



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Illinois Appellate Court – 1st District

Aurelia Maria Pucinski - Yes

Justice Aurelia Maria Pucinski was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. Before being elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, she was a private practitioner and served in government, including serving as Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1988 to 2000. She was subsequently elected to the Appellate Court, First District in 2010 and is currently assigned to the Second Division.

Attorneys gave favorable feedback on her recent work, reporting that she issues well-written opinions, is diligent, has a good temperament, and has pushed for diversity on the Court's staff. The ISBA finds Justice Pucinski qualified for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – 1st District.

Mary Katherine Rochford – Yes

Justice Mary Katherine Rochford was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. She was elected to the Appellate Court in 2010 after serving as an associate judge from 1991 to 2006, when she was elected to the Circuit Court. Before this she handled civil litigation as a private practitioner and a government attorney. She is currently assigned to the Fifth Division.

Attorneys praised her for her high analytical skills and well-reasoned opinions, her professionalism, and her integrity. The ISBA finds Justice Rochford qualified for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – 1st District.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Circuit Court – Cook County

Michael P. Toomin - Yes

Judge Michael P. Toomin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1967. He was a private criminal defense attorney before becoming an associate judge in 1980. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1984, and subsequently retained five times. He has been the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Justice Division for over ten years; he was also assigned to the Criminal Division and had an interim appointment to the Appellate Court.

Attorneys reported that he is well-respected for his legal ability and knowledge, and extensive experience, fair treatment, and diligence. The ISBA finds Judge Toomin qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James Patrick Flannery, Jr. - Yes

Judge James Patrick Flannery, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. For twelve years before becoming a judge, he worked in government and private practice. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1988, elected countywide in 1990 and subsequently retained four times. Previous assignments included Traffic Court, the Fourth Municipal District (Maywood), and Criminal Division. Since 2014 he has been the Presiding Judge of the Law Division, supervising from 45 to 55 judges in six separate sections. In addition to his administrative duties, he handles cases involving the setting of trial dates, contested and emergency motions, and prove-ups. He also serves on numerous judicial committees and lectures on a regular basis. During his tenure, he has presided over nearly 400 jury trials and 2,000 bench trials.

Attorneys described his legal knowledge and ability as exceptional and he received high marks as a trial judge. The ISBA finds Judge Flannery qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Mary Ellen Coghlan - Yes

Judge Mary Ellen Coghlan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. She worked for the Public Defender's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and a civil litigation firm before her appointment to the Circuit Court in 1995. She was subsequently elected in 1996 and retained in 2002, 2008 and 2014. She was assigned to the Appellate Court in July 2019 after serving for nine years as the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division.

Attorneys reported that she is highly regarded for her legal ability, good demeanor, even-handedness, and preparation. The ISBA finds Judge Coghlan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Shelley Lynn Sutker-Dermer - Yes

Judge Shelley Lynn Sutker-Dermer was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1982. She was a career prosecutor until her appointment to the Circuit Court in 1995 and subsequent election in 1996. She was retained in 2002, 2008 and 2014. She has been the Presiding Judge of the Second District (Skokie) since 2003; she was previously assigned to the Criminal Division and First Municipal.

Attorneys reported that she is knowledgeable about law and procedure, and that she is fair and even-tempered, and acts with high integrity. The ISBA finds Judge Sutker-Dermer qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Patricia Manila Martin – No Rating

Judge Patricia Manila Martin advised that she would not be seeking retention though her name appears on the ballot. The ISBA has no rating for Judge Martin.

Kenneth J. Wadas - Yes

Judge Kenneth J. Wadas was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975. After a career as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, he was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He was retained in 2002, 2008 and 2014. He is currently Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse; he has been assigned to that division since 1999.

Attorneys report that he is knowledgeable about the law, fair, even keeled, and runs his courtroom efficiently. The ISBA finds Judge Wadas qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Gregory Joseph Wojkowski - Yes

Judge Gregory Joseph Wojkowski was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. He was an attorney for the City of Chicago prior to his election to the Circuit Court in 1996. He was retained in 2002, 2008 and 2014. He has been assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section since 2011 after first sitting in First Municipal.

Attorneys consider him to be extremely knowledgeable about law and procedure, and also patient, diligent, and even-tempered with high integrity. The ISBA finds Judge Wojkowski qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Robert E. Gordon - Yes

Judge Robert E. Gordon was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1962. After practicing for thirty-four years as a litigator, in 1996 he was appointed to the Circuit Court; he was elected in 2002. In July 2006 he was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court where he is considered a scholarly jurist whose written opinions are described as fair, well-reasoned, logical, and legally sound.

He has received positive comments regarding his sensitivity to diversity and bias, high character, punctuality, diligence, and having a good judicial temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Gordon qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Lewis Nixon - Yes

Judge Lewis Nixon was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975. He served as deputy counsel for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Corporation for many years until his appointment as an associate judge in 2001. He was subsequently elected to the Circuit Court in 2002 and retained in 2008 and 2014. He has been assigned to Chancery, Mortgage Foreclosure and Mechanics Lien Section since 2008, and is currently Supervising Judge.

Attorneys consider him to be a knowledgeable judge who is an expert at managing his courtroom with an even temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Nixon qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Margaret Ann Brennan - Yes

Judge Margaret Ann Brennan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. She worked for the City of Chicago and for Exelon until her election to the Circuit Court in 2002. She was subsequently retained in 2008 and 2014. Since February 2013 she has been assigned to the Law Division, Commercial Calendar.

Attorneys consider her to be a solid jurist with good legal ability, who is prepared and respectful with good courtroom management skills. The ISBA finds Judge Brennan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Janet Adams Brosnahan - Yes

Judge Janet Adams Brosnahan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. She was a private civil litigation and labor law practitioner until her election to the Circuit Court in 2002. She was retained in 2008 and 2014. She is currently assigned to the Law Division, Law Jury after previously serving as a Law Motion judge.

Attorneys report that she has excellent legal knowledge, high integrity, and is hard-working and patient. The ISBA finds Judge Adams Brosnahan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Peter A. Felice - Yes

Judge Peter A. Felice was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. He had a solo general law practice until 2002 when he was elected to the Circuit Court. He was retained in 2008 and 2014. He has been assigned to the Municipal Department at the Fifth District (Bridgeview) since 2005 where he rotates between a variety of courtrooms. Previously he was assigned to First Municipal and Domestic Violence.

Attorneys report that he knows the law, is always prepared, and is fair and impartial. The ISBA finds Judge Felice qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Kerry M. Kennedy - Yes

Judge Kerry M. Kennedy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. Prior to his election to the Circuit Court in 2002, he served as an assistant public defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office . From 2015 to the present, he has been assigned to a felony trial courtroom in the Sixth Municipal District (Markham) where he is well-regarded for his knowledge of the law, courtroom procedure, rules, and trial management.

Attorneys describe him as fair in his treatment of minority parties and he received high marks for his temperament, impartiality, and for acting with high integrity. The ISBA finds Judge Kennedy qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Casandra Lewis - Yes

Judge Casandra Lewis was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. She was a private practitioner doing civil litigation when she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2002. She has been assigned to the Law Division, Jury Section since 2014.

Attorneys reported that she is intelligent, knowledgeable, and hard working with a good temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Lewis qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Laura Marie Sullivan - Yes

Judge Laura Marie Sullivan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. She was a career prosecutor until her election to the Circuit Court in 2002. She is currently assigned to First Municipal doing felony preliminary hearings; her prior assignments include Central Bond Court, Traffic and Domestic Violence.

Attorneys reported that she is knowledgeable when it comes to legal issues and that she is calm and diligent. The ISBA finds Judge Sullivan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Raul Vega - Yes

Judge Raul Vega was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1982. He was a solo practitioner with a general practice at the time of his election to the Circuit Court in 2002. He was retained in 2008 and 2014. He has been the Presiding Judge of Domestic Violence since 2018 after initial assignments in Domestic Relations and First Municipal.

Attorneys reported that he is respected for his extensive legal knowledge and also for his sensitivity to diversity and the needs of pro se parties. It was also reported that he has a good temperament and runs the division well. The ISBA finds Judge Vega qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Michael B. Hyman - Yes

Judge Michael B. Hyman was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1977. Prior to his appointment in 2006 to the Circuit Court, Judge Hyman was a private practitioner handling securities, antitrust and fraud matters. He was subsequently elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. He was appointed to the Appellate Court – First District in 2018; he has been assigned there since 2013 after also sitting in Domestic Violence and First Municipal.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge, intelligence, and preparedness, and his well-reasoned written opinions. The ISBA finds Judge Hyman qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Joan E. Powell – Yes

Judge Joan E. Powell was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. She was an assistant state’s attorney at the time of her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2006; she was subsequently elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. She has been assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section for six years; previously she was assigned to the Commercial Calendar.

Most attorneys reported that she works hard and has good ability and is calm and impartial. A few described her as being indecisive at times. The ISBA finds Judge Joan E. Powell qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County

Patrick J. Sherlock - Yes

Judge Patrick J. Sherlock was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. He was a private practitioner doing commercial litigation cases when he was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007. He was subsequently elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. Since 2013 he has been assigned to the Law Division, Commercial Calendar Section, after previously serving in First Municipal.

Attorneys respect him for his legal knowledge and ability, his easy-going nature, and report that he is fair and helpful in moving cases along. The ISBA finds Judge Sherlock qualified for retention in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Maureen Ward Kirby - Yes

Judge Maureen Ward Kirby was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. She was in private practice handling civil litigation before being appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007; she was subsequently elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. Since 2009 she has handled a variety of matters in the County Division, including mental health, adoption, and other emergency matters.

Attorneys report that she is very knowledgeable, sensitive in delicate matters, and always prepared. The ISBA finds Judge Ward Kirby qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Edward A. Arce - Yes

Judge Edward A. Arce was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985. He had a private general civil practice until his election to the Circuit Court in 2008 and subsequent retention in 2014. He has been assigned to various calendars in Domestic Relations his entire judicial career.

Attorneys report that he has a strong command of Family Law, treats all with respect, is good with pro se litigants, and has a calm demeanor. The ISBA finds Judge Arce qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James N. O'Hara - Yes

Judge James N. O'Hara was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. He was an assistant attorney general and assistant public defender, and a private attorney handling civil litigation before his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2008. He was subsequently elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. Since August 2010, he has heard and ruled upon various pre-trial motions and matters involving motor vehicle accidents, premise liability, products liability, medical malpractice legal malpractice, and nursing home malpractice.

Attorneys praised his combination of legal knowledge and ability, preparation, temperament, and patient demeanor. The ISBA finds Judge O'Hara qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Mauricio Araujo - No

Pursuant to ISBA Policy, Judge Mauricio Araujo is found to be not qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County as a result of his failure to participate in the judicial evaluation process.

Thomas J. Byrne - Yes

Judge Thomas J. Byrne was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. He was a career prosecutor until his election to the Circuit Court in 2008 and subsequent retention in 2014. He has been assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since 2013 and since 2014 has also presided over a felony call.

Attorneys described him as having an exemplary knowledge of criminal law. They also reported that he is diligent, even keeled, and professional. The ISBA finds Judge Byrne qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Ann Collins-Dole - Yes

Judge Ann Collins-Dole was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. She was an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago until her election to the Circuit Court in 2008; she was then retained in 2014. She is currently assigned to the Law Division, Jury Trial Section after previous assignments in the Tax and Miscellaneous Section, Probate, Domestic Violence, and First Municipal.

Attorneys reported that she is knowledgeable of the law, issues well-written opinions, and is diligent. A few had concerns about her temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Collins-Dole qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Donna L. Cooper - Yes

Judge Donna L. Cooper was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. She worked for various city and county agencies until she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2008; she was retained in 2014. She has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division since 2009.

While most attorneys reported that she has adequate legal knowledge, a few had concerns, though most stated that she will research areas she is not familiar with. It was also reported that she is committed to restorative justice and takes time to explain matters to the families of the juveniles appearing before her. The ISBA finds Judge Cooper qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Anna Helen Demacopoulos - Yes

Judge Anna Helen Demacopoulos was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985. She practiced as an assistant Cook County state's attorney for almost twenty-four years before her election to the Circuit Court in 2008. She served in a high-volume felony courtroom ruling on motions and presiding over bench and jury trials. Since 2015 she has been assigned to the Chancery Division. Matters heard in her courtroom include temporary and permanent restraining orders, class actions, business disputes, and administrative reviews. She has also taught various trial advocacy law school classes for the last six years.

Attorneys appearing before her gave high marks for her legal knowledge and ability, as well as her integrity, impartiality, character, and punctuality. The ISBA finds Judge Demacopoulos qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Diana L. Kenworthy - Yes

Judge Diana L. Kenworthy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. She handled criminal defense matters and was an arbitrator and hearing officer prior to her election to the Circuit Court in 2008; she was retained in 2014. She has been assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since 2019 where she currently hears felony matters. Prior to this she was assigned to Domestic Violence.

The ISBA finds Judge Kenworthy qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Pamela E. Loza – Yes

Judge Pamela E. Loza was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978. She was a prosecutor and a private practitioner until her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2012 and subsequent election in 2014. Since February 2014 she has been assigned to an individual calendar in Domestic Relations.

Attorneys described her as being very familiar with the law, patient with litigants and very fair. The ISBA finds Judge Loza qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Jackie Marie Portman-Brown - No

Judge Jackie Marie Portman-Brown was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1999. She served as a prosecutor and as General Counsel of the Independent Police Review Authority before her election to the Circuit Court in 2008 and subsequent retention in 2014. As a judge, she was assigned to First Municipal and the Criminal Division from February 2012 until February 2019. She presided over the Deferred Prosecution Court while simultaneously presiding over the Adult Redeploy Illinois Court until its termination in October 2018. In March 2020 she was reassigned to the First Municipal, Administrative Duties pending the resolution of a well-publicized situation that resulted in a complaint being filed with the Judicial Inquiry Board.

Attorneys varied widely in their assessment of her legal knowledge and ability. Some reported that she has good legal knowledge while others reported that she does not know the law or misapplies it. Many raised concerns about her judgment, and there were also concerns about her temperament, with some describing her as abusive to the courtroom staff and her unorthodox behavior on the bench, including singing and ringing a cowbell. The ISBA finds that Judge Portman-Brown is not qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Dominique C. Ross - Yes

Judge Dominique C. Ross was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. She was a private practitioner handling domestic relations and real estate matters when she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2008; he was retained in 2014. After an initial assignment to First Municipal, she has been assigned to Domestic Relations since 2009.

Attorneys reported that she is highly respected for her knowledge, intelligence, temperament, and ability to run an efficient courtroom. The ISBA finds Judge Ross qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Kristyna Colleen Ryan - Yes

Judge Kristyna Colleen Ryan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2000. She was a private practitioner handling commercial transactions and site acquisitions at the time of her election to the Circuit Court in 2008. She was retained in 2014. Since 2010 she has been assigned to the Fourth District (Maywood) where she handles misdemeanor cases and several specialty courts.

Attorneys remarked favorable on her legal knowledge and ability, her diligence, fairness, and her ability to handle sensitive issues. The ISBA finds Judge Ryan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Debra B. Walker - Yes

Judge Debra B. Walker was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. She was a private practitioner with several different firms handling liability defense matters at the time of her election to the Circuit Court in 2008. She was retained in 2014. She has been assigned to Domestic Relations since 2011 and is currently a team leader.

Attorneys praised her legal knowledge and ability, and her work ethic, sensitivity, and ability to be practical. The ISBA finds Judge Walker qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Ursula Walowski – Yes

Judge Ursula Walowski was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. She was a prosecutor at the time of her election to the Circuit Court in 2008; she was retained in 2014. She has been assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since 2016 where she hears felony cases. She has also served in Domestic Violence and First Municipal.

Attorneys consider her to be very knowledgeable in law and procedure, diligent, experienced, and straightforward. The ISBA finds Judge Walowski qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Anthony C. ‘Tony’ Kyriakopoulos – Yes

Judge Anthony C. ‘Tony’ Kyriakopoulos was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. He was primarily a prosecutor until his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2010 and subsequent election in 2014. He was initially assigned to First Municipal and in 2011 he transferred to Chancery, where he currently sits in the Mortgage Foreclosure and Mechanics Lien Section.

Attorneys contacted gave positive feedback on his legal knowledge and ability, impartiality, character, and temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Kyriakopoulos qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County,

Caroline Kate Moreland – Yes

Judge Caroline Kate Moreland was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. She was a prosecutor until her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2010 and subsequent election in 2014. She has been assigned to the Chancery Division since April 2019 after a previous assignment in Domestic Violence.

Attorneys praised her for her extensive legal knowledge, her well thought out opinions in complex matters and her fairness and demeanor. The ISBA finds Judge Moreland qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Thomas J. Carroll - Yes

Judge Thomas J. Carroll was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. He had been a private criminal defense attorney and an assistant public defender prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2012 and subsequent election in 2014. He has been assigned to the Sixth District (Markham), Municipal Department where he has been a Supervising Judge since January 2012.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge, his well-reasoned decisions, temperament, and professionalism. The ISBA finds Judge Carroll qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Cynthia Y. Cobbs - Yes

Judge Cynthia Y. Cobbs was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011, was elected countywide in 2014 and assigned the Appellate Court – First District; a position she has held since being appointed in 2015. Prior to her judicial service she worked for several years at the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. There she served first as an attorney and then as chief legal counsel; from 2002 to 2011, she served as Director.

Attorneys report that she is fair-minded, patient, and intelligent. ISBA found Judge Cynthia Y. Cobbs qualified to serve as a Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court – First District in the March 2020 primary election and, herewith, finds her qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Daniel J. Kubasiak - Yes

Judge Daniel J. Kubasiak was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. He practiced in the area of corporate and commercial litigation until his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2012 and subsequent election in 2014. He is currently assigned to the Law Division, Commercial Calendar Section. Prior assignments include the Law Division, Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies Section, and First Municipal.

Attorneys report that he has good legal knowledge, is thoroughly prepared, and is fair to all parties. The ISBA finds Judge Kubasiak qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Andrea Michele Buford - Yes

Judge Andrea Michele Buford was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. She was a private practitioner handling civil defense matters until her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2013 and subsequent election in 2014. She currently sits in the Child Protection Division having had previous assignment in First Municipal. She is a past president of the Illinois Judicial Council.

Attorneys report that she is well-respected with an excellent knowledge of substantive law and procedure, and good courtroom skills. The ISBA finds Judge Buford qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Pamela McLean Meyerson - Yes

Judge Pamela McLean Meyerson was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. She was a solo practitioner handling civil and commercial litigation until her appointment to the Circuit Court in 2012 and subsequent election in 2014. She is currently assigned to Chancery, the General Chancery Section.

Attorneys praised her as a solid judge who knows the law and issues well-written rulings, and who is good with pro se litigants. The ISBA finds Judge Meyerson qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Christopher E. Lawler – Yes

Judge Christopher E. Lawler was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Before his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2013, and subsequent election in 2014, he was a private practitioner handling insurance defense cases. He has been assigned to the Law Division, Motion Section since November 2017; prior to this he heard civil matters in the Sixth District (Markham).

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge, temperament, preparation, and ability to handle complex matters. The ISBA finds Judge Lawler qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John Michael Allegretti - Yes

Judge John Michael Allegretti was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. Prior to his election to the Circuit Court in 2014, he had been a private practitioner and also served in various government positions, including General Counsel to the Cook County Assessor. He is currently assigned to First Municipal, Non-Jury Civil Section.

Attorneys praised his knowledge and ability. They reported that he is fair and hardworking; younger attorneys in particular remarked on his patience. The ISBA finds Judge Allegretti qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Kristal Rivers - Yes

Judge Kristal Rivers was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1997. She had a general private practice and had been an assistant attorney general at the time of her appointment and subsequent election to the Circuit Court in 2014. She is currently assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division where she has presided since April 2015 after first being assigned to First Municipal.

Attorneys described her as knowledgeable with a good understanding of the law, diligent and sensitive to juvenile offenders. The ISBA finds Judge Rivers qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Steven G. Watkins – Yes

Judge Steven G. Watkins was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. He was a private practitioner handling mainly criminal defense, civil and real estate matters until his election to the Circuit Court in 2014. After spending time in First Municipal, he was transferred to his current assignment in the Criminal Division, Leighton Criminal Courthouse hearing felony cases in 2016.

In general, attorneys gave favorable comments regarding his legal knowledge and ability and it is reported that he is fair to both parties. The ISBA finds Judge Watkins qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Abbey Fishman Romanek - Yes

Judge Abbey Fishman Romanek was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. She was previously a private practitioner handling medical malpractice and insurance defense cases until her election to the Circuit Court in 2014. She has been assigned to Domestic Relations since December 2015 after first being assigned to First Municipal.

Most attorneys reported that she has a good understanding of the law, is diligent and fair; a few described her as being short-tempered at times. The ISBA finds Judge Fishman Romanek qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

William B. Raines - Yes

Judge William B. Raines was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. He was a private practitioner handling criminal defense cases until he was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. After starting in Traffic Misdemeanor Court, he was transferred to the Criminal Division, - Fifth District (Bridgeview) in January 2017, and then to the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in November 2018.

Attorneys reported that he has a solid knowledge of the law and handles multi-faceted cases well. He is regarded as respectful and fair. The ISBA finds Judge Raines qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Judith Carol Rice – Yes

Judge Judith Carol Rice was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Prior to her election to the Circuit Court in 2014, she held various government positions. She has also previously served as Chicago City Treasurer, and Senior Vice President of BMO Harris Bank. Since June 2019 she has been assigned to Domestic Relations; she previously presided over Domestic Violence.

Attorneys overwhelmingly praised her legal ability, impartiality, and temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Rice qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Patrick Kevin Coughlin - Yes

Judge Patrick Kevin Coughlin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. He was a career prosecutor until his election to the Circuit Court in 2014. In June 2016 he was assigned to the Sixth District (Markham) where since April 2016 he has presided over a felony courtroom. He also spent time in First Municipal, Traffic Section.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge and ability, describing him as a go-to judge in the courthouse. They also described him as hardworking, fair, and patient; and specifically noted his initiatives to assist with COVID-19 adaptations. The ISBA finds Judge Coughlin qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John Curry - Yes

Judge John Curry was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014 after spending many years in private practice handling civil, business, and commercial litigation. He is currently assigned to the Law Division, Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies Section, after previous assignments in Chancery and First Municipal.

Attorneys described him as extremely sharp, a thoughtful researcher, diligent, and a stickler for procedure. They also state he has high integrity and is sensitive to pro se parties. The ISBA finds Judge Curry qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Megan Elizabeth Goldish – Yes

Judge Megan Elizabeth Goldish was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1997. She was a career prosecutor before being elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. She has been assigned to Domestic Violence since May 2015 after an initial assignment to First Municipal, Traffic Court.

Attorneys praised her knowledge and ability, especially her knowledge of the Rules of Evidence. They report that she is even-keeled, fair to all, and knows how to diffuse difficult situations. The ISBA finds Judge Goldish qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Anjana Molina Jain Hansen - Yes

Judge Anjana Molina Jain Hansen was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1998. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014 after working as a prosecutor and a private practitioner. She is currently assigned to the Second District (Skokie) hearing traffic, misdemeanor, and civil cases. Prior assignments include First Municipal and the Third District (Rolling Meadows).

Attorneys report that she is an exemplary jurist who is highly knowledgeable with an excellent temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Hansen qualified for retention the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Robert D. Kuzas – Yes

Judge Robert D. Kuzas was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. He was a solo practitioner handling criminal defense, personal injury and labor relations matters at the time of his election to the Circuit Court in 2014. He is currently assigned to First Municipal, Misdemeanor/Ordinance Section.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge and ability and further described him as sensitive, fair, impartial, and efficient. The ISBA finds Judge Kuzas qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John Joseph Mahoney, III – No

Judge John Joseph Mahoney, III was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984. Before being elected to the Circuit Court in 2014, he had been a prosecutor and an attorney for Peoples Energy Corporation. Since August 2020 he has been assigned to the Fifth District (Bridgeview) where he currently hears misdemeanor cases. Previously, he was assigned to First Municipal and Traffic.

Attorneys gave positive feedback on his legal knowledge and ability and fairness. Concerns were raised during the investigation about arrogance and a lack of sensitivity to diversity issues. The ISBA finds that Judge Mahoney is not qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Maritza Martinez - Yes

Judge Maritza Martinez was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. She was a private practitioner handling mainly civil defense matters, and a commissioner on the Illinois Court of Claims before being elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. She has been assigned to Domestic Relations since July 2016; prior to this she was assigned to First Municipal.

Attorneys report that she is smart, thoughtful, diligent, knows the law and thinks outside the box to find creative solutions; she is also respectful to litigants. The ISBA finds Judge Martinez qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Terrence J. McGuire - Yes

Judge Terrence J. McGuire was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. He had a solo general practice until his election to the Circuit Court in 2014. He has been assigned to the Probate Division since 2018 after first sitting in First Municipal, Traffic Section.

Attorneys praised him for his legal knowledge and ability, preparation, sensitivity, and ability to handle complex and emotional matters. The ISBA finds Judge McGuire qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?

Bridget Anne Mitchell – Yes

Judge Bridget Anne Mitchell was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. Before her election to the Circuit Court in 2014, she was a private practitioner handling mainly civil litigation matters. Since March 2017 she has been assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section; she previously served in First Municipal, Traffic Section and Chancery, Foreclosure Section.

Attorneys reported that she has good legal knowledge and strives to make the right decisions. They particularly praised her temperament. The ISBA finds Judge Mitchell qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James Paul Pieczonka - Yes

Judge James Paul Pieczonka was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. After spending the majority of his legal career in a general solo practice, he was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. He has been assigned to the Third District (Rolling Meadows) since August 2015 and is currently assigned to the Civil Division. Prior assignments include First Municipal, Paternity, and Traffic and Misdemeanors in the Third District.

Attorneys reported that while he had a steep learning curve, he invested a substantial amount of time into learning new areas of law. They report that he is prepared, respectful to all, and issues well-reasoned rulings. The ISBA finds Judge Pieczonka qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Diana Rosario - No

Judge Diana Rosario was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. After serving as a prosecutor, private practitioner, and as General Counsel for the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. She is currently assigned to Domestic Relations after previously sitting in Child Protection and First Municipal.

While attorneys reported that she is even-keeled, diligent, and fair, there was no consensus regarding her legal knowledge and ability. Some attorneys raised concerns about rulings that were inconsistent with the law, her ability to hear complex cases, and timeliness at issuing written orders, while other described her ability as adequate. The ISBA finds that Judge Rosario is not qualified for retention the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Patricia O'Brien Sheahan - Yes

Judge Patricia O'Brien Sheahan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014 after spending many years doing litigation for the Rehabilitation Institute (Shirley Ryan Ability Lab). She has been assigned to the Law Division, Motions Section since February 2017. She was previously assigned to First Municipal, Traffic Court and Post-Judgment/Supplementary Proceedings.

She was praised by attorneys for her legal knowledge and understanding of complex issues, as well as her diligence, temperament, and sensitivity to pro se litigants. The ISBA finds Judge Sheahan qualified for retention to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Shall each of the persons listed be retained in office as Judge?