

## CLE BIOGRAPHIES FOR

# "The Associate Judge Election Process in Cook County Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39."

**Advocates Society, September 22, 2021**

**Honorable Diann K. Marsalek**



Diann K. Marsalek's educational background includes a JD from Northern Illinois University College of Law-1989; MA DePaul University-Sociology 1986; BA DePaul University-Political Science 1983 and Immaculata High School-Diploma 1979

Diann K. Marsalek is the Presiding Judge of the Traffic Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County and has been on the bench since 2011 when she was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. She ran countywide in 2012 and was elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County. She was assigned to Traffic court and then to various courtrooms in the First Municipal District. She returned to Traffic Court in 2015 as the Supervising Judge and is now its Presiding Judge. She was retained as a Judge in November 2018 with 79% of the vote. She trains and mentors many new judges, both associate and full circuit judges. She previously worked at the following positions: Illinois Secretary of State as a Legal Advisor, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General-Policy Division, Illinois Department

of Corrections-Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General-General Law Division and Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County-Deputy Courtroom Clerk.

She is a member of the following Bar Associations: Chicago Bar Association, Woman's Bar Association, Advocate's Society of Polish Lawyers, Justinian Society of Italian Lawyers and Decalogue Society. Judge Marsalek is the President of the Illinois Judges Foundation and on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Judges Association. Judge Marsalek is the co-chair of the language access sub-committee formed by the Illinois Supreme Court to identify ways to promote the court system to individuals in which English is not their first language.

Judge Marsalek was the 2020 Advocates Society Award of Merit recipient, and was the Person of the Year for the Chicago Society, a Polish business organization, in 2012. Judge Marsalek received the Civilian Person of the Year award from the Polish American Police in 2015. Judge Marsalek was also honored by the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division, with their Public Service Award in 2015. Judge Marsalek received a previous award from the Advocates Society of Polish lawyers in 2018 reflecting the appreciation for her work in support of the organization. Judge Marsalek volunteers at various expungement seminars including one on Milwaukee Avenue to assist members of the Polish and Hispanic Communities. Also she serves as a Judge for moot court competitions benefitting students. Each year Judge Marsalek speaks at the courthouse tour at the Daley Center when Polish students and members of the Polish community attend. She also served on a panel at Northeastern University for Polish businesswomen. Judge Marsalek is a member and supporter of the Polish Museum. She also supports the Polish National Alliance and is a donor to the Copernicus Foundation. Judge Marsalek has the honor to serve as the Grand Marshall for the Polish Parade in 2017. In 2018 Judge Marsalek received the Civilian of the Year Award from the Italian American Police.

Judge Marsalek is active in numerous neighborhood community activities. She has donated time to work on improving local parks, and started a program to beautify her neighborhood. She has worked on numerous events to promote public safety and benefit her neighborhood school.