

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JUDGE SHEILA MURPHY UNVEILS DEATH PENALTY REFORM PROPOSAL AT BAR ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO, ILL. (January 5, 2009)—Former 6th District Presiding Judge Sheila M. Murphy, now Of Counsel at Rothschild Barry & Myers LLP, will unveil a proposal to reform the death penalty at noon, Tuesday, January 13 at the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) at a meeting of the CBA's Criminal Law Committee. "We're thrilled to be able to offer the Judge this chance to reveal her proposal," said Committee Chair Judge Martin Moltz.

The Judge's proposal is based on economic considerations and the cost of the death penalty in Illinois. She explains, "In these tough financial times, when people are losing homes, jobs and the values of their 401ks, a hard look needs to be taken at the cost of the death penalty in our state."

That is especially true of Cook County where the cost to citizens is the greatest in the state, according to the judge. "After serving as the court appointed monitor of homeless children in the Chicago Public Schools," says Murphy, "I think their needs should come first. Then, the health of citizens, especially the elderly, needs to be addressed."

Murphy has long been an active presence in international, national, state and local bar associations as well as judges' associations and has presided over death penalty cases during her tenure on the bench. Currently Chair of the Judges Forum of the International Bar Association, she has been an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School since 1992.

Appointed Associate Judge in 1989, she was elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1992. She served as Presiding Judge of the Sixth District until 1999 when she retired from the bench. A

frequent guest speaker, she is the founder of Our Children in the Courts Foundation.

Judge Murphy holds a JD from DePaul University School of Law, and a BS from Marquette University.

About The Chicago Bar Association

Founded in 1874, the 23,000-member CBA is one of the largest metropolitan bar associations in the country. The CBA is governed by 24 Officers and members of the Board of Managers. Its 55 Practice Committees, 23 Service Committees and 15 Special Committees provide a wide variety of services to the legal profession, the state and federal courts and the public. For more information visit the CBA web site at www.chicagobar.org.

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