

**Luz Maria Toledo** was born and raised in the south side of Chicago - McKinley Park and West Lawn. She was educated through the Chicago Public School System and graduated from Bogan High School, then UIC and The John Marshall Law School in 2006.

Luz Maria has dedicated her career to public service. She started her career working for the Lt. Governor Pat Quinn as a policy advisor and Spanish-speaking media specialist. Nineteen years ago, she began her career as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Luz started in the Appeals division where she researched and wrote over 20 appellate briefs filed in the First District Court of Appeals. She then spent over 10 years in high-volume trial courtrooms in the Criminal Division, where she prosecuted a wide range of crimes, and was the voice for victims of murders, attempted murders, domestic violence, and sex offenses. Luz Maria has tried hundreds of bench trials and nearly 30 jury trials. This work experience, along with her life experiences, has given Luz Maria a deep understanding of the impact the justice system has on victims, defendants and the community.

Throughout her career she has made reasonable sentencing offers, supported alternative sentencing programs, and has amended charges when appropriate, so that young defendants can benefit from expungable probation. Since 2018, Luz Maria has practiced civil defense in real estate tax matters. Her important work received positive media coverage when she saved Cook County taxpayers over $1 million by successfully blocking a real estate investor from profiting from a tax sale error.

Luz Maria is the proud daughter of Mexican Immigrants and aims to serve as a judge that brings fairness, equity and true justice to every decision. She has been long active in community service. She has volunteered to tutor students, prepared income tax returns for low-income families, volunteered to speak with students from diverse backgrounds regarding potential careers in the law, mentored young attorneys, assisted in Food Drives, volunteered with Women Everywhere, Lawyers in the Classroom at Richardson Elementary, Chicago Emerging Stars Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway, and donated her hair six times to organization that make wigs for cancer patients.

Luz Maria is proudly endorsed by the Cook County Democratic Party, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers. She has been found qualified/recommended by ALL bar associations.