

Hon. Michael J. Chmiel

Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit / State of Illinois
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(Dated: January 10, 2023)

Michael J. Chmiel was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He received his B.A. in Economics (and Administration) from the University of Notre Dame in 1987, and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1990. He served as Law Clerk to the late Honorable Richard N. DeGunther, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, from 1990 to 1992. From 1992 to 2004, he engaged in the general practice of law, with offices in Chicago, Rockford, and Crystal Lake, Illinois. On January 1, 2005, he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Illinois to fill a Circuit Judge vacancy in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of the State, then elected as a Circuit Judge in 2006 in the new Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit, and then retained in 2012 and 2018. On November 23, 2005, he was appointed to the first Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois; at the first meeting of the Board on December 15, 2005, he was elected Treasurer of the Board, and served in such capacities through December 31, 2010. Judge Chmiel has been a member of the American, Chicago, Illinois State (“ISBA”), McHenry County (“MCBA”), and Winnebago County Bar Associations, along with the Advocates Society, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Illinois Judges Association (the “IJA”), the Illinois Judges Foundation (“IJF”), the Illinois Township Attorneys Association (the “ITAA”), and Phil Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. For the MCBA, he previously served as Chair of the Civil Practice Section and as a Member of the Board of Governors. For the ISBA, he serves as Newsletter Editor for the Commercial Banking, Collections, and Bankruptcy Section Council; Member of the Bench and Bar Section Council (and its CLE Coordinator); and Member of the Standing Committee for the Law Related Education of the Public (“LRE,” and Chair of its Civics Education Subcommittee); he previously served as Chair of the Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Law; International and Immigration Law; and Bench and Bar Section Councils; Chair of LRE; and Chair of the Special Committee on Rule 711. For the Advocates Society, he serves as First Vice President-Elect; he previously served as Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws and Public Relations Committees. For the IJA, he serves as Co-Chair of its Court Security Committee; he previously served as a Director and as Co-Chair of its Educational Programming and Annual Meeting Committee. For the IJF, he serves as a Director and Member of the Executive Committee; he previously served as President, Vice President, and Co-Chair of its Bylaws and Long-Range Planning and Public Relations Committees. For the ITAA, he serves as an *Emeritus* Director; he previously served as Vice President and President. He has also been involved with various civic and community organizations, and has often participated in educational programs for judges, attorneys, elected and appointed officials, and students. Between May 2, 2005, and September 14, 2009, Judge Chmiel served as the Juvenile Judge in McHenry County. Between September 14, 2009, and January 3, 2012, he handled a Family (Domestic Relations) Call for his Circuit. Between January 29, 2007, and January 3, 2012, he also served as Presiding Judge of the Family Division. Between January 3, 2012, and December 31, 2022, he served in the Civil Division and handled Arbitration, Chancery, and Probate calls, and between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2022, he served as Presiding Judge of the Civil Division. He has chaired the Case Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs Committees of his Circuit and served as Vice Chair of its Executive Planning Committee. Since December 1, 2022, Judge Chmiel has served as Chief Circuit Judge.