

BIOGRAPHY
RETIRED JUDGE JERELYN D. MAHER

Jerelyn Maher is a graduate of Bradley University and from Loyola School of Law, Chicago, Illinois. In 1977, she began practicing law in Peoria, Illinois concentrating in personal injury trial and appellate cases.

In 1995 she was appointed as an associate judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit retiring from the bench in 2016. She has presided over all types of cases including civil, criminal, juvenile abuse and domestic violence cases; however, most of her judicial career has been spent in family court.

She is the past editor of the judicial benchbook on family law. Judge Maher was very active in teaching judges even after retirement. Judge Maher was a member of the Supreme Court Committee charged with developing education programs and teaching the judges of the State of Illinois. She also served as a member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee. Judge Maher continues to be facilitator for judicial evaluation of other judges.

During her tenure as a judge, she initiated the creation of the Peoria County Visitation Center. This program allows children to be exchanged for visitation in a safe environment as well as provides for supervised visitation. Judge Maher also initiated the Guardian Ad Litem position in Tazewell County to provide representation to children in domestic violence cases. From 2006 until retirement Judge Maher was the judicial coordinator to administer the implementation of Supreme Court Rules applicable to child custody proceedings for the Tenth Judicial Circuit .

Judge Maher is very active in the Peoria County Bar Association having served as its president in 2016. For over 30 years she has been an annual presenter at the PCBA continuing education programs.

In June, 2016, Judge Maher returned to Bradley University where she is the Director of the Center For Legal Studies. She administers the newly created minor in Legal Studies, teaches and advises students.