



**Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke  
Will Speak at VOTF 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference**

Throughout her long career in public service as a children’s advocate and legal professional, Justice Anne M. Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court’s First District has endeavored to provide a voice to society’s most fragile citizens. This indefatigable protector of children will be a keynote speaker during VOTF’s 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference in Boston. She will address attendees during dinner on Friday, Sept. 14, which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel. [Click here](#) for a conference agenda.



After serving on the Illinois Appellate Court, Justice Burke was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court on July 6, 2006, and elected in 2008. Before serving on the Appellate Court, she provided key leadership in reshaping and improving the Illinois juvenile justice system. Her judicial career began in 1987 when she became the first woman appointed to the Illinois Court of Claims.

Before her appointment to the judiciary, Justice Burke was a leading advocate on behalf of Chicago’s most vulnerable of young people. As a physical education teacher with the Chicago Park District, she worked with children with disabilities. Out of that experience, she went on to found the Chicago Special Olympics in 1968. She later served as a director of that organization as it grew to become the International Special Olympics represented in more than 160 countries.

For more than two years, serving as Interim Chair, Justice Burke directed the efforts of the National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops investigating the causes and effects of the clergy abuse scandal and helping to establish guidelines and policies for effectively responding to this scandal.

She also has served on several boards and foundations impacting the civic, cultural and educational life of Chicago. And she ran a neighborhood law practice that included representing the interests of children and families involved in neglect, abuse, delinquency and parental custody. In addition, she developed a very diverse practice that included criminal trial work and defense advocacy.

Justice Burke is a Dame of the Sovereign Order of Malta and a Dame Commander of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

She received her law degree from IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law and has been received numerous honorary degrees schools like the Catholic Theological Union, the College of the Holy Cross, DePaul University, St. Ambrose University, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, The John Marshall Law School and Marquette University.



