



CYNTHIA BRIM
Fifth Municipal District
Elected 1994

Biography

Cynthia Brim graduated from Loyola University Law School. She was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General prior to becoming a judge.

Judicial Background

Cynthia Brim was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994 and initially assigned to the First Municipal District. Judge Brim is presently assigned to the Fifth Municipal District but has been suspended from duty since March 12, 2012. Judge Brim was arrested on March 10, 2012 on misdemeanor charges related to an altercation with a Cook County Sheriff's Deputy at the Daley Center.

Strengths

It appears that Judge Brim is reasonably engaged in proceedings in her courtroom, and maintains control over her high volume courtroom. But there are indications that her sessions are unusually short and often adjourned early.

Weaknesses

More than half of respondents indicated a lack of confidence in her legal abilities. Even though the judge hears generally non-complex matters, her rulings are often described as unpredictable and delayed. Respondents indicate that they regularly file motions for substitution of judge, despite the cost and inconvenience to their clients.

Additionally, there are many complaints that Judge Brim is late to take the bench. Attorneys report repeated continuances because court starts late and because the call is handled inefficiently. Attorneys feel that Judge Brim is particularly rude and unaccommodating of counsel who are on call in multiple courtrooms. Many attorneys described her as "consistently late" and there is some concern that her case management delays resolution of cases.

Conclusion

Judge Brim is reported to be having significant difficulties in the areas of legal ability, diligence and temperament that seriously impede her effectiveness as a jurist. A judicial performance improvement plan is indicated. The Commission recommends the following:

- Court-watching
- Peer Mentoring
- Anger Management Courses
- Continuing education courses on managing high-volume court calls
- Re-evaluation within three years