



## BIOGRAPHY

### ARNETTE HUBBARD

Arnette Hubbard is Circuit Court Judge of Cook County in the Law Jury Division. She presides over the trial of civil jury cases, with a jurisdictional minimum of \$50,000. Her duties include adjudication of all issues presented – from pre-trial motions and jury selection through return of verdict or settlement – as well as conducting evidentiary hearings and ruling on post-trial motions. Previous duties in the Law Division include presiding over the assignment call, motion call, trial call and prove-up call and adjudication of contested motions.

Judge Hubbard began her career during a period of seemingly insurmountable bias, when women accounted for only three percent of the nation's lawyers. She became the first woman elected president of the nation's largest African American lawyers association, as well as the Cook County Bar Association. Both have inducted her into their Hall of Fame. She has also received the Clarence Darrow Award, Obelisk Award for Education and Community Service, Scroll of Distinguished Women Lawyers, and the American Bar Association 2009 Margaret Brent Award.

While lauded for her groundbreaking accomplishments, Judge Hubbard is particularly revered for her passion to ensure a fair chance for everyone. She instigated the creation of "Desert Fax," which extends voting opportunities to military service personnel during armed conflict. She routinely hosts law interns in her offices, gives presentations to high school and college students, mentors women interested in a legal career, and seeks involvement in community activities. Additional public service includes the Chicago Board of Elections, the Chicago Cable Commission and Vice Chair of the Illinois Commission on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision sparked Judge Hubbard's own interest in the law. Then a student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, the young Stephens, Ark., native graduated with a degree in science and went on to earn her J.D. from John Marshall Law School. She passed the bar exam on her first attempt, joined the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in 1970 as a staff attorney, went into private practice in 1972, was appointed Circuit Court Judge of Cook County in 1997 and elected to that post the following year by 85 percent of voters.

The long-time Chatham resident recognizes that many view the Appellate Court as a "court of second chance" for litigants who believe their cases improperly decided in the trial court – even "a final chance," since few of the many cases before it ever reach the Illinois Supreme Court. With 65 percent of the caseload stemming from criminal matters, Judge Hubbard expects to use her 15 years experience in the trial and appeal of criminal cases, from misdemeanor to murder, in state and federal courts. She also has 15 years handling civil matters as an attorney and presiding over them in the Law Division at the Daley Center.