



From the War-Room to the Bench: Navigating AI in the New Legal Frontier

Hon. Michael J. Chmiel

Circuit Judge / Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit, Illinois

Judge Michael J. Chmiel was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Illinois College of Law. After clerking for the late United States Bankruptcy Judge Richard DeGunther in Rockford, he engaged in the private practice of law, largely focusing on commercial law and litigation including bankruptcy, and local government law. He was appointed by the Supreme Court of Illinois as a Circuit Judge in 2005, and then elected as a Circuit Judge in 2006 in the new Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit. He was also appointed by the Supreme Court to its first MCLE Board in 2005 and then elected as its Treasurer; since then, he has also been appointed by the Court to its Security Committee, its Commission on Elder Law, and the AI Task Force of the Illinois Judicial Conference. He has also served as faculty and as a supervisor for the Illinois Judicial College and continues to serve as a Member of its Circuit Court Clerk Education Committee. He is a former Chief Judge of his Circuit, a former Presiding Judge of its Civil and Family Divisions, and is its ADR Supervising Judge.

Judge Chmiel has been an active member of various bar associations and has chaired various section councils, committees, and task forces. He is a Past President of the Illinois Judges Foundation, the Illinois Township Attorneys Association, and the Advocates Society – the Association of Polish American Attorneys. Since 1991, he has coordinated, moderated, and participated in various educational programs for the legal profession, government officials, and the public. For the Illinois State Bar Association, he serves as long-time Chair of the Civics Education Subcommittee of its Standing Committee on the Law-Related Education of the Public, Chair of the CLE Committee of its Bench and Bar Section Council, and Editor of the Newsletter of its Commercial Banking, Collections, and Bankruptcy Section Council.

Judge Chmiel has also served his community through participation in various civic organizations. He is Past Chair of the Salvation Army Advisory Board in McHenry County, Past President of the Notre Dame Club of McHenry County, the Crystal Lake National Little League, Crush Tidal Waves Fastpitch, and the De La Salle Alumni Association.