HONORABLE CYNTHIA Y. COBBS

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EDUCATION

Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, B.A.

University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, Master of Social Work (Clinical)

IIT, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois, J.D.

LAW RELATED POSITIONS HELD

Research Attorney, First District Appellate Court **April 1989 – September 1989**

Reviewed common law record and report of proceedings of trial court proceedings in largely, non-complex criminal cases for claimed litigation errors committed at trial by trial lawyers and judges; researched and analyzed the applicable substantive and procedural law related to the issues presented; and, drafted the dispositive Supreme Court Rule 23 orders in those cases.

Judicial Law Clerk, First District Appellate Court **September 1989 – November 1990**

Reviewed common law record and report of proceedings of trial court proceedings in civil and criminal cases for claimed litigation errors committed at trial by lawyers and judges; researched and analyzed the applicable substantive and procedural law related to the issues presented; and drafter the dispositive judicial opinion on behalf of the authority justice in those cases.

Senior Judicial Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Illinois **December 1990 – July 1997**

Reviewed common law record and report of proceedings of trial court proceedings and appellate court dispositions in civil and criminal cases, including death penalty and constitutional law cases; researched and analyzed applicable substantive and procedural law related to the issues presented; drafted the dispositive judicial opinion (majority, dissent and special concurring) on behalf of the authoring justice in those cases, including cases of first impression in Illinois; cases in which the law was not settled, or for which there was a split among the judicial districts. Reviewed and made recommendations for disposition on all motions (individual and full court) assigned to Justice Freeman for disposition. Reviewed and made recommendations on the disposition of Petitions for Leave to Appeal and Petitions for Rehearing.

Staff Attorney, Supreme Court/Admin. Office/Illinois Courts **August 1997 – January 1999**

Negotiated contracts for the procurement of goods, services and leases for the state courts Served as the liaison and legal researcher for the Committee on Complex Litigation; Committee on I.P.I. Criminal Jury Instructions and the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

Chief Legal Counsel, Supreme Court/Admin. Office/Illinois Courts **February 1999 – February 2002**

Supervised and assigned legal work affecting the Illinois Courts to the staff attorneys, including, responding to unemployment insurance claims, managing lawsuits filed against sitting judges and/or judicial branch employees;

negotiating and contracting for goods, services, equipment, property leases. Reviewed all proposed amendments to Supreme Court Rules. Presented to the Supreme Court on all legal matters affecting the Illinois Courts, i.e., the right of judicial branch employees to engage in collective bargaining. Prepared issues statement regarding court administration for presentation to the Supreme Court at each of its Terms of Court.

Director of the Illinois Courts, Supreme Court/Admin. Office/ Illinois Courts **March 2002 – September 2011**

Constitutional Officer, appointed by the Supreme Court. Worked closely with the Supreme Court Justices in overseeing and managing every aspect of the three levels of the Illinois court system, in every judicial circuit and district. Facilitated work of the Supreme Court committees, developed and administered the Court's nearly $300 million annual budget, addressed all fiscal, administrative and legal issues affecting the courts. Developed standards for the delivery of probation services statewide; comprehensive judicial education planning for judges; performance and accountability standards for judges; developed the first policies for e-filing in the circuit courts; administered Supreme Court Rules (i.e., Rule 39 – Appointment of Associate Judges; Rule 711 – Licensing of Law Students; Rule 295 – Assignment of Associate Judges); drafted legislation related to court operations.

Circuit Court Judge, Cook County **September 2011 – December 2014**

Assigned to the First Municipal District; Disposed of cases filed in Traffic Court (major and minor offenses); Forcible Entry and Detainer, Small Claims Debtor/Creditor Court; and Civil Jury Trials.

Appellate Court Justice, First District Appellate Court **January 2015 – Present**

Author the written disposition in cases filed, as a matter of right, in the First District Appellate Court, either by Opinion or in a Rule 23 order; dispose of motions filed in cases assigned to me as the authoring justice as required/requested by another justice within the my division. Served as the Presiding Justice (2017-18).

EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

IJC/ISBA/CCBA – Co-presenter – Appellate Court Practice Seminar (2017); IJC – Co-presenter – Trial Court Errors Seminar (2018); IJC – Moderator/Panelist – "A Conversation with the Judges" (2014, 2019); Appellate Lawyers Association – Moot Competition Judge (2016, 2017, 2018); Lawyers Lend a Hand to Youth – Weekly Tutor (Englewood Montessori School, Chicago) (2016 – Present).

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Current: Supreme Court Judicial College Board of Trustees; Supreme Court Rules Committee; Lawyers Lend a Hand to Youth; South Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). **Past:** Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Performance and Evaluation; I.P.I Civil Jury Instructions; Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Conduct; Supreme Court Judicial Conference Committee on Automation & Technology; Supreme Court Judicial Conference Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution; Supreme Court Judicial Conference Committee on Juvenile Justice.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Bar Association; National Bar Association – Judicial Council; National Association of Women Judges; Illinois Judicial Council (current chairperson); Illinois State Bar Association; Chicago Bar Association; Cook County Bar Association; Women's Bar Association of Illinois; Black Women Lawyers Association.