

The Hon. Thomas L. Kilbride (Ret.) Judicial Access to Justice Award

The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice is pleased to announce the 2024 recipient of The Hon. Thomas L. Kilbride (Ret.) Judicial Access to Justice Award. This award is given to a member of the judiciary who has made a significant or meaningful contribution to increasing access to the court system by improving the experience of litigants.



2024 AWARDEE

Judge Thomas More Donnelly

has exemplified exceptional leadership in assisting self-represented litigants (SRLs) within the Circuit Court of Cook County. His vision and execution have resulted in four game-changing initiatives: the CARPLS (Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services) Consumer Collection Self-Help Desk; Chicago Bar Association (CBA) Driver's License Statutory Summary Suspension *Pro Bono* Attorney Training Program; CBA Municipal Court *Pro Bono* Panel; and Commercial Calendar *pro bono* program. Moreover, he has actively advocated for public policy reforms in consumer debt matters, resulting in significant advancements in the fairness and equity of court proceedings. His contributions to the Illinois judicial system have profoundly improved the lives of countless individuals facing financial difficulties and inspired legal professionals to prioritize access to justice. Additionally, Judge Donnelly's dedication to education, his support for SRLs, and his involvement in criminal justice reform initiatives reflect his passion for ensuring justice for all individuals.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT COMMISSION

ACCESS

TO JUSTICE

EDUCATION. SUPPORT. EMPOWERMENT.