

ELIZABETH ROCHFORD

Rochford Has Limited Experience And Has Never Stood For Election Before

Rochford Has Served As An Associate Judge In Lake County Since 2012. “Rochford, 60, has been an associate judge in Lake County since her appointment in 2012. Since then, she has heard civil and criminal matters, with a significant focus on family law, according to the release. She currently presides over probate court. A former assistant state's attorney and solo practitioner, Rochford has served on the Illinois Judges Association Board of Directors since 2015.” (Katie Smith, “Lake County Judge Running For Illinois Supreme Court,” *Northwest Herald*, 7/15/21)

- **Associate Judges Are Prohibited From Hearing Felony Cases.** “Associate judges are appointed by circuit judges of that circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, for four-year terms. Associate Judges may not preside over criminal cases in which the defendant is charged with an offense punishable by imprisonment for one year or more (felonies), unless approval is received from the Supreme Court. Associate Judges are appointed by the Circuit Judges in accordance with Supreme Court rules for a four-year term.” (IllinoisCourts.gov, Accessed 10/29/21)

Rochford Was Appointed To The Court, Not Elected. “The Illinois Supreme Court issued the following news release: Michael J. Tardy, Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, announced today that the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit judges voted to select Elizabeth M. Rochford and Joseph V. Salvi as associate judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. Ms. Rochford received her undergraduate degree in 1983 from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, and her Juris Doctor in 1986 from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Rochford is currently engaged in solo practice in Lincolnwood & Lake Forest, Illinois and is affiliated with the Court of Claims in Springfield, Illinois and is also an Administrative Hearing Officer in Skokie, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood, Illinois and a back-up Administrative Hearing Officer in Glenview, Illinois.” (Illinois Supreme Court, “Administrative Director Declares Illinois Associate Judges Appointed in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit,” Press Release, 12/20/12)

Rochford Has Received Significant Support From Major Trial Lawyers

Since Announcing For Supreme Court, Rochford Has Received \$12,000 From Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard. (Illinois Board of Elections, Accessed 11/5/21)

- **Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard Is A Major Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, And Product Liability Trial Lawyer Firm.** (Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard Website, Accessed 11/5/21)

Rochford Has Also Received \$12,000 From Patrick Salvi And His Wife, Linda. (Illinois Board of Elections, Accessed 11/5/21)

Rochford Gave \$1,500 To Chicago Alderman Ed Burke Weeks After His Offices Were Raided By The FBI

Since 1999, Rochford Has Contributed \$15,350 To Chicago Alderman Ed Burke. (Illinois Board of Elections, Accessed 11/5/21)

- **Rochford's Most Recent Contribution To Burke Was On December 18, 2018 When She Gave Him \$1,500.** (Illinois Board of Elections, Accessed 11/5/21)

Less Than A Month Before Rochford Wrote Her \$1,500 Check To Burke, His City Hall And Ward Offices Were Raided By The FBI. “Federal agents swarmed Ald. Ed Burke's City Hall and ward offices Thursday morning, kicking out employees and hours later hauling boxes of records and computers from rooms that for decades have been at the center of Chicago's longest-standing political power structure. The scenario was a somewhat familiar one for Burke, Chicago's longest-serving politician known for his bold pinstripe suits, great political wealth and as half of one of the city's elite power couples. In his 50 years in politics, the Southwest Side alderman has been under federal scrutiny several times before, but

never convicted or indicted.” (Bill Ruthhart, John Byrne And Jason Meisner, “Federal Agents Raid Powerful Chicago Ald. Ed Burke’s City Hall And Ward Offices,” *Chicago Tribune*, 11/29/18)

Rochford Said She Gave To Burke Because “He’s A Longtime Friend Of Our Family.” “Campaign finance records show Rochford contributed \$1,500 to Chicago Ald. Edward Burke a couple weeks after federal investigators raided his City Hall offices in late 2018 ahead of filing corruption charges. ‘He’s a longtime friend of our family,’ Rochford said. ‘It was consistent with my previous campaign donations. It wasn’t part of anything that was going on at that time.’” (Eric Krol, “New Open Seat in Illinois Supreme Court will be Expensive and Hotly Contested,” [Center for Illinois Politics](#), 7/18/21)

Rochford Was A Illinois Court Of Claims Commissioner – Traditionally A Patronage Position

Rochford Served As A Commissioner For The Illinois Court Of Claims For 21 Years. “My parents taught me by example that when an opportunity for service presents itself, you seize it, and perform to the best of your ability,’ says JUDGE ELIZABETH ROCHFORD, a Lake County Judge for the past nine years. Judge Rochford’s inspiration came at a young age when she was witness to her father’s committed service as a Chicago police officer for more than 30 years, ultimately as Superintendent, and from her mother—a special education teacher. Her career trajectory went from Assistant State’s Attorney to private law practice and Commissioner of the Illinois Court of Claims for 23 years before becoming a judge. Now, Judge Rochford is seizing the opportunity for service once again; she recently announced her candidacy for the Illinois Supreme Court in the newly redrawn 2nd District.” (Elaine Doremus, “A Higher Calling,” *Sheridan Road*, 10/1/21)

Illinois Court Of Claims Appointments Have Long Been Used As Patronage Appointments For Political Insiders. “In February 2003, Blagojevich named Robert Sprague, the St. Clair County Democratic chairman, to a \$55,135 part-time job as chief justice of the Court of Claims, which rules on claims against the state and oversees crime-victim compensation. The governor appoints the panel’s seven judges, who then name commissioners, who conduct certain hearings for the court. Tim Timoney of Springfield, the Sangamon County Democratic chairman, and Greg Tuite, the Winnebago County Democratic chairman, were named commissioners in the spring of 2004. Each makes \$40,694 annually. Both said they got their jobs through contacts involving the governor.” (Bernard Schoenburg, “Governor’s ‘New Way’ Much Like Old,” *State Journal Register*, 8/28/05)