

Judge Diane M. Shelley

Judge Diane M. Shelley after practicing law for approximately twenty-five years was elected judge in 2006 from Cook County's 5th Judicial Subcircuit, and retained in 2012. She was born and raised in the Bronzeville area of Chicago and became involved in civic, social and religious organizations at a young age. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in political science and a minor in economics, and received her juris doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge Shelley heard criminal domestic violence cases for two years before her transfer to the Daley Center to hear commercial and residential evictions. She was next transferred to the municipal civil jury trial section where she conducted hundreds of trials, and is presently assigned to the Law Division Jury Trial Section. Immediately prior to becoming judge, Judge Shelley was head of litigation at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; litigating and managing personal injury and multi-million dollar construction contract disputes and enforcement of environmental protection laws. She is the former Chair of the Illinois Judicial Council, and a member of numerous bar associations and civic organizations. She is appointed to the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning, and is a faculty member of the Illinois Judicial Conference on Education.