

Mary T. Robinson, Robinson Niro, LLC Colleagues is a principal in Robinson Niro LLC, and provides representation, consultation, and expert witness services in matters involving lawyer ethics and professional responsibility, including lawyer discipline cases. She also serves by appointment of the federal court overseeing the Shakman decree (prohibiting unlawful patronage employment practices) as Compliance Administrator for Cook County, Illinois. Ms. Robinson began her legal career as an appellate criminal defense lawyer for indigent clients, and after eight years in the employ of a state agency, she opened her own practice where she concentrated in appellate, criminal and family law in the collar counties surrounding Chicago. While in that practice, she was appointed as a Commissioner of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Board that oversees the Illinois discipline office. In 1992, she was appointed Administrator of the ARDC, and served as the chief prosecutor and executive of that agency for fifteen years. During her tenure, she worked to enhance the sophistication and experience of the full time staff, established programs to help lawyers avoid discipline problems, and strengthened the relationship between the discipline agency and the Illinois Lawyers Assistance Program. Ms. Robinson is a frequent speaker for national, state and local bar association programs. She is a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility and has served on the planning committee for the ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility for several years, as chair for 2008–2010. She taught Professional Responsibility at Northwestern University Law School and Northern Illinois University School of Law. She received her law degree from the University of Southern California in 1974, and is licensed in Illinois and California.