and retained in 2004, and serves as presiding judge of the Workers' Compensation Commission Division.



Tom M. Lytton

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





Mary McDade

Mary McDade was born in 1939 in South Carolina. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Michigan. After raising her children, she enrolled in the University of Illinois College of Law, earning her J.D. degree 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 O'Brien was born in 1965 in Kankakee. She is a graduate of Western Illinois University and received her J.D. degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. She served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1997 to 2003, when she was appointed to the Appellate Court. Judge O'Brien was elected to the court in 2004.



Daniel L. Schmidt

Daniel Schmidt was born in 1951 in Peoria and raised in Chillicothe. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois and his J.D. degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. He spent nine years as a police officer before receiving his law degree, then 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 Wright received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her J.D. degree 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.



4th District



Thomas R. Appleton

Thomas Appleton was born in 1949 in Chicago. He received his B.A. degree from Augustana College and his J.D. degree from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. He was appointed an Appellate Court clerk in 1979, and was elected a circuit judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit in 1992. Judge Appleton was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2001 and elected to the court in 2010.

Thomas M. Harris

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



James A. Knecht

James 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 and 2006.



M. Carol Pope

Carol Pope was born in 1954. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and her J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. She was appointed circuit judge of Menard County in 1991, elected to the court in 1992 and retained in 1998, 2004 and 2010. Judge Pope was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2008 and elected to the court in 2012.





Robert J. Steigmann

Robert Steigmann was born in 1944. He received both his B.S. and J.D. degrees 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 Turner was born in 1956 in Lincoln. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois and his J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. He was a Logan County public defender and state's attorney before being elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1994, serving 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. degree from Lewis University and her J.D. degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. She was appointed an associate judge in 2001, appointed a circuit judge in 2008 and elected to the court in 2010. Judge Holder White was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2012.



5th District

Judy Lynn Cates

Judy Lynn Cates was born in 1952 in Belleville. She received her B.A. degree from Cornell University and her J.D. degree 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. degrees from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She worked as a mental-health counselor before earning her J.D. degree from St. Louis University School of Law. Judge Chapman was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2001 and elected to the court in 2012.

Richard P. Goldenhersh

Richard Goldenhersh was born in 1944. He received both his A.B. and J.D. degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, and his LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia. He was appointed an associate judge for the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1975, and became a circuit judge in 1982. Judge Goldenhersh became an Appellate Court judge in 1988 and was retained in 1998 and 2008.



Stephen L. Spomer

Stephen Spomer was born in 1949. He received both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Tulane University. He was elected a circuit judge in Alexander County in 1978 and was retained four times. He served as chief judge of the 1st Judicial Circuit from 1992 to 1998. Judge Spomer was assigned to the Appellate Court in 2005.



Bruce D. Stewart

Bruce Stewart was born in 1952 in Mt. Vernon. He received his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and his J.D. degree from SIU School of Law. He was appointed a circuit judge of the 1st Judicial Circuit in 1995 and elected to the court in 1996, where he served for 10 years. Judge Stewart was elected to the Appellate Court in 2006.





Thomas M. Welch

Thomas Welch was born in 1939. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois and his J.D. degree 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.

James M. Wexstten

James Wexstten was born in 1950. He received both his B.S. and J.D. degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he was a member of the charter class of the law school. He was elected a circuit judge for the 2nd Judicial Circuit in 1988 and retained three times. Judge Wexstten was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2007 and elected to the court in 2008.



Appellate Court Clerks



Steven M. Ravid
1st District
Appointed 2001



Robert J. Mangan
2nd District
Appointed 2002



Gist Fleshman
3rd District
Appointed 1992



Carla Bender
4th District
Appointed 2009



John J. Flood
5th District
Appointed 2009