



*Because equal access to
justice is everyone's fight*

**Adult Guardian
ad Litem Training
“Beyond the Basics”**

May 5, 2022 – 2-5pm

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
Adult Guardian *ad Litem* Program
“Beyond the Basics” Training
May 5, 2022 – 2-5pm**

Presenters:

- Eve Epstein
- Kevin Lichtenberg
- Judges’ panel
 - Hon. Daniel B. Malone, Presiding Judge, Cook County Probate Division
 - Hon. Daniel R. Degnan, Circuit Judge, Probate Division
 - Hon. Susan Kennedy-Sullivan, Circuit Judge, Probate Division

Schedule:

2:00-3:50 – Attorney panel discussion on contested proceedings

3:50-4pm – Break

4-5pm – Judges’ Panel

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Eve C. Epstein, Esq.
Epstein and Epstein
33 North Dearborn Street
Suite 801
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 782-3193

Eve C. Epstein, an attorney with Epstein and Epstein, concentrates her practice in the areas of adult guardianships, elder law, estate planning, probate and estate administration and other matters impacting the lives of the elderly and adults with disabilities, including mental illness. She serves as a Court appointed Guardian Ad Litem in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County and volunteers as a pro bono Guardian Ad Litem through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. She also serves as a Court appointed attorney in guardianship matters for Respondents who are objecting to an adjudication of disability and the appointment of a guardian. Prior to entering private practice in 1986, Ms. Epstein worked for 10 years in the Region V – Office of the General Counsel of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as an Assistant Regional Counsel and Supervising Attorney, representing the agency and its sub-agencies and supervising cases and matters arising in the areas of Medicare and Medicaid in a 6 state region consisting of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. A 1974 graduate of the Northwestern University Pritzker Law School, Ms. Epstein has been recognized as a “Leading Lawyer” in Elder Law from 2006 through 2020 and a “Super Lawyer” since 2019. She has served on the Board of Directors of Illinois Citizens for Better Care, a nursing home resident’s advocacy organization, and has been a Board Member of the Illinois Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Ms. Epstein has given presentations to various groups and organizations, including the Chicago Bar Association, the Chicago Department of Aging and support groups of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Epilepsy Foundation. Her professional memberships include the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. (Elder Law and Probate Practice Committees).

Kevin C. Lichtenberg bio – April 2022

Kevin (he/him/his) is a founding partner at firm HeflerLichtenberg in Chicago and concentrates his practice on guardianship and probate, elder law, mental health and risk management, and child welfare and adoptions. He is a member of DCFS's Statewide Adoption Attorney panel. He is also regularly appointed as guardian ad litem in guardianship proceedings before the probate court.

Kevin is an active member of the legal community, volunteering his time and skills to multiple legal service agencies that assist low-income individuals. In 2016, Kevin was appointed to Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Board of Governors for his first term and most recently has been appointed on to the Board's Executive Committee as the Damen Society and Annual Giving Chair. He teaches at Loyola University Chicago School of Law for the school's pilot course Professional Identity Formation for all first-year law students since 2018. He participates in the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) pro bono program and serves on the Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Judicial Evaluations for Cook County. He recently served on the Misericordia Emerging Leaders Board.

Kevin received both his master's degree and juris doctor from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he earned a Certificate in Health Law and served as Publications Editor of the Annals of Health Law and as Vice President of the Student Bar Association. He has a master's degree in political science from Loyola University Chicago and received his undergraduate degree from Boston College, where he participated in the honors program and graduated magna cum laude.

Kevin lives in Chicago with his partner of ten years and their two four-legged dependents (pet dog and cat). He enjoys jogging (especially along the lakefront path), golf, skiing, spending time with his siblings and 'army' of nieces and nephews and of course, travelling.

Daniel B. Malone

**Presiding Judge Circuit Court of Cook County Probate Division
Daley Center, 50 West Washington Street, Room 1803
Chicago, IL 60602
312-603-7546**

Legal Experience

Admitted to Illinois Bar 1986. Malone spent his legal career before becoming a judge at the Healy Law Firm (f/k/a Healy & Nolan), first as an associate (1986-01), then as a partner (2001-09). He concentrated in complex plaintiff's personal injury litigation, including construction, workers' compensation, product liability, and medical negligence. He recorded numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements.

Judicial Experience

On February 24, 2009, Malone was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to a 3rd Subcircuit judgeship in the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was elected to a six-year term in November 2010 and retained in 2016. Malone was initially assigned to the 1st Municipal District, Traffic Center. In March 2011, he was transferred to Housing Court. In 2013, he was reassigned to the Probate Division where he handled Minor Guardianship and Disabled Adult Guardianship cases. In October 2016, he was reassigned to Decedent's Estates in Room 1807. In July 2019, he was named Acting Presiding Judge of the Probate Division. In October 2020 he was reassigned to Pretrial Mediation in Room 1803 and named Presiding Judge in December 2021.

Publications/Seminars

Author in Cook County Judicial Bench Book-Traffic Committee; author, "Opening Statements," Callaghan's Trial Practice Series; author, "Settlement Contracts," Chapter 26, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association Workers' Compensation Trial Notebook. Participant, IICLE panel on Electronic Documents and Remote Signing, 2021; Eight O' Clock Call: Probate, 2020, Chicago Bar Association; presenter, 225th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, Brother Rice High School, 2012; speaker and facilitator, "Literacy Project: Life and Legacy of Lincoln," Illinois Judges Association, 2014-19; speaker, "Probate Practice Part 2: Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation-From the Streets to the Courtroom," CBA CLE "Probate Practice Parts 1 & 2" seminar, 2015. Malone has been a guest lecturer for IITLA and the ISBA. He was a featured guest speaker on *Community in Focus*, CAN-TV, The Ed McElroy Show in February 2015, discussing the Disabled Adult Guardianship Process.

Awards

2005-09, listed as Illinois Super Lawyer for Plaintiffs Personal Injury (General) in *Chicago* magazine; 2007, listed in "Top 100 Verdicts of 2007" for *Powell v. Dean*

Foods Co., et al. (\$20,200,000), *National Law Journal*.

Organizations

Chicago Bar Association: Tort Litigation Committee (past chair), Nominating Committee; Illinois State Bar Association; Illinois Trial Lawyers Association: Board of Managers 1996-07, Product Liability Committee co-chair 2000-01; Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association: president 2009, vice president 2008, treasurer 2006-07; Illinois Judges Association: Courtroom in the Classroom volunteer 2013-19.

Family

Judge Malone was born in 1957 in Chicago. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

Education

Grammar School: St. Jane de Chantal, Chicago, IL, 1971

High School: Fenwick High School, Oak Park, IL, 1975

Undergraduate: University of Illinois at Chicago, 1979, B.A., Major: Political Science

Law School: DePaul University College of Law, 1986, J.D.

Hon. Susan Kennedy-Sullivan, Circuit Judge, Cook County Probate Division

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Kennedy-Sullivan was a sole-practitioner specializing in the area of Elder Law. She regularly appeared in court on matters related to mental health, guardianship, and domestic relations. She also taught a court on Elder Law at DePaul University College of Law for 19 years. Judge Kennedy-Sullivan earned her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and later a master's in nursing administration from New York University. She later earned her JD from DePaul University College of Law.

Judge Kennedy-Sullivan became a Circuit Judge in 2010 and started her judicial career in the First Municipal District. She transferred to the Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Division in 2013 and later the Probate Division in 2014. Judge Kenney-Sullivan currently presides over adult guardianship matters.

Hon. Daniel R. Degnan, Circuit Judge, Cook County Probate Division

Before joining the bench in 2012, Judge Degnan worked as a private practice attorney and as Chief Deputy and CFO of the Cook County Treasurer's Office. He worked as the Executive Director of the Cook County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund.

Judge Degnan received his B.A. degree from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and his J.D. degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law before being admitted to the Bar in 1995. Judge Degnan served in the Domestic Relations Division and in traffic court, and now presides over Adult Guardianship cases in the Probate Division.

Scenario 1 – Respondent Objects:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 2 – Cross-Petitions:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 3 – Managing Family Expectations:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 4 – Mental Health Cases:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 5 – APS involved:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 6 – Remote Investigations:

Tools to use:

Notes:

Scenario 7 – Fee Petitions:

Tools to use:

Notes:

GALs at Trial:

How to Prepare for trial:

- **Parties represented**

- **Pro se parties**

- **GAL is a Petitioner**

Notes:

Judges' Panel

Notes: