



Owens J. Shelby, Judge, Cook County Circuit Court

Judge Owens J. Shelby was born and raised on the west side of Chicago, which has driven his commitment to serving his community. He attended St. Angela School, Providence St. Mel Highschool, Morehouse College, and Chicago-Kent College of Law. After graduating from Chicago-Kent College of Law, Judge Shelby began his legal career as a contract attorney for the law firm of Loevy and Loevy, where he worked on a class action lawsuit

against the Cook County Department of Corrections for the inhumane treatment of individuals who have been arrested.

Next, he worked as an assistant counsel to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Springfield, IL, where he served on the following committees: criminal law, financial institutions, and housing and urban development. On July 7, 2008, Judge Shelby became an assistant state's attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Judge Shelby has since rotated through several divisions of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and has prosecuted a range of matters beginning with child support and culminating with first-degree murder cases.

After spending 14 years on the frontlines in the courtroom, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office selected Judge Shelby to utilize his expertise within its Community Justice Center – West. As part of this role, he spent the past year collaborating with community stakeholders, law enforcement, and residents to create programming and seminars aimed at crime prevention. Judge Shelby has led several presentations in this capacity at elementary and high schools, as well as senior living facilities. These presentations covered topics such as internet safety, domestic violence awareness, the meaning of consent, senior fraud prevention, and several others.

Throughout his career, Judge Shelby has maintained his commitment to his community through a variety of public service commitments. He has consistently volunteered by mentoring youth, speaking at career days and community outreach programs, coaching youth basketball and serving on different community organization boards throughout the years. Judge Shelby has served as a board member with the following organizations: St. Angela School, Better Boys Foundation, NAACP Westside Chapter, St. Joseph Services, and the National Black Prosecutors – Chicago Chapter.

Judge Shelby has had the privilege of sharing his life's journey with his wife, Cary Martin Shelby. She will be starting a new position in July 2023 with Chicago-Kent College of Law as the Ralph Brill Endowed Chair Professor of Law. Mr. and Mrs. Shelby share two children together, Malcolm and Faith. Malcolm is currently a senior at Howard University majoring in Political Science, while Faith is in first grade at Providence St. Mel.