

Ava George Stewart – Biography

Ava George Stewart is a dedicated attorney, educator, and advocate committed to advancing equal justice, particularly for historically marginalized communities impacted by the criminal justice system. With a background spanning criminal defense, prosecution, and nonprofit leadership, she brings an integrated, cross-disciplinary approach to legal advocacy in Chicago, Cook County, and across Illinois.

A graduate of Northwestern University (B.A., M.Sc.) and the University of Illinois College of Law (J.D.), Ava has served as a defense attorney, prosecutor, and Chief of the Misdemeanor/TraQic Division at the Lake County State's Attorney's OQice. She currently teaches Lawyering Skills at UIC Law and runs her own practice, handling criminal, civil, and administrative matters. Prior to law school, she led nonprofits serving homeless women and children (WINGS) and directed youth programs at Chicago Youth Centers.

Ava is deeply engaged in legal and civic leadership. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, advocating for vulnerable residents. As President of Women Everywhere, she champions educational opportunities for Chicago Public Schools girls. A trailblazer in bar leadership, she was the first Black woman elected to the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) Board of Governors, serving as Secretary and Treasurer, and has held roles with the Illinois Bar Foundation, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), and Black Women Lawyers' Association.

Her volunteerism includes pandemic relief eQorts, expungement clinics, and judicial reform initiatives. A Master Gardener and board member of Green City Market, she balances her advocacy with a passion for urban farming. Recognized as "Qualified" or "Recommended" by all evaluating bar associations, Ava continues to lead with integrity and service.

Contact: ava@georgestewartlaw.com | (312) 927-9001