

# 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 2025 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.



2025 AWARDEE



## Chief Administrative Law Judge Brian Weinthal

of the Illinois Human Rights Commission modernized paper filings and mailed service to be able to be done electronically. He also implemented the first ever standing order for virtual hearings and drafted and passed an important change to the Illinois Human Rights Act that requires the Human Rights Commission (at the state's expense) to provide language access to litigants whose first language is not English.

He led an effort to improve access to representation at the Commission by engaging with legal service organizations that are willing to provide pro bono services to self-represented litigants. By partnering with entities like Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Legal Aid Chicago, Prairie State Legal Services, and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, ALJ Weinthal has created another first-ever resource for administrative law judges to connect self-represented parties to pro bono service providers.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT COMMISSION

ACCESS

TO

JUSTICE

EDUCATION. SUPPORT. EMPOWERMENT.