Judge Jean M. Kies was elected to the bench in 2016 and serves in Branch 45 of the Circuit Court. Her present assignment is in the General Felony Division. She has previously presided over misdemeanor, criminal traffic, domestic violence and child abuse cases. Judge Kies serves on the Legislative Committee for the State Judicial Conference and the Access to Justice Committee for the Milwaukee County Courts. She also reviews all eligible pardon applications from Milwaukee County and makes recommendations to Governor Evers' Pardon Advisory Board.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Kies was in private practice. She focused her practice on state and federal criminal defense, business litigation, and family and juvenile law. She also successfully litigated appellate cases in both state and federal courts.

Judge Kies has served the community as an active volunteer for many local organizations including the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Schroeder YMCA Swim Club. She is often at Marquette University Law School engaging with students and alumni. Judge Kies enjoys judging the Jenkins Honors Moot Court Competition and the National Moot Court Competition for student lawyers. She is also a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association and the Milwaukee Trial Judges Association.

Judge Kies earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin (1988) and a Juris Doctor from Marquette University Law School (1991). She lives in Whitefish Bay with her husband, Attorney Lew A. Wasserman; they have two adult sons, Alek and Ian.