

William Laws Bio
Judicial Candidate, 2nd Sub-Circuit

William Laws is an attorney with over 35 years of legal experience primarily in the area of criminal defense in both state and federal court. He is the 3rd eldest of 12 children who grew up in a working class family. He learned the importance of hard work and the need for having a good education at a young age. He attended Howard University on a football scholarship and graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Laws obtained his legal education from Northwestern Law School where he was an active participant in the Northwestern Legal Assistance Clinic. He assisted in the representation of underprivileged youth and adults who could not afford a private attorney. These cases included domestic relations, landlord / tenant disputes and misdemeanor offenses. It was also during this time that he would meet his wife of nearly 40-years, retired Judge Marjorie C. Laws.

Over the past three decades, Laws has managed his own law practice representing clients from all major felony offenses including first degree murder. Trained by his mentor, Attorney James D. Montgomery (former partner of The Cochran Law Firm), Laws has represented clients from a broad cross-section of the community. His defense efforts have helped change many lives for the better, many of whom were first time offenders. Laws believes there is a need for judges who exercise compassion for first time offenders to give them a chance to turn their lives around.

As a long-term resident of the south side of Chicago, Laws has given back to his community in numerous ways. He has served as Chairman of the Local School Council for Edgar Allen Poe Classical School for six consecutive years. He also served as the President for the Parent Teacher Association at Poe. He has been the Commencement Day Speaker and Career Day Speaker for Henderson Elementary School located in Englewood.

As a member of the Cook County Bar Association, Laws was one of the volunteer defense attorneys for the Decatur Seven high school students who were suspended from their school illegally. Whether helping those in need with free legal services, encouraging youth on the importance of gaining a good education, or defending the accused of major crimes, Laws has made a positive impact in the lives of others. Laws believes all people when appearing before the court should be treated with dignity and respect to ensure fair and impartial justice for all.