

Christen L. Bishop

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit
Circuit Judge

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Lake County, Waukegan, Illinois (2012 – Present)
Associate Judge (9/28/2012 - 2/1/2016), Circuit Judge (2/1/2016 - present)

Assigned to Felony Division to provide backup coverage for trials and our Therapeutic Intensive Monitoring Courts. Previously assigned to the Felony Division, presiding in bond court. Responsible for all daily bond hearings, preliminary hearings, and bond reviews. Additionally, receive and handle plea agreements for approximately 20-30 felony cases per week as part of our effort to resolve cases prior to indictment or preliminary hearing. Other responsibilities include: reviewing and approving search warrants, overhears, and information warrants prepared by prosecutors and presented by law enforcement. Previously served in the Traffic/Misdemeanor Division, responsible for decisions on DUI, minor traffic, and ordinance violations. Serve on the Education and Training committee, as well as the Court Security committee and Public Outreach committee.

Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Waukegan, Illinois (1995 – 2012)
Chief, Special Investigations Division

Chief of division, responsible for reviewing all special investigations (public corruption, white collar crime and child abuse), and when appropriate, approving charges in a large and diverse county. Responsible for supervising investigators and all staff at Children's Advocacy Center. Personal trial caseload included mostly first-degree murder, official misconduct, and vulnerable victim prosecutions. Responsibilities also included teaching and training of prosecutors, first responders, and law enforcement officers.

Chief, Juvenile Trial Division

Chief of division, responsible for supervising six Assistant State's Attorneys, one victim-witness advocate, and three secretaries. Duties included reviewing all juvenile delinquency referrals and assigning of cases, handling abuse/neglect child protection cases, and trials involving the termination of parental rights. Responsibilities also included presentations to local civic organizations, community groups, and schools, as well as the training of juvenile officers.

Assistant State's Attorney

Served in Traffic, Misdemeanor, Felony Review, Juvenile, Narcotics, and Felony Trial Division. During that time, personally tried numerous jury trials in various divisions. Responsibilities also included drafting and approving search warrants, presenting indictments, and approval of charges.

BAR ADMISSION

Illinois Supreme Court – November 10, 1994

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor – University of Illinois College of Law, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
May 1994

Honors and activities included Harno Fellow, Graduate Teaching Assistant position, and 711 internship with the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office

Bachelor of Arts – University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
May 1991

Honors and activities included President-Delta Delta Delta Women's Fraternity, Mortar Board Honorary for Academics, Leadership and Service, and the Orange Krush cheering section

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Women Attorneys of Lake County – Board member
Illinois Judges Association – Board member
Illinois State Bar Association
Jefferson Inn, American Inns of Court (Waukegan, Illinois)
Lake County Bar Association
Lake County Chiefs of Police Association
Lake County Law-Related Education Initiative