



IAAS Walks of Life 2000
Grace Kilbane

Grace R. Kilbane is a graduate of Lourdes Academy, Kent State University with a bachelor's degree in political science, Cleveland State University with a master's in urban studies, and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1982. Beginning in 1974 as a counselor with Cleveland Municipal Court's Victim Service Unit, she became its director in 1975.

For Cuyahoga County, she started and directed, from 1976 to 1983, Ohio's first county-wide crime victims' program, worked on passage and implementation of Ohio's Domestic Violence Law and the Victim Impact Statement, and co-founded the first battered women's shelter in the state. Then, until 1988 she was deputy administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. There followed a series of positions with the U. S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA): Regional Administrator for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; director of the 1990 Immigration Act Task Force; director of the One-Stop Career Center System; administrator of the Office of Work based Learning, which included responsibility for federal job training programs for dislocated workers; and director of Unemployment Insurance Services.

Grace Kilbane now is administrator of the Office of Workforce Security, a new position which entails responsibilities for the Unemployment Insurance Service, the United States Employment Service, Alien Labor Certification and the One-Stop Career System. She also is a member of the Enterprise Council, a quality initiative ETA has engaged in with state and local partners.

With offices in Washington, D.C., she and her husband, Robert Fenton, make their home in Alexandria, Va. Her many honors have included the Dean's Distinguished Alumni Award from Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs, the Vice President's Hammer Awards for establishing the Enterprise Council and for reengineering the Trade Office, the ASPA National Public Service Award, and the CSU Alumni Association's Special Achievement Award.

Irish American Archives Society
P.O. Box 91756
Cleveland, OH 44101-3756
info@irisharchives.org