

## Illinois Supreme Court Justices



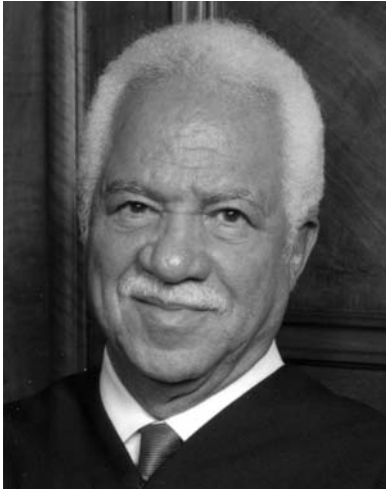
**THOMAS R. FITZGERALD**  
**Chief Justice**  
**1st District**

A native of Chicago, Thomas Fitzgerald attended Loyola University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. Following his tour of duty, he graduated with honors from The John Marshall Law School, where he was a founder of the school's *Law Review* and served as associate editor.

Chief Justice Fitzgerald began his law career as a prosecutor in the Cook County state's attorney's office. When elected to the bench in 1976, he was the youngest Cook County judge. He became presiding judge of both Cook County's Criminal Courts and Illinois' first statewide grand jury in 1989. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, 1st District, in 2000, and appointed chief justice in September 2008.

As a former law professor, Chief Justice Fitzgerald taught at The John Marshall Law School and IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. He also taught at the Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts.

He received the Outstanding Judicial Performance Award from the Chicago Crime Commission, the 2001 John Marshall Law School Freedom Award, the 2003 Joel Flaum Award by the Chicago Inn of Court, and the Chicago-Kent College of Law Professional Achievement Award.



## **CHARLES E. FREEMAN**

### **1st District**

Charles Freeman, the Supreme Court's senior member, graduated from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, 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 2000.



## **ANNE M. BURKE**

### **1st District**

Anne Burke was born Feb. 3, 1944, in Chicago. She received her B.A. degree from DePaul University and her J.D. degree from IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law.

She 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 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 when Justice Mary Ann McMorro w retired.

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

Robert Thomas was born Aug. 7, 1952, in Rochester, New York. 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 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-America 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.



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

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

He 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.

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.





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

Rita Garman was born Nov. 19, 1943, in Aurora. 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. She was assigned to the Appellate Court, 4th District, in 1995 and elected to the court in 1996. She was appointed

to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2001 and elected to the court in 2002.

Justice Garman received the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' Mary Heftel Hooton Award in 2001.



**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 judge of Washington County from 1986 to 2004, when he was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, 5th District.