

Hon. Melissa A. Durkin

Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

Professional Experience	<p>State of Illinois, Circuit Court of Cook County Associate Judge May 2014 through present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preside over Motion Call Calendar C in Law Division (August 2018 through present)• Presided over trials and hearings in the Domestic Relations Division (May 2015 through July 2018)• Presided over a Forcible Entry and Detainer call in the First Municipal District (May 2014 through April 2015) <p>Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago, Illinois Chief Attorney, Torts Division June 2003 through May 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Litigated personal injury and wrongful death actions from inception through trial• Acted as First Chair in jury and bench trials• Prepared and argued legal and evidentiary motions• Handled all phases of discovery <p>Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Chicago, Illinois Assistant State's Attorney November 1995 through November 2000 & May 2002 through June 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practiced in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and Cook County's Criminal, Chancery, Law, and Municipal Divisions• Acted as First Chair in jury and bench trials• Wrote over thirty appellate briefs and successfully argued two cases before the Illinois Appellate Court• Prepared and argued legal and evidentiary motions and offered advisory opinions <p>Beermann, Swerdlove, Woloshin, Barezky, Becker, Genin & London, Chicago, Illinois Attorney concentrating in Commercial, Employment, and Family Law Litigation November 2000 through May 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practiced in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Cook County's Chancery, Law, and Domestic Relations Divisions, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, and the Illinois Human Rights Commission• Prepared and argued legal and evidentiary motions• Acted as First Chair in bench trials and in hearings before administrative agencies
Teaching Experience	<p>Loyola University Chicago School of Law Adjunct Professor 2015 through 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught Illinois Civil Litigation Practice
Education	<p>Chicago-Kent College of Law: Juris Doctor received June 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching Assistant in Torts and Civil Procedure• American Jurisprudence Award in Agency and Partnership Law• Bar and Gavel Award recipient, 1995• Illinois State Bar Association's Public Service Award recipient, 1993 and 1994 <p>University of Illinois: Bachelor of Arts in English received May 1992</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College Honors and Departmental Distinction
Awards	<p>Illinois Jury Verdict Reporter's Trial Lawyer Excellence Award recipient, 2014 Women's Bar Association of Illinois' Mary Heftel Hooton Award recipient, 2022</p>
Committees	<p>Illinois Judges Association; Women's Bar Association of Illinois; and Women Everywhere: Partners in Service</p>