



ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

Illinois Supreme Court – First District – Hon. Charles E. Freeman vacancy – all ballots

Jesse G. Reyes – Highly Qualified

Jesse G. Reyes has been licensed since 1984. He currently sits on the Appellate Court – First District. He was selected as an associate judge in 1997, elected to the circuit court in 2008 and, subsequently, elected to the Appellate Court – First District in 2012. While a circuit court judge, he sat in Mortgage Foreclosure, Traffic, Domestic Violence, and the Sixth Municipal District (Markham). Before taking the bench, he was an assistant corporation counsel and an attorney for the Chicago Board of Education. He is a former president of the Illinois Judges Association and the Latin American Bar Association; former secretary of the Chicago Bar Association; and a former assembly member with the Illinois State Bar Association in addition to other committee work. He has lectured on legal topics and has been the recipient of several awards.

Attorneys described him as a hard worker who is prepared, strict and fair. He writes well-reasoned opinions and issues them in a timely fashion. ISBA finds Justice Jess G. Reyes **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

P. Scott Neville, Jr. – Highly Qualified

P. Scott Neville, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1974. He was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District in 2018. He was appointed to the circuit court in 1999, elected in 2000, then retained in 2006. After being assigned to the Appellate Court in 2004, he was elected in 2012. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he had been in private practice as a sole practitioner and with several firms focusing on appellate civil litigation. He is a past president of the Cook County Bar Association, a co-founder of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, and a committee member of several other bar associations. He has lectured on legal topics, been the recipient of several awards and has served on various Supreme Court committees.

Attorneys reported that he has excellent legal knowledge and ability and that his questions reflect a thorough review of the briefs. He is considered to be honest and a straight shooter. ISBA finds Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr. **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.



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Shelly A. Harris – Not Qualified

Sheldon A. Harris was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1966. He is currently a justice on the Appellate Court – First District; he has sat on the Appellate Court since 2010, first by appointment and then by election in 2014. He was first appointed to the circuit court in 2000 and until 2014 had been recalled and reappointed several times. Before joining the circuit court, he spent the majority of his career in private practice focusing on tort litigation. He is a member of various bar associations, on the board of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers and the recipient of the Seymour Simon Award from the Jewish Judges Association.

Attorneys consider him to be diligent and knowledgeable with well-written opinions. Concerns were raised, however, about his demeanor. ISBA finds Justice Sheldon A. Harris **not qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

Cynthia Y. Cobbs - Qualified

Cynthia Y. Cobbs was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. She was appointed to the circuit court in 2011, was elected in 2014 and is an appellate justice in the Appellate Court – First District; a position she has held since being appointed in 2015. Prior to her judicial service she served several years with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. There she served first as an attorney, chief legal counsel and from 2002 to 2011 as director.

She is considered to be fair-minded, patient and intelligent. ISBA finds Judge Cynthia Y. Cobbs **qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

Margaret Stanton McBride – Highly Qualified

Margaret Stanton McBride has been licensed since 1977. She currently sits on the Appellate Court – First District. She was selected as an associate judge in 1987, elected to the circuit court in 1990, retained in 1996; elected to the Appellate Court in 1998 and retained in 2008 and 2018. Before joining the bench, she was a career assistant state’s attorney. As a circuit judge she served in Traffic, Criminal, Law, and Chancery before becoming presiding judge of the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows). She has served on several committees, including the Illinois Courts Commission, teaches appellate advocacy and speaks at seminars.

Attorneys have praised her for having an excellent grasp of the law and the facts, being very principled and committed to justice. She is prepared, efficient and polite but direct. ISBA finds Justice Margaret Stanton McBride **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.



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Daniel Epstein – Not Recommended

Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, any candidate who has less than the minimum ten years of experience required for a judicial candidate shall be given a rating of **not recommended**. Due to the importance of the Illinois Supreme Court position, and to fulfill the goal of fully informing the public, an investigation and interview did take place.

Daniel Epstein has been licensed since 2015. From 2015 to 2019 he was an associate at Jenner & Block handling litigation matters. He left that position to focus on his campaign. He is active on committees with the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Lawndale Christian Legal Center. He has spoken and written on legal topics and is a founder and president of Perspective to the People.

Attorneys reported that he is an intelligent attorney clearly passionate about improving the judicial system. At this time in his career, however, Mr. Daniel Epstein does not have the requisite experience, as an attorney, litigator or in other judicial office to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse – Highly Qualified

Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. In 1998 he was elected to the circuit court and retained in 2004. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 2012 after being assigned there in 2009 while a circuit court judge. His other assignments in the circuit court included the County Division, First Municipal, Adoption, and Traffic. Before joining the bench, he was a solo practitioner with a general civil practice. He is a member of several bar associations, speaks at seminars, mentored new judges, and is the recipient of many awards.

He is highly respected for his clear reasoning, his good solid writing and hard work. He is polite to all, diligent and punctual. ISBA finds Justice Nathaniel Howse **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.



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Illinois Appellate Court – Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr. vacancy – all ballots

Maureen Patricia O’Leary – Not Qualified

Maureen Patricia O’Leary has been licensed since 2002. She is currently the vice president for Claims and Litigation and Aperion Care managing professional liability lawsuits for nursing home facilities. Prior to taking that position in 2014, she has been in private practice focusing on civil law, both with a firm and with her own practice. Early in her career she worked as an assistant corporation counsel and as an assistant state’s attorney. She is a member of various bar associations.

While attorneys report that she is well-versed in her specific area of health care law, she lacks litigation experience and has no experience appearing before the Appellate Court. ISBA finds Ms. Maureen Patricia O’Leary **not qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Carolyn J. Gallagher – Not Qualified

Carolyn J. Gallagher was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1982. She was elected to the circuit court in 2016 and was initially assigned to the Traffic Division. She was later assigned to the Housing Division and in August of 2018 was assigned to the Probate Division. Prior to her judicial service she was a sole practitioner handling a variety of commercial, real estate and appellate matters.

In her relatively brief time on the bench, she has not yet presided over matters of sufficient variety and complexity to enable her to acquire the knowledge and experience needed for advancement to the Appellate Court. ISBA finds Judge Carolyn J. Gallagher **not qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Sandra Gisela Ramos – Not Qualified

Sandra Gisela Ramos was admitted in 1986. She was elected to the circuit court in 2010 and retained in 2016. She is currently assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section after previous assignments in First Municipal and Traffic Court. She was an assistant state’s attorney and a sole practitioner prior to her election. She is a founder of the Illinois Latino Judges Association.

While she is considered to be even keeled and diligent, she has insufficient complex civil trial experience at this time. ISBA finds Judge Sandra Gisela Ramos **not qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.



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Michael B. Hyman – Highly Qualified

Michael B. Hyman has been licensed since 1977. He was appointed to the Appellate Court – First District in 2018. In 2006 he was appointed to the circuit court, elected in 2008 and retained in 2014. In 2013 he was assigned to the Appellate Court after serving in Chancery, Domestic Relations and First Municipal. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he spent the majority of his career at Much Shelist focusing on securities, antitrust and fraud litigation. He has served as president of the Illinois Judges Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Jewish Judges Association, and the Decalogue Society of Lawyers; in addition, he has been an assembly and committee member of the Illinois State Bar Association. He writes and speaks frequently on legal topics and sits on several Supreme Court committees. He is the recipient of numerous awards.

Attorneys overwhelmingly praised his legal knowledge, intelligence and preparation. He asks pertinent questions in oral arguments and his written opinions are well-reasoned and timely. ISBA finds Judge Michael B. Hyman **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Illinois Appellate Court – Hon. John B. Simon vacancy – all ballots
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John Griffin – Highly Qualified

John Griffin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. He was appointed to the Appellate Court – First District in 2018. In 2008 he was appointed to the circuit court, elected in 2010 and retained in 2016. His assignments in the circuit court included five years as supervising judge of the Commercial Calendar Section in the Law Division, Traffic and Mortgage Foreclosures and Mechanics Liens. Before his appointment to the bench he had a general civil private practice. He has been a speaker on legal topics, edited and wrote part of the Mortgage Foreclosure Bench Book, and is a member of various bar associations and Supreme Court committees.

Attorneys praised him as a hard worker and solid researcher with outstanding legal knowledge and ability. His written opinions are clear and understandable, and he is respectful to all. ISBA finds Judge John Griffin **highly qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.



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Sharon O. Johnson - Qualified

Sharon O. Johnson was admitted in 1996. She was elected to the circuit court in 2010 and retained in 2016. After previous assignments in Traffic and Domestic Relations, she currently sits in Domestic Relations in the Sixth Municipal District (Markham). At the time of her election, she owned a solo general practice. She is past chair of the Illinois Judicial Council, speaks on legal topics, a member of several bar associations, sits on several Supreme Court committees, and is the recipient of some awards.

Attorneys generally reported that she is bright and prepared with good legal knowledge, though a few expressed concern over the breadth of her experience. She is patient with litigants and has a calm demeanor. ISBA finds Judge Sharon O. Johnson **qualified** to serve as a justice to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Carole K. Bellows vacancy – all ballots

Tiesha L. Smith – Not Recommended

Tiesha L. Smith declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Tiesha L. Smith is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy - Qualified

Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy has been licensed since 1996. She is a career Assistant State's Attorney and is currently Deputy Supervisor of the Real Estate Tax Division after previous assignments in Appeals and Felony Trial. She has been a continuing legal education presenter, is a member of various bar associations and has participated in Moot Court and Trial Advocacy programs at the John Marshall and Loyola Law schools.

Ms. Duffy has both civil and criminal experience. Attorneys report she is always very well prepared on both the facts and the law and is was praised for her legal knowledge and ability. She is also a mentor to new lawyers. ISBA finds Ms. Cristin Keely McDonald Duffy **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Kerrie Maloney Laytin - Qualified

Kerrie Maloney Laytin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2000 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in January 2019. She is currently assigned to the Municipal Department, Traffic Section. From 2000 to 2002 she worked for the Legal Assistance Foundation; from 2002 until her appointment she was an assistant corporation counsel to senior counsel in the Appeals Division. Before being licensed in Illinois, she clerked for two federal judges and was a trial attorney with the Department of Justice. She is a member of various bar associations and participates in community activities.

Judge Laytin is well-regarded by attorneys for her legal knowledge and ability to deal with substantive issues. She is considered to be professional, courteous and to have high ethical standards. ISBA finds Judge Kerrie Maloney Laytin **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Matthew E. Coghlan vacancy – all ballots
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Kelly Marie McCarthy - Qualified

Kelly Marie McCarthy has been licensed in Illinois since 2001. She is a career assistant public defender currently holding the position of Attorney Supervisor. She spent two years on the Homicide Task Force and twelve years in the Felony Trial Division. She is a member of several bar associations, is active in community events and has been a continuing legal education presenter.

She has extensive criminal jury and bench experience, including complex litigation experience. She received praise for her knowledge and her ability to handle complex matters. ISBA finds Ms. Kelly Marie McCarthy **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Aileen Bhandari - Qualified

Aileen Bhandari was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. She is a career assistant state's attorney currently assigned to the Felony Trial Division. She has been active with various bar associations, including serving as treasurer of the Indian American Bar Association, has spoken on various legal issues, works on diversity issues with the State's Attorney's Office, and helped organize a naturalization drive.



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Ms. Bhandari has extensive criminal jury and bench trial experience. Attorneys report that she is punctual, prepared, follows court rules, and presents evidence honestly and straightforwardly. ISBA finds Ms. Aileen Bhandari **qualified** to serve as a judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Elizabeth “Beth” Ryan – Qualified

Elizabeth “Beth” Ryan has been licensed since 2004. Since 2011 she has been a solo practitioner handling mainly personal injury matters. Earlier in her career, she spent two years as a law clerk in Chancery followed by three years in a law firm. She is a member of various bar associations and has been a guest lecturer at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Ms. Ryan reports that she has tried eight civil jury trials. She received overall positive comments for her legal knowledge and ability; a few questioned the extent of her experience in complex matters. She is considered to be very professional, diligent and punctual, with a good temperament and high ethical standards. ISBA finds Ms. Elizabeth Ryan **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James T. Derico, Jr. - Qualified

James T. Derico, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in January 2019 and is currently assigned to the Municipal Department, District 1. Prior to his appointment, he had his own firm for 26 years handling mainly real estate and corporate matters. Previously, he had worked as an assistant corporation counsel for Gardner, Carton & Douglas and for Borg-Warner. He had some appellate and federal experience as well.

He was a founder of a legal clinic based at Trinity Church of Christ and is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

The majority of attorneys interviewed reported that Judge Derico is even keeled and personable; and he is considered by most to have sufficient legal knowledge and ability. A few expressed concerns that at times he could be uncivil. He is generally considered to be fair and impartial. ISBA finds Judge James T. Derico, Jr. **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Nicholas R. Ford vacancy – all ballots

U. O’Neal – Not Recommended

Mr. Ubi O’Neal declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Mr. Ubi O’Neal is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez – Qualified

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2003. She is a career assistant state’s attorney and is currently a supervisor in the Felony Trial Division at the Leighton Courthouse. Her prior assignments include Juvenile Justice, Complex Homicide/Gang Unit, Appeals and Felony Review. She has some bar association memberships and community involvement and has been active in spearheading immigration and domestic violence initiatives within the State’s Attorney’s Office.

Attorneys give her high marks for her character and integrity and report that she is fair, impartial and prepared with good legal knowledge and ability. She has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Laura Ayala-Gonzalez **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John O’Meara - Qualified

John A. O’Meara was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. In November 2016 he was appointed to the circuit court where he served in the First Municipal District – Non-Jury Civil Section until his terms ended in December 2018. He is currently an administrative law judge with the Illinois Department of Labor. Prior to his appointment, he was a partner at Curcio Law Offices, where he concentrated in civil litigation. He was also a litigation and trial attorney for several other private firms and was an arbitrator for Cook County. He has extensive civil jury and bench trial experience, and is considered to have excellent courtroom skills, and to be professional with high integrity. Mr. O’Meara is currently with the Illinois Department of Labor. ISBA finds Mr. John A. O’Meara **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Raymond Funderburk – all ballots

Jacqueline Marie Griffin – Qualified

Jacqueline Marie Griffin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2005. She is a career assistant state’s attorney, currently assigned to the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit after previous assignment in Juvenile Justice and Child Support. She has lectured students through the Lawyers in the Classroom program.

She has jury and bench trial experience and has handled complex matters. Attorneys report that she is diligent, punctual, respectful, and has good character and integrity. ISBA finds Ms. Jacqueline Marie Griffin **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Daniel L. Collins - Qualified

Daniel L. Collins has been licensed since 1998. He spent four years as an assistant state’s attorney before joining two different firms, concentrating on workers’ compensation matters. In 2014 he opened a solo practice handling workers’ compensation, criminal, business, and employment matters. He is a member of several bar associations and is active with his local little league.

He is well-respected by other attorneys, considered to be level-headed with high integrity and a great temperament. He was praised for his excellent research and writing skills. ISBA finds Mr. Daniel L. Collins **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Mary Therese Quinn - Qualified

Mary Therese Quinn was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. After spending 22 years as an assistant state’s attorney, she opened her own practice in 2011 concentrating on criminal defense. As a prosecutor, her assignments included the Auto Theft Unit, Financial Crimes, Narcotics and Appeals. She is a member of several bar associations, is vice president of the South Suburban Bar Association, and does some pro bono work through that same group.

She is considered by other attorneys to be knowledgeable and well-prepared with high character and integrity. She has a diverse clientele and treats all with respect. ISBA finds Ms. Mary Therese Quinn **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Celestia L. Mays - Qualified

Celestia Mays has been licensed since 1990. She was appointed to the circuit court in January 2019 and, subsequently, became an associate judge in January 2020. Judge Mays is currently assigned to the Municipal Department – Fourth District (Maywood). Prior to her appointment, she had been a private practitioner with her own firm for 22 years, concentrating in family law, probate and real estate. Prior to that, she had clerked in California and worked for a law firm. She is a past president of the Cook County Bar Association; after holding other offices, was a board member of the Legal Assistance Foundation (now Legal Aid Chicago), and was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Committee on Character and Fitness. She has received many awards from the CCBA and other groups.

Judge Mays received positive marks from attorneys for her legal knowledge and ability and is highly regarded for her professionalism, diligence and her temperament. ISBA finds Judge Celestia L. Mays **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Diana J. Larsen vacancy – all ballots

Levander “Van” Smith, Jr. - Qualified

Levander Smith, Jr. has been licensed since 1993. He was appointed to the circuit court in March 2019 and, subsequently, became an associate judge in January 2020. After first sitting in First Municipal – Traffic, he is currently assigned to Domestic Violence. Prior to his appointment he was Assistant Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Children and Family Services where he had worked twice, most recently from 2011 until 2019. Before that, he had been a prosecutor for two different counties – Cook and St. Louis, an associate with a firm, and an assistant attorney general in Missouri. He is a member of various bar associations serving on the boards of the Cook County Bar Association and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association.

Attorneys report that he has an excellent understanding of the law, is sensitive to all, punctual, diligent, and fair. ISBA finds Judge Levander Smith, Jr. **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Suzanne Therese McEneely - Qualified

Suzanne Therese McEneely has been licensed since 2001. After spending a year with a private insurance defense firm, she joined the Public Defender’s Office. She currently handles felony cases in the Second District (Skokie), including specialty and diversion courtrooms after previous assignments in Child Protection, Traffic, Domestic Violence, and First Municipal. She is a member of some bar associations and volunteers at her parish.



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She has criminal jury and bench trial experience, and her work is respected by other attorneys. Comments received during the investigation were overwhelmingly positive as to her legal knowledge, diligence, ability to handle complex matters, sensitivity to diversity, and her temperament. ISBA finds Ms. Suzanne Therese McEneely **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Megan Kathleen Mulay - Qualified

Megan Kathleen Mulay has been licensed since 1999. She is a career assistant state's attorney currently assigned as a First Chair handling felony cases at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She is a member of several bar associations and has some community involvement. She has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience, including complex matters. She received uniformly positive comments on her legal knowledge and ability, temperament, and diligence. A few attorneys, while commending her legal knowledge, did raise some concerns over her diligence in responding to discovery requests. ISBA finds Ms. Megan Kathleen Mulay **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Mary Anne Mason – all ballots

Arthur D. Sutton - Qualified

Arthur D. Sutton was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. He is a private practitioner with a general practice handling mostly criminal matters but also some civil and probate. He also served as an administrative law judge for the Department of Children and Family Services. He has some bar association memberships and does some pro bono work and speaking.

The majority of attorneys generally reported that he has good legal knowledge, is impartial and timely, and has a great temperament. He has some jury and bench trial experience in both criminal and civil matters. ISBA finds Mr. Arthur D. Sutton **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Bonnie Carol McGrath – Not Recommended

Bonnie Carol McGrath declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Bonnie Carol McGrath is found **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Jennifer Patricia Callahan – Qualified

Jennifer Patricia Callahan was licensed in 2006. From 2006 until 2017 she was an assistant state’s attorney with assignments in First Municipal, Narcotics and the Alternative Prosecutions Unit. In 2017 she opened a solo practice handling criminal defense and transactional matters, some civil matters, and also serving as an administrative law judge for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She is a volunteer with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services and helps with mock trials.

She is considered by attorneys to be prepared, punctual, and knowledgeable with high integrity. Attorneys particularly stated that while assigned to the Alternative Prosecutions Unit she did a good job and was sensitive to the situations that arose in diversion courts. ISBA finds Ms. Jennifer Patricia Callahan **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Chris Stacey – Qualified

Chris Stacey was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. After first clerking in federal court, he worked at several tort and criminal litigation firms. He opened his own practice in 1997 where he continues to concentrate on tort litigation in both state and federal court. He has been a volunteer and board member with Cabrini-Green Legal Aid and has been active with various community groups doing refugee and immigrant work including LaSalle Street Church. He is a member of various bar associations.

Attorneys overwhelmingly praised him for his legal knowledge, intelligence, professionalism, and fairness. He has civil jury and bench experience. ISBA finds Mr. Chris Stacey **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Joy E. Tolbert Nelson - Qualified

Joy E. Tolbert Nelson has been licensed since 2000. She is a career assistant state’s attorney currently assigned to Felony Trial in the Fourth Municipal District (Maywood). She was also previously assigned to the Northside Community Justice Center. She has been a committee member with the Chicago Bar Association and active with the National Black Prosecutors Association, as well as in community affairs.

She has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience including in complex cases. Attorneys reported that she has excellent legal knowledge and is diligent and trustworthy. ISBA finds Ms. Joy E. Tolbert Nelson **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Joseph Chico – Not Qualified

Joseph Chico was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. After spending a year at Moreno & Hernandez, he opened his own firm, Joseph Chico & Associates, PC focusing on probate, wills and DUIs. He is also an administrative law judge for the City of Chicago and the Chicago Housing Authority. He is a member of various bar associations and supports community sports activities.

While attorneys reported that he has good legal knowledge and temperament, he has limited experience with jury trials and complex legal matters. There were concerns about the depth and breadth of his overall legal experience. ISBA finds Mr. Joseph Chico **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. James Patrick McCarthy vacancy – all ballots

Teresa Molina - Qualified

Teresa Molina was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001. She was appointed to the circuit court in July 2019 and is currently assigned to the Municipal Department – Traffic. Prior to her appointment she was the chief of Real Estate Prosecutions for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations where she had been employed since 2016. Prior to that she had been an assistant state’s attorney where her assignments included Child Support and Felony Trial. She has been a committee chair for the Puerto Rican Bar Association, is a member of several bar associations, conducted training for the Chicago Police Department, and lectured on real estate law.

She received favorable comments regarding her temperament, diligence and integrity, and is considered to have a high level of legal knowledge and ability. As a prosecutor, she litigated more than 25 criminal jury trials. ISBA finds Judge Teresa Molina **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Michael O’Malley - Qualified

Michael O’Malley has been licensed since 2005. He is a career assistant state’s attorney. He has been assigned to various units including Felony Trial, the Civil Actions Bureau and the Special Prosecutions Bureau, Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit. He is a member of various bar associations, has community involvement, and has coached law school trial teams.

Attorneys report that he is a straight shooter with excellent legal knowledge and is always prepared. He has some jury trial experience and has prosecuted complex financial crimes. ISBA finds Mr. Michael O’Malley **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman vacancy – all ballots

Sheree Desiree Henry - Qualified

Sheree Desiree Henry was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. She was appointed to the circuit court in August 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. Prior to her appointment, she was an assistant public defender where she spent the majority of her career; her first four years were with the Cook County Public Guardian’s Office. She is a member of various bar associations and is involved in her community. She was also a member of the Illinois National Guard.

As a public defender she had criminal jury and bench trial experience, including complex cases. She received favorable comments about her legal knowledge and temperament; is considered to be smart and a hard worker, with good integrity and sensitivity to racial and ethnic diversity issues. ISBA finds Judge Sheree D. Henry **qualified** to serve as a judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Dan Walsh – Not Recommended

Dan Walsh declined to participate in the evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Mr. Dan Walsh is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Keely Patricia Hillison – Not Qualified

Keely Patricia Hillison has been licensed since 1985. She is partner at Parrillo Weiss and also worked briefly at two other firms, focusing on civil litigation. She is also an arbitrator. She has been active in bar association activities and is a member of the Board of the Appellate Lawyers Association. While she is considered to be professional and pleasant, concerns were raised over the extent of her experience with complex litigation and depth and breadth of her practice, as it is reported that much of her practice consists of high-volume, simpler cases. In addition, three of her appellate briefs resulted in sanctions from the Appellate Court against her firm for frivolous appeals. ISBA finds Ms. Keely Patricia Hillison **not qualified** to serve as a judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Amanda “Mandy” Pillsbury – Not Qualified

Amanda Moira Pillsbury has been licensed to practice in Illinois since 2004. She is a career assistant state’s attorney currently assigned to the felony courtrooms at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She has some community and parish activities. She has some jury trial experience.



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Some attorneys reported that she is knowledgeable and a good litigator, while others questioned the extent of her involvement in complex matters and the depth of her experience. Opinions on her diligence and temperament were also divided between positive and negative. ISBA finds Ms. Amanda Moira Pillsbury **not qualified** to serve as a judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Jessica A. O’Brien vacancy – all ballots

Elizabeth Anne Walsh - Qualified

Elizabeth Anne Walsh has been licensed since 2006. She handles insurance defense cases at Bruce Farrell Dorn and Associates. She is a past president and current board members of the Southwest Bar Association and is involved with the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois.

Attorneys respect her for her legal knowledge, preparation, temperament, and professionalism. She has substantial civil trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Elizabeth Anne Walsh **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Lloyd James Brooks - Qualified

Lloyd James Brooks was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2000. In December 2018 he was appointed to the circuit court and currently sits in the First Municipal District. After being licensed he worked for two law firms before opening his own practice in 2004 where he concentrated on consumer advocacy cases. In 2013 he became a founding partner of the Consumer Legal Group where he worked until his appointment. He has some bar association memberships and engages in community speaking.

He is considered to be professional and well-prepared with excellent legal knowledge. As a practicing attorney he was a zealous advocate with a diverse clientele. ISBA finds Judge Lloyd James Brooks **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Heather Anne Kent - Qualified

Heather Anne Kent has been licensed since 2006. She is a career assistant state’s attorney who has been assigned to the Felony Trial, Sexual Assault and Juvenile Justice divisions. She has coached mock trial teams, lectured, is a member of several bar associations, and participates in community activities.



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She has criminal jury trial experience and is considered to be prepared, even-handed and of high character. ISBA finds Ms. Heather Anne Kent **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Sebastian Patti vacancy – all ballots

Lynn Weaver-Boyle - Qualified

Lynn Weaver-Boyle has been licensed since 1990. She was appointed to the circuit court in January 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. At the time of her appointment, she was litigation partner at Grotfeld Hoffmann handling commercial litigation. From 1990 to 1999 she was an assistant state’s attorney. She has spoken on legal subjects and is an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy. ISBA finds Judge Lynn Weaver-Boyle **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Thomas D. Roti vacancy – all ballots

Lorraine Mary Murphy - Qualified

Lorraine Mary Murphy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2003. She is a career assistant state’s attorney assigned to the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She is a member of several bar associations and has served on committees with the Chicago Bar Association. She has some community activities.

Attorneys respect her as an accomplished attorney with impressive legal knowledge. It was overwhelmingly reported that she is hard working and seeks to do justice. She has substantial jury trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Lorraine Mary Murphy **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James Patrick Crawley - Qualified

James Patrick Crawley has been licensed since 1990. He handles tort litigation for Kennedy and Associates. He is a member of several bar associations, has been a volunteer attorney and serves on several Illinois Supreme Court committees including the Judicial Performance and Evaluation Committee. He is involved with community activities.

He is considered to be a thorough, knowledgeable, honest, and fair attorney. ISBA finds Mr. James Patrick Crawley **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Araceli Reyes De La Cruz – Not Qualified

Araceli Reyes De La Cruz was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001. Since 2016 she has been the General Counsel/Chief Administrative Officer for Acero Schools handling policy and labor relations and coordinating with outside counsel on litigation. Prior to this, she has been Chief of General Prosecutions for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation from 2014 to 2016; Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Safety and Security Officer for the Chicago Transit Authority from 2009 to 2014; and an assistant state’s attorney from 2001 to 2009. She is a member of various bar associations, has spoken on legal topics and is on the executive board of Casa Central.

While attorneys reported that she has good legal knowledge in her area and is prepared, with a good demeanor, concerns were raised about the depth and breadth of her overall legal experience and her minimal jury and complex trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Araceli Reyes De La Cruz **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Colleen F. Sheehan vacancy – all ballots

Deidre Baumann – Qualified

Deidre Baumann has been licensed since 1992. After first working for a law firm, in 1996 she opened her own firm, Baumann and Shuldiner, handling civil litigation in state and federal court. She is active with various bar associations and is currently president of the Suburban Bar Coalition and on the board of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. Previously, she served as president of the Decalogue Society and the North Suburban Bar Association as well as on the executive board of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. She serves on several committees for the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association.

Most attorneys gave her favorable comments for legal knowledge and litigation experience. She is considered diligent and professional with strong writing skills. She has jury and bench trial experience, with some appellate experience. ISBA finds Ms. Deidre Baumann **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Maura McMahan Zeller – Not Qualified

Maura McMahan Zeller was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. She is currently a sole practitioner with Maura McMahan Zeller, Attorney at Law serving as a guardian ad litem and a mediator. Prior to opening her practice, she was with the Public Guardian’s Office. She has been a panelist at legal forums and is a member of various bar associations.



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While she is respected for her integrity, professionalism and her knowledge in her particular area of practice, she has no jury trial experience and her litigation experience overall is limited. There are concerns about the depth and breadth of her overall legal experience. ISBA finds Ms. Maura McMahon Zeller **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Russell W. Hartigan – Highly Qualified

Russell W. Hartigan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. He was appointed to the circuit court in 2010 and then elected in 2012. His assignments included First Municipal and the Fifth District (Bridgeview). In 2017 he resigned from the bench upon being elected president of the Illinois State Bar Association. From 1976 until his appointment in 2010 he concentrated on civil litigation for several different firms, as a partner and owner, the last one being Hartigan and O'Connor. Before becoming president, he had served the ISBA in many different positions. He is a past president of the West Suburban Bar Association and is active with other legal groups. He has also served as trustee for several western suburbs. He teaches at The John Marshall Law School, speaks statewide on legal topics and writes articles. In June 2019 he received an award for dedicated service from the Illinois Bar Foundation.

Attorneys have a high regard for his legal knowledge, preparedness and his approachable demeanor. They report that as a judge he was patient and fair with pro se litigants. He has extensive civil jury trial experience and has handled some appeals. ISBA finds Mr. Russell W. Hartigan **highly qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hon. Kevin M. Sheehan vacancy – all ballots

Jill Rose Quinn – Qualified

Jill Rose Quinn has been licensed since 1983. She is a sole practitioner with a general practice, focusing on family, criminal, probate, real estate, and business matters. Prior to opening her practice in 1997 she worked for several private firms., was the village attorney for Glen Ellyn, and has been an arbitrator in DuPage and Cook counties. She is a member of several bar associations. She has limited criminal jury experience but many civil bench trials and has handled some appellate matters. She is considered to have good legal ability with good demeanor. Ms. Jill Rose Quinn is found to be **Qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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James Samuel Worley – Not Qualified

James Samuel Worley was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2004. After spending five years as an assistant state’s attorney, where his assignments included Child Support, Felony and Misdemeanors in the Fourth Municipal District (Maywood), he opened a solo practice handling domestic relations, traffic and misdemeanor cases. Since January 2019 he has been managing director for domestic relations at Gottreich Grace & Thompson. He is a member of some bar associations. In general, it was reported that he has adequate legal knowledge and was praised for his demeanor. Concerns were raised by some attorneys about the depth and breadth of his experience and his minimal experience with jury trials and complex litigation. ISBA finds Mr. James Samuel Worley **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Wendelin “Wendi” DeLoach – Not Recommended

Wendelin DeLoach declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Wendelin DeLoach is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 1st Subcircuit - Hon. Rodney Hughes Brooks vacancy

Krista D. Butler – Not Recommended

Krista D. Butler declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Krista D. Butler is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 1st Subcircuit – Hon. Vanessa A. Hopkins vacancy

Tyria B. Walton - Qualified

Tyria B. Walton has been licensed since 1997. She was appointed to the circuit court in June 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. Prior to her appointment, she was an assistant public defender assigned to the Sixth District (Markham) where she handled homicide cases. Prior assignments included Felony Trial, Domestic Violence, Child Protection, Traffic, and Misdemeanors. She also had a general solo practice for one year before joining the Public Defender’s Office. She is a member of several bar associations and serves on committees with the Black Women Lawyer’s Association; has coached high school mock trial students; and participated in community organizations.



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She has extensive criminal jury and bench trial experience involving complex legal issues and pretrial motions. Attorneys report that she is very smart with excellent legal knowledge, was very good with clients as a public defender, and possesses an excellent temperament with high integrity. ISBA finds Judge Tyria B. Walton **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 2nd Subcircuit – “A” vacancy

Sondra Nicole Denmark - Qualified

Sondra Nicole Denmark was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2004. She was appointed to the circuit court in December 2018 and currently sits in the First Municipal District. At the time of her appointment, she had been an assistant state’s attorney in Will County for ten years handling felonies. Before that, she was a sole practitioner for a year, and a Cook County assistant state’s attorney for three years. She served as an administrative hearing officer for the Village of Matteson for two years as well.

She is considered to have a good knowledge and was praised for her professionalism, preparation and fairness. As an attorney, she litigated a substantial number of criminal jury and bench trials. ISBA finds Judge Sondra Nicole Denmark **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall – Not Qualified

Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. She is currently an enforcement attorney in the Department of Securities for the Illinois Secretary of State. In the past she has had a private civil practice and been a prosecutor and administrative hearing officer for the Secretary of State. She has served on committees with the Cook County Bar Association.

While attorneys consider her to be a hard worker with knowledge of her specific area of law, concerns were raised about the depth and breadth of her overall legal experience and her lack of jury and other complex litigation. ISBA finds Ms. Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Chelsey R. Robinson – Not Qualified

Chelsey R. Robinson has been licensed since 1996. She is a founding partner of Owens & Robinson, a general practice handling both criminal and civil matters. She is also a legal consultant to the Judge Mathis television program. She is a member of some bar associations, a volunteer at the Juvenile Detention Center and is active with other community organizations. She has limited jury and bench trial activities and limited experience with complex matters.

While she is considered to be ethical and honest, attorneys gave mixed comments as to the depth and breadth of her overall legal experience. ISBA finds Ms. Chelsey R. Robinson **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 3rd Subcircuit – Hon. Denise K. Filan vacancy

Daniel E. Maloney – Qualified

Daniel E. Maloney has been licensed since 2001. He was appointed to the circuit court in February 2019 and is currently assigned to the Sixth Municipal District (Markham). Prior to his appointment he was the Division Counsel for the Chicago Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration where he handled legal matters and trained law enforcement agencies. Prior to taking that position in 2017, he had been an assistant state’s attorney for sixteen years where his assignments included stints as supervisor of the Complex Narcotics Unit and in the Special Prosecutions and Criminal Prosecutions Bureau. He has taught and coached mock trials at local universities, volunteered in his community, and is a member of several bar associations.

He has extensive criminal litigation experience, including in complex matters and some appellate experience. Opposing counsel described him as a tough litigator, but fair and ethical and overall he is described as having superb knowledge and skills. ISBA finds Judge Daniel E. Maloney **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 3rd Subcircuit – Hon. Peter Flynn vacancy

Lauren Brougham Glennon – Not Qualified

Lauren Brougham Glennon was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2003. She opened a solo practice in 2017 focusing on property tax appeals. Before that, she worked at two firms also handling property tax appeals. She was also an assistant corporation counsel and has served as an administrative law judge for several suburbs. She is a member of several bar associations, sits on



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committees for the American Bar Association, has spoken on legal topics and recently founded a technology company called LawCo.

While attorneys praised her legal knowledge in her area of practice, and her ability to explain complex ideas as an ALJ, concerns were raised over her lack of any jury trial and recent courtroom litigation experience and the breadth of her practice. ISBA finds Ms. Lauren Brougham Glennon **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

David A. Bonoma – Not Qualified

David A. Bonoma was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. He is a partner with Linebarger Googan Blair & Sampson representing governmental entities. He has previously been in private practice with several firms focusing on corporate law; managed government relationships with Commonwealth Edison from 2012 to 2014; sat on the Board of Review for the Illinois Department of Employment Security from 2011 to 2013; and was chief of staff with the State's Attorney's Office from 1997 to 2003. He is chair of the Legal Affairs Committee for the Board of Maryville.

Attorneys praised his intelligence, diligence, integrity, knowledge in his area, and temperament. Concerns were raised over his lack of jury and bench trial experience. ISBA finds Mr. David A. Bonoma **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Regina Ann Mescall – Highly Qualified

Regina Ann Mescall was admitted to the New Mexico bar in 2002 and the Illinois bar in 2007. From 2002 to 2008 she was a prosecutor with the district attorney in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2008 she became an assistant state's attorney in Cook County. She is currently a first chair at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse after previous assignments in Felony Review at the Fifth Municipal District (Bridgeview) and the Sixth Municipal District (Markham). She belongs to various prosecutors' bar associations.

She has extensive criminal jury and bench trial experience including in serious and complex felonies. ISBA finds Ms. Regina Ann Mescall **highly qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

James John Knibbs - Qualified

James John Knibbs has been licensed since 1985. He is currently 'of counsel' at Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff, handling civil litigation matters. He has also been a partner at several other civil litigation firms and spent ten years as an assistant state's attorney, six of them as a supervisor in the Financial Crimes and Professional Standard Units. He is a member of several



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bar associations, including as a committee member, has written on legal topics, and taught Trial Advocacy for several years at Loyola University School of Law.

Attorneys praise him for his knowledge, demeanor, work ethic, impartiality, and low-key demeanor. He has extensive jury trial experience, both civil and criminal. ISBA finds Mr. James John Knibbs **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Thomas J. Condon, Jr. - Qualified

Thomas J. Condon, Jr. has been licensed since 2002. He joined Peterson, Johnson and Murray in 2016 where he is a partner handling litigation matters. Before that he worked at several other litigation firms and also was an associate corporation counsel for the City of Chicago for four years. In that position he helped draft ordinances and was head of the Fast Track demolition team. He has been a prosecutor for various suburbs. He is a member of several bar associations and is active with different community organizations.

Attorneys respect him for his legal knowledge, and he has substantial civil jury and bench trial experience. He is considered to be well-prepared, ethical and diligent. ISBA finds Mr. Thomas J. Condon, Jr. **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Brad S. Telander – Qualified

Brad S. Telander has been licensed since 1983. He has been the owner of Telander & Associates since 2014 focusing mainly on criminal defense cases. Prior to that he was a partner at Telander & Telander from 1992 to 2014; an attorney with the Chicago Northwestern Railroad from 1991 to 1992; and an assistant state’s attorney from 1983 to 1991. He is a member of several bar associations.

He is a well-respected trial attorney who is considered to be a ‘straight shooter’, prepared and unflappable. He has jury and bench experience, including in complex cases. ISBA finds Mr. Brad S. Telander **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Scott Edward Lipinski - Qualified

Scott Edward Lipinski has been licensed since 2002. He is a career assistant public defender currently assigned to felonies in the Sixth Municipal District (Markham); previous assignments include Child Protection and the Fifth Municipal District (Bridgeview). He is a member of the Southwest Bar Association.



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He has substantial jury and bench trial experience, mainly criminal. Attorneys generally reported that he has sufficient legal knowledge and is considered to be diligent. He did receive some mixed comments regarding temperament; some who did not see it as an issue did agree that he could be abrasive, others described him as condescending at times, and other attorneys expressed no concern at all. ISBA finds Mr. Scott Edward Lipinski **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 3rd Subcircuit – Hon. Allen F. Murphy vacancy

Erin Haggerty Antonietti - Qualified

Erin Haggerty Antonietti has been licensed since 1991. She was appointed to the circuit court in June 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. After spending three years with a civil litigation firm doing defense work, she became an assistant state’s attorney; a job she held until her appointment. Her assignments included Juvenile Justice, Misdemeanor and Bond Court. She has taught at Prairie State College and is active in her community.

Attorneys report that she is organized, punctual, even-handed, and professional. She has some trial experience. ISBA finds Judge Erin Haggerty Antonietti **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Thomas G. O’Brien – Not Recommended

Thomas G. O’Brien declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Mr. Thomas G. O’Brien is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County- 6th Subcircuit – Hon. Marya Nega vacancy

Jamie Guerra Dickler – Qualified

Jamie Guerra Dickler was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2005. She is a career assistant state’s attorney currently assigned to the Felony Trial Division as the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Prior assignments include Misdemeanor, Felony Review and the Grand Jury, Sex and Homicide Unit. She is a member of several bar associations, a mentor with Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, and has been on the Junior Board of the Chicago Lighthouse.



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She has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience, including handling complex cases. Attorneys praise her for her extensive legal knowledge, her temperament, organization, and impartiality. ISBA finds Ms. Jamie Guerra Dickler **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Anne Shaw – Not Qualified

Anne Shaw was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. Since 2003 she has been a private practitioner focusing on civil matters, civil rights, real estate, and business matters. She is a past president of the Asian American Bar Association, on the board of the ACLU and a past commissioner at the Board of Ethics. She has spoken on legal topics and helped found a legal clinic.

While attorneys considered her to be even keeled and fair, and to have adequate legal knowledge, concerns were raised about her lack of jury trial, complex and recent litigation, as well as her organizational skills. ISBA finds Ms. Anne Shaw **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County- 6th Subcircuit – Hon. Pantle vacancy

Eileen O’Connor - Qualified

Eileen O’Connor was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2006. She is a partner in her family’s law practice, O’Connor Law Group, where she handles civil litigation, primarily in the areas of personal injury, medical malpractice and civil rights. She has been a speaker on legal topics, a committee member with the Chicago Bar Association and is active in her community.

She has civil jury and bench trial experience in both state and federal court, and significant pre-trial motion practice. Attorneys consider her professional, level-headed and prepared. ISBA finds Ms. Eileen O’Connor **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Cory Eli Oshita – Not Qualified

Cory Eli Oshita was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2008. After two years as an associate with Richard C. Irvin, in 2011 he opened a solo practice focusing on domestic relations and some criminal defense. He is also a hearing officer for the Chicago Board of Education. He is a member of several bar associations and is active in the community.



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While he is considered to be knowledgeable in his area of family law with an excellent demeanor, concerns were raised over his limited practice area and his lack of jury and complex trial experience. ISBA finds Mr. Cory Eli Oshita **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Anthony Lucafo - Qualified

Anthony Lucafo has been licensed since 2006. He is a career assistant state's attorney currently assigned to the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Unit. Prior assignments include Felony Review, Juvenile Justice and First Municipal. He has taught at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law and is a member of the Justinian Society.

Attorneys praised his trial skills and described him as well-versed in the law, prepared and fair to all. He has criminal jury and bench trial experience including complex matters. ISBA finds Mr. Anthony Lucafo **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County- 7th Subcircuit – Hon. Marianne Jackson vacancy

Owens “Joe” Shelby - Qualified

Owens “Joe” Shelby has been licensed since 2007. Aside from a brief period as assistant counsel to the Speaker of the Illinois House, he has been a career assistant state's attorney currently assigned to a felony courtroom in the Fourth Municipal District (Maywood). He has been treasurer of the National Black Prosecutors Association – Chicago Chapter, and is active with the NAACP – Chicago Westside Chapter.

Attorneys generally reported that he has solid legal knowledge and ability and knows how to apply the law to the facts. He is considered to be respectful of all with solid character. He has some criminal jury trial experience, though attorneys reported not necessarily in very complex matters. ISBA finds Mr. Owens Shelby **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Marcia O'Brien Conway - Qualified

Marcia O'Brien Conway was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984. She was an assistant state's attorney from 1993 until 2018. Her assignments included Real Estate Tax Division, Corporate Transactions and Chancery. Prior to her employment with the State's Attorney's Office, she had been a sole practitioner handling real estate matters, and both a consulting attorney and an associate attorney with Winston and Strawn handling commercial litigation and real estate cases.



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She was a member of the River Forest Plan Commission from 1995 to 2008; is a member of various bar associations; and is active in community affairs.

She has civil litigation experience and attorneys report that she has excellent legal knowledge citing her ability to reduce complicated issues into manageable parts. She is considered to be professional and compassionate. ISBA finds Ms. Marcia O'Brien Conway **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Pamela Reaves-Harris - Qualified

Pamela Reaves-Harris has been licensed since 1992. Since 2017 she has been the special assistant for Legal Affairs for the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development. From 2015 to 2017 she served as the state representative for the 10th District and sat on the Civil Judiciary Committee. Before her election she had been in private practice for eleven years and had also held several positions with Citibank, including associate/assistant, president/compliance officer. While in private practice, she also served as an administrative law judge for Chicago, Maywood and Broadview. She has been active in community affairs.

Attorneys reported that she is smart, knowledgeable, a quick learner, and fair. Although some concerns were raised about her lack of litigation experience, she was well-respected as an administrative law judge and attorneys stated that she keeps up with the law. ISBA finds Ms. Pamela Reaves-Harris **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Mable Taylor – Not Recommended

Mable Taylor declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Mable Taylor is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Kristen Marie Lyons – Not Recommended

Kristen Marie Lyons declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Ms. Kristen Marie Lyons is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 8th Subcircuit – Hon. John J. Fleming vacancy

Jonathan Clark Green – Qualified

Jonathan Clark Green was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. He is currently a supervising attorney with the Corporation Counsel’s Office for Chicago doing civil litigation. He is also the liaison city attorney for the Civilian Office of Police Accountability in court proceedings. Prior positions have included time in private practice, including doing business law in Belgium; serving on the legal staff for the Illinois House of Representatives; and as an assistant attorney general; and a fellowship with the American Society of International Law. He is active with several bar associations, including serving as current First Vice President (and incoming President) of the Advocates Society. He is active in the community and is an advisory member to the board of the Little City Foundation.

Some attorneys contacted during the investigation reported that he is capable, competent, civil, and fair; a few expressed concerns over ongoing discovery issues in federal court in civil rights cases with the City’s Law Department, and his role and responsibility concerning those issues. He has handled several civil juries as lead counsel. ISBA finds Mr. Jonathan Clark Green to be **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Bradley R. Trowbridge - Qualified

Bradley R. Trowbridge has been licensed in Illinois since 2000. He has had his own law practice since 2003 handling domestic, chancery, probate, and criminal matters. He also serves as an appointed guardian ad litem and has taught at The John Marshall Law School. He previously worked for several agencies included the Legal Assistance Foundation and is a mediator and arbitrator. He has published articles, volunteered with First Defense Legal Aid, and was president of the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network.

Attorneys consider him to be professional, civil and fair. ISBA finds Mr. Bradley R. Trowbridge **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 8th Subcircuit – Hon. Deborah J. Gubin vacancy

Michael A. Forti – Qualified

Michael A. Forti has been licensed since 1980. He was first appointed to the Circuit Court in 2016, reappointed in 2018 and became an associate judge in January 2020. He is currently assigned to Domestic Relations. Prior to his appointment, from 2012-2015, he was the chief counsel for the Illinois Department of Transportation. Earlier in his career, he was Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Law Department, and a partner at Bell Boyd & Lloyd. Attorneys report that he has good legal knowledge, considers matters thoughtfully, is even keeled and treats all equally.

Judge Michael A. Forti is found to be **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 9th Subcircuit – Hon. Larry Axelrood vacancy

Pamela “Pam” Stratigakis – Qualified

Pamela Stratigakis was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001. In August 2019, after spending sixteen years as an assistant state’s attorney, she joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith as a partner handling insurance defense for medical malpractice cases. As an assistant state’s attorney, her assignments included Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Division, Child Support, Narcotics, and Felony Review. She has spoken on legal topics and internet safety, is a member of several bar associations, and is on the board of the North Suburban Bar Association.

She has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience. Attorneys praised her legal knowledge and ability, her diligence, demeanor, and professionalism. ISBA finds Ms. Pamela Stratigakis **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Thomas M. Cushing - Qualified

Thomas M. Cushing has been licensed since 1988. He was appointed to the circuit court in June 2019 and is currently assigned to Domestic Violence. Prior to his appointment he had been ‘of counsel’ to Christopher Kreid & Associates since 2010. Before joining that firm, from 2006 to 2010 he had been senior vice president at the Chicago Climate Exchange. He also had his own practice for many years before that handling professional and municipal liability matters. He was assisting counsel on the Shakman Decree case. He has taught trial practice, written and spoken on legal matters; was a hearing board member for the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission; and a volunteer with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.



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He has extensive civil jury and bench trial experience in both state and federal courts. Attorneys universally praised his experience, diligence and demeanor; he is considered to be well-versed in evidence. ISBA finds Judge Thomas M. Cushing **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Ira I. Silverstein – Not Qualified

Ira I. Silverstein was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985. He is a sole practitioner focusing on domestic relations, real estate and guardianship. From 1999 to 2018 he was a state senator in the Illinois Legislature representing the Eighth District. He was chair of the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of both the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission and the Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

While some attorneys gave positive comments about his diligence and knowledge, concerns were raised about the depth and breadth of his legal experience and his lack of litigation experience. In addition, a harassment complaint filed against him in 2017 resulted in a finding by the Inspector General that his conduct was unbecoming for a legislator, with a recommendation for ethics counseling. ISBA finds Mr. Ira I. Silverstein **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Timothy Patrick Carter – Qualified

Timothy Patrick Carter has been licensed since 1995. He has been in private practice since 2012 currently with Carter & Opdyke, PC focusing on criminal defense. From 1996 to 2012 he was an assistant state's attorney serving in the Appeals, Traffic, Juvenile, and Felony Trial divisions. He has been a moot court judge, is a member of several bar associations and is a past president of the Northfield Bar Association.

He has extensive jury and bench trial experience including in complex matters. He is well-respected for his legal knowledge and ability, integrity and professionalism. He treats all with respect and is fair and diligent. ISBA finds Mr. Timothy Patrick Carter **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 9th Subcircuit – Hon. Marvin F. Luckman vacancy

Thomas Peter Kougias – Not Qualified

Thomas Peter Kougias was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. He worked as an assistant state's attorney from 1992 until 2012 and has been in private practice since 2012 focusing on criminal defense and traffic cases. He is a member of some bar associations.

While attorneys report that he is an experienced criminal litigator with good legal knowledge, some concerns were raised about his lack of civil experience, organizational skills and temperament. ISBA finds Mr. Thomas Peter Kougias **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Julie Bess Aimen – Highly Qualified

Julie Bess Aimen has been licensed since 1984. She is a sole practitioner primarily in criminal defense, family law and civil rights matters. Prior to opening her practice, she did criminal appeals for the Office of the State Appellate Defender. She has taught and lectured at law schools, is a past president and board members of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers/Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and a past board member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has also been an arbitrator for Cook County.

Attorneys and judges highly praised her legal knowledge and ability. She is considered to be diligent and straightforward. She has substantial pre-trial motion, jury and bench trial experience, both criminal and civil, in complex matters. ISBA finds Ms. Julie Bess Aimen **highly qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Michael Alan Strom - Qualified

Michael Alan Strom has been licensed since 1977. He was appointed to the circuit court in January 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. From October 2014 until his appointment, he was a staff attorney in the Legal Research Division, Office of the Chief Judge. Prior to that, he was a civil litigator concentrating on tort cases, both with his own practice and as a partner in a firm. He is a board member and past president of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers and has been a speaker and author on legal topics. He was a founding member of the Chicago Coalition for Law Related Education.

He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer in civil matters and is respected by other attorneys for his knowledge, ability, diligence, and professionalism. ISBA finds Judge Michael Alan Strom **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Basileios “Bill” Foutris – Qualified

Basileios “Bill” Foutris has been licensed since 2000. Since 2005 he has been a sole practitioner with Foutris Law Office, Ltd. where he represents plaintiffs in civil rights and police misconduct civil litigation matters. Prior to opening his own firm, he was an associate and a contract attorney with two other civil litigation firms. He is a member of several bar associations and does pro bono work through his practice.

He has substantial civil jury and bench trial experience in both state and federal courts and has handled some high-profile cases as well as some appeals. Most attorneys generally reported that he a formidable opponent respected for his knowledge. A few attorneys interviewed felt that at time he took advantage of less-experienced colleagues in resolving disputed and was not always easy to work with; some attributed any such issues to his passion for his clients. ISBA finds Mr. Basileios Foutris **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 10th Subcircuit – Hon. Thomas R. Allen vacancy
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John G. Mulroe – Qualified

John G. Mulroe has been licensed since 1988. He was appointed to the circuit court in June 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. After starting his legal career as an assistant state’s attorney, he opened his own practice handling probate and real estate matters and also serving as an arbitrator and hearing officer. He was elected to the Illinois State Senate from the 10th District in 2020 and chaired the Judiciary Committee. He resigned from that position upon his appointment as a judge. He is a member of various bar associations and is active in community affairs.

Attorneys reported that he is a knowledgeable and well-rounded attorney who treats all with respect. He has both jury and bench trial experience and has handled appeals. ISBA finds Judge John G. Mulroe **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 10th Subcircuit – Hon. McGing vacancy

John Garrido – Not Recommended

John Garrido declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Mr. John Garrido is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Jon Stromsta – Qualified

Jon Stromsta was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985. He was an associate and partner with Ross & Hardies doing civil litigation from 1985 to 1997 after which he moved to the Teamsters Central States Funds dealing with employee benefits issues. He was a solo practitioner for four years then moved to the Office of the State Appellate Defender, handling appeals and post-conviction matters. After that he practiced family law with David Pasulka & Associates until 2010 when he became a partner with Enterprise Law Group when he currently practices. He has taught at Loyola University School of Law and held leadership positions in community organizations. He is a member of various bar associations and has served as a courtroom facilitator in Domestic Relations assisting pro se parties.

He is considered by attorneys to be very smart and trustworthy, with a good demeanor and a higher than average understanding of various areas of law. He has jury trial experience. ISBA finds Mr. Jon Stromsta **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Maire Aileen Dempsey – Qualified

Marie Aileen Dempsey has been licensed since 2002. She is currently a partner at Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd. handling medical malpractice defense litigation involving hospitals and health care professionals. Before joining her current firm, she was an associate at several other medical malpractice defense firms. She is a member of several bar associations, has been a volunteer with the Legal Assistance Foundation, and currently assists refugees through the Syrian Community Network.

She has substantial civil jury and bench trial experience, as well as in depositions and pre-trial motions. She is known to be prepared and professional, with a good demeanor. ISBA finds Ms. Maire Aileen Dempsey **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 10th Subcircuit – Hon. O’Brien vacancy

Daniel Alexander Trevino - Qualified

Daniel Alexander Trevino has been licensed since 1999. He was appointed as an associate judge in June 2018 and is currently assigned to Domestic Relations. Before his appointment, he spent his entire career as an associate and then partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson where he concentrated on products liability transportation litigation. He is a past president of the Hispanic Lawyers Association, served as a commissioner of the Illinois Medical District, has spoken on legal topics, and been a community volunteer.

Attorneys praised him for his character, impartiality, extensive knowledge of the law, and his ability to handle complex litigation. ISBA finds Judge Daniel Alexander Trevino **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

John Hourihane – Qualified

John Hourihane has been licensed since 1998. Since being licensed he has practiced with a variety of firms handling commercial litigation. In 2018, he founded John Hourihane, Jr. Ltd, concentrating on complex commercial matters and business counsel. He is also ‘of counsel’ to Brotschul Pott, LLC. He is an at-large members of the board of Lurie Children’s Surgical Foundation, Inc. and is a member of some bar associations.

Attorneys generally reported that he has good legal knowledge and ability, is efficient, fair, and even tempered. He has civil litigation experience and has handled some appeals. ISBA finds Mr. John Hourihane **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Audrey Victoria Cosgrove – Qualified

Audrey Victoria Cosgrove was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. She is currently the deputy chief legal counsel for the Illinois Lottery, a position she took after serving as deputy chief legal counsel for the Illinois Department of Labor. After obtaining her license, she initially spent nine years as an assistant public defender where her assignment included Child Protection and Felony Trial. She then operated her own practice for nineteen years, handling criminal defense, juvenile, real estate, traffic, and family law cases while serving as an administrative law judge for several state agencies. She is currently secretary and incoming first vice president of the Advocates Society and has been president of the Pulaski-Elston Business Association; volunteers with the National Immigrant Justice Center; and is active in other community organizations.



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Attorneys report that she is very knowledgeable, a good litigator, has experience in various areas of law, and is both diligent and ethical. She has both jury and bench trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Audrey Victoria Cosgrove **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Mary Catherine Marubio – Highly Qualified

Mary Catherine Marubio has been licensed since 1997. She was appointed as an associate judge in 2016 and is currently assigned to the Pretrial Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse after previously sitting in Domestic Relations. From 1997 to 2012 she had her own firm handling criminal defense and immigration cases in both state and federal courts. In 2012 she joined the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, first as a prosecutor and then as an administrative law judge. She is president of the Alliance of Illinois Judges, a board member of the Illinois Judges Association and the American Civil Liberties Union and was involved in pro bono work as an attorney.

Attorneys report that she has a keen intellect, is a hard worker and has a good temperament. She has substantial jury and bench trial experience. ISBA finds Judge Mary Catherine Marubio **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Liam Kelly – Not Recommended

Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, any candidate who has less than the minimum ten years of experience required for a judicial candidate shall be given a rating of not recommended. Timothy Liam Kelly was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2011 and has less than the minimum then years of experience required for a judicial candidate. Mr. Timothy Liam Kelly is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 12th Subcircuit – Hon. Kay M. Hanlon vacancy
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Patricia M. Fallon – Qualified

Patricia Fallon has been licensed since 2001. She was appointed to the circuit court in July 2019 and currently sits in the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. From June 2017 until her appointment, she was chief of Human Resources at the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. She came to that position after spending thirteen years as an assistant state’s attorney in the Labor and Employment Unit becoming supervisor in 2015. Prior to joining the State’s Attorney’s Office, she had been a contract attorney for a law firm and for Abbott Laboratories. She has been on



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committees and a section council member for the Illinois State Bar Association and is a member of other bars. She has also done legal writing.

Attorneys gave favorable comments about her legal knowledge and ability, pointing to her experience in state and federal courts, diligence and good temperament. She has jury and pretrial motion experience and has handled appeals. She has appeared before several county and state agencies handling employment matters. ISBA finds Judge Patricia M. Fallon **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Howard J. Wise – Qualified

Howard J. Wise has been licensed since 1997. He has been in private practice since 2001, currently with Howard J. Wise & Associates doing mainly criminal defense, DUI and traffic cases. From 1998 to 2001 he was an assistant state's attorney; his assignments included Criminal Appeals, Traffic, Misdemeanors, Felony Preliminary Hearings, and Felony Review. He is a member of various bar associations.

He is considered to be smart and informed, professional and diligent. He has some jury trial experience and a lot of bench trial experience. ISBA finds Mr. Howard J. Wise **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Carmine Trombetta – Qualified

Carmine Trombetta has been licensed since 1983. He has his own general practice: Law Office of Carmine V. Trombetta, focusing on civil matters, real estate and bankruptcy matters.

Attorneys, including adversaries, report that he is prepared, hardworking and has a good understanding of legal issues. He has some jury experience, both civil and criminal. ISBA finds Mr. Carmine Trombetta **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Frank R. DiFranco - Qualified

Frank R. DiFranco has been licensed since 1987. From 1987 to 1995 he was an assistant state's attorney where his assignments included Appeals, Traffic, Night Narcotics, and Felony Trial. Since 1995 he has been in private practice currently as the principal with DiFranco and Associates, focusing on criminal defense and civil cases. He is a member of some bar associations, has lectured to law enforcement officers and high schools, and is on the board of the Standing Tall Foundation.



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Attorneys generally reported that he is very competent and diligent and represents his clients with great zeal. There were some mixed comments on temperament with some stating that he has a good temperament, while a few felt he could be argumentative at times. He has both civil and criminal jury trial experience and substantial criminal bench trial experience. ISBA finds Mr. Frank R. DiFranco **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 13th Subcircuit – Hon. Margarita Kulys Hoffman vacancy

Joe Gump – Qualified

Joe Gump was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. He was a career assistant public defender who recently retired from that office. After spending eleven years in the Appeals Division, he moved to Felony Trial in the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows). He has also handled real estate matters. He served in many leadership positions in AFSCME Local 3315, the public defenders' union, including president, vice-president, chief steward, and as a bargaining committee member. He is considered to be a strong advocate and an experienced trial attorney who gets good dispositions for his clients.

Attorneys and judges reported that he writes well and has excellent research skills, is sensitive to diversity and even keeled. A few indicated that at time punctuality was an issue, though others attributed any issues there to the number of cases and nature of the job. He has substantial trial experience, including in complex matters, and also handled many appeals hear in his career. ISBA finds Mr. Joe Gump **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Matt Flamm – Qualified

Matt Flamm has been admitted to the Illinois bar since 1978. Since 2018 he has been president and attorney at Flamm & Teibloom, LLC handling real estate, tax, business, and election law matters. Prior to that he was in private practice, both with his own and other business, real estate and tax law firms. He has been active with bar associations including serving on committees for the Chicago Bar Association and the Chicago Council of Lawyers, and also serving as associate editor to the Illinois State Bar Association's State and Local Taxation Committee. He is also the Palatine Township democratic committeeman.

Attorneys report that he is knowledgeable, prepared and a critical thinker; he was referred to as the 'go to guy' in the real estate tax field who submits well-written briefs. He has civil jury and bench trial experience in various county and federal courts and has handled appeals as well. ISBA finds Mr. Matt Flamm **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Michael Harry Minton – Not Qualified

Michael Harry Minton has been licensed since 1971. He is currently a partner at the Minton Firm handling domestic relations and civil matters. He has worked in various civil firms during his career. He is a member of several bar associations and active with Hope Learning Academy.

Attorneys report that he is an honest and experienced advocate. Concerns were raised, however, about the depth and breadth of his recent experience, his diligence and his lack of jury trial and recent complex litigation experience. ISBA finds Mr. Michael Harry Minton **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Susanne Michele Groebner – Qualified

Susanne Michele Groebner has been licensed since 2000. She is a career prosecutor first with Cook County and for the past few years in McHenry County. Her assignments in Cook County included Juvenile Justice, Child Support and Felony Trials in the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows).

She has extensive criminal jury trial experience and attorneys reported that she has a thorough knowledge of legal concepts, is well prepared, honest, and impartial. ISBA finds Ms. Susanne Michele Groebner **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Michael P. Gerber – Highly Qualified

Michael Perry Gerber was admitted in 1980. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2016 and reappointed in 2019. He is currently assigned to the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows). Prior to his appointment, he spent over thirty years as an assistant state's attorney after a short stint in private practice and as an assistant public defender. As a prosecutor, he had extensive criminal jury trial experience; he was cited, however, several times for improper closing arguments. As a judge, attorneys report that he makes thoughtful rulings, is very knowledgeable, researches the law and runs his courtroom efficiently. Judge Gerber is found to be **highly qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Angel Garcia – Not Recommended

Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, any candidate who has less than the minimum ten years of experience required for a judicial candidate shall be given a rating of not recommended. Angel Garcia was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2011 and has less than the minimum ten years of experience required for a judicial candidate. Mr. Angel Garcia is found to be **not recommended**



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for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Gary William Seyring – Qualified

Gary William Seyring has been licensed since 1998. He has been a private practitioner since with his own practice: Law Offices of Gary Seyring, focusing on various areas of civil law including domestic relations, real estate, probate and estate planning, and business law. He has taught at Roosevelt University, been active on committees with the Chicago Bar Association and the Northwest Suburban Bar Association and assisted military families with tax preparation through a pro bono program. He is on the board of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association.

He is considered to be a well-prepared litigator with good writing skills. He has a diverse clientele and is patient and calm. He has substantial civil trial experience including in complex matters. ISBA finds Mr. Gary William Seyring **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 14th Subcircuit – Hon. Robert Bertucci vacancy
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Gerardo Tristan, Jr. – Qualified

Gerardo Tristan, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in January 2019 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. At the time of his appointment he had been an assistant state’s attorney for most of his career with assignments in Child Support, Juvenile Justice and Felony Trial. He is on the board of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, has been a committee member for the Illinois State Bar Association and is a member of other legal groups.

He has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience. Attorneys reported that he is very organized with a great demeanor and specifically noted his proficiency in the technological aspects of courtroom litigation. ISBA finds Judge Gerardo Tristan, Jr. **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Steve Demitro – Not Recommended

Steve Demitro declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Mr. Steve Demitro is found to be **not recommended** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 14th Subcircuit – Hon. William G. Lacy vacancy

Daniel O. Tiernan – Highly Qualified

Daniel O. Tiernan has been licensed since 1995. He was appointed to the circuit court in February 2019 and then named an associate judge in January 2020. He is currently assigned to the First Municipal District – Traffic Section. At the time of his appointment he was an investigator for the Office of the Cook County Inspector General where he had been employed since January 2016. Earlier in his career he was an assistant state’s attorney from 1995 to 2007 when he went into private practice with Delgado & Tiernan. As a private practitioner he handled criminal, probate, real estate, and immigration matters. He is a member of various bar associations and has been involved in community activities.

He has substantial criminal jury and bench trial experience and has also handled appeals. Attorney described him as being well versed in pretrial and trial procedure, diligent and professional with an excellent temperament. ISBA finds Mr. Daniel O. Tiernan **highly qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Perla Tirado – Not Qualified

Perla Tirado was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2005. Since 2016 she has been supervising attorney at Beyond Legal Aid, a non-profit legal services provider focusing on criminal, traffic, immigration, and family law. Before that she was in private practice and also was an assistant public defender for two years. She is a past board member of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, has been involved in community activities on immigration issues, and has spoken on legal topics.

While attorneys praised her demeanor, intelligence and passion, there were concerns about her lack of jury trial and complex litigation experience. ISBA finds Perla Tirado **not qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.



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Circuit Court – Cook County – 15th Subcircuit – Hon. John C. Griffin vacancy

Heather Mulligan Begley – Qualified

Heather Mulligan Begley has been licensed since 2003. She is currently as associate at Cunningham, Meyer and Vedrine handling mainly medical malpractice defense cases. She has worked for several other civil litigation firms and also had her own practice. She has written for the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, is a member of several bar associations and is active in her local community.

She has civil jury and pre-trial motion experience. She was praised by attorneys for her diligence, professionalism, knowledge, integrity, and level-headedness. ISBA finds Ms. Heather Mulligan Begley **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Nichole C. Patton – Qualified

Nichole C. Patton has been licensed since 1997. She was appointed to the circuit court in June 2018 and currently sits in the County Division. At the time of her appointment she was an assistant state’s attorney in the Special Prosecutions Bureau – Mental Health Unit. She initially worked as a prosecutor from 1996 until 2001 serving in Juvenile, Appeals and Traffic. From 2001 until returning to the States’ Attorney’s Office in 2010 she worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.; for a firm handling medical malpractice cases; and then in her own solo general practice. She is on the Board of Managers for the Chicago Bar Association and is active with other community organizations.

Attorneys reported that she is knowledgeable about the law, well prepared and is fair with a good temperament. She has some jury trial experience. ISBA finds Ms. Nichole C. Patton **qualified** to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Judicial candidates are rated by the Illinois State Bar Association based on detailed information supplied by candidates, a background check by trained lawyers/investigators, and interviews of each candidate. Ratings reflect the ISBA’s opinion of whether candidates have the necessary qualifications for judicial service and are not a reflection of the candidates’ abilities as lawyers.

Candidates who do not participate in the evaluation process are found
“Not Recommended”

Candidates who have less than the required number of years of active practice are found
“Not Recommended”