



Candidate: Mary Katherine Rochford

First District Appellate Court, South Vacancy

Campaign Narrative

I, Mary Katherine Rochford, am a candidate for the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, South Vacancy. I have been a trial judge for almost nineteen years. Since 2007, I have served in the Chancery Division hearing complex civil litigation. From 1996 to 2007, I was dually assigned to the Law Division and Second Municipal District and I presided over civil cases from filing to resolution. I also heard petitions for civil orders of protection which involved significant safety and sensitive family issues. While assigned to the Second Municipal District, beginning in 1993, I heard a great variety and many types of civil and criminal cases. From 1991 to 1993, I was assigned to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court, where I gained the experience of handling high volume minor and misdemeanor calls fairly and efficiently.

As former chair of a Second District Traffic Committee, I presented programs to high schools on how to avoid reckless driving and to grade schools on railroad crossing dangers. I was a member of a sub-committee which coordinated procedures and programs addressing domestic violence. I have been assigned as a mentor for new judges and have been involved in legal education.

From 1979 until my appointment as an Associate Judge in 1991, I was an appellate lawyer for the Office of the Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago, and in private practice. I presented a great number and variety of cases before the Illinois Supreme and Appellate Courts and the United State Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Under Mayor Harold Washington, I was appointed Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel in charge of the Appeals Division.

The Chicago Council of Lawyers found that I am "Well Qualified" for the Appellate Court, stating: "Judge Rochford is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills... as being exceptionally well-prepared, hard-working, and fair to all parties. She has demonstrated her ability to be an excellent appellate lawyer, to make the successful transition to being a highly respected trial judge in the Law Division, and to make the successful transition to being a Chancellor. She is involved in substantial community service efforts, and has demonstrated her writing ability." The Illinois State Bar and the Chicago Bar Associations found I am "Qualified" for the Appellate Court. The Chicago Bar Association said: "Judge Rochford is a highly respected legal scholar who possesses all the requisite qualifications for service by the Illinois Appellate Court."