

Illinois State Bar Association
JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS
2022 General Election

Candidates seeking election to or retention on the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts are reviewed in a comprehensive evaluation process. This involves a detailed background investigation by members of the ISBA Judicial Evaluations Committee-Outside Cook County, followed by an in-person interview of the candidate. The Committee then decides whether to issue a rating of “Yes” or “No” for retention, or a rating of “Highly Recommended,” “Recommended,” or “Not Recommended” for candidates seeking to fill a vacancy. Ratings based on these judicial evaluations are the opinion of the Illinois State Bar Association. Ratings for the Appellate and Supreme Court candidates (outside of Cook County) running in the November 8, 2022 General Election are below.

2nd Judicial District, Supreme and Appellate Courts <i>Includes Circuits 16, 19, 22 and 23. The following counties fall under the Second Judicial District: DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry.</i>		
Supreme Court Vacancy		
<u>Thomas Vacancy</u>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Supreme Court</i> Mark C. Curran, Jr.	Not Recommended	

2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court Vacancy		
<u>Thomas Vacancy</u>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Supreme Court</i> Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford	 Highly Recommended	Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford is a candidate for the position of Supreme Court Justice, representing the Second District of Illinois (now comprised of DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry counties). The Supreme Court is the state's highest court; it also supervises and administers the state's judicial system. Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford was appointed to serve as an associate judge in Lake County, Illinois in 2012. Prior to her judicial appointment, she was in private practice beginning in 1990 where she focused on probate and estate planning matters. She also served as a commissioner on the Illinois Court of Claims for twenty-two years. She was also an assistant state's attorney in the appellate, misdemeanor, and felony units of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office from 1986 to 1990. The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford and has interviewed judges, court personnel, and numerous lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practice with, against, or in front of her. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford also presented herself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee. The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of Supreme Court for the Second District for the State of Illinois.

2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court Vacancy		
<u>Burke Vacancy</u>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Appellate Court</i> Susan Clancy Boles	Highly Recommended	Susan Clancy Boles Susan Clancy Boles is a candidate for the position of Appellate Court Justice in the Second District of Illinois (now comprised of DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry counties). Except when a circuit court's decision may be appealed directly to the Illinois Supreme Court, a person has the right to appeal the decision to the Illinois Appellate Court. The appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits within that district. Susan Clancy Boles serves a judge on the Circuit Court for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, having been appointed as an associate judge in 2007, a circuit judge in 2008, and subsequently elected as a circuit judge in 2010. Prior to her time on the bench, Susan Clancy Boles worked in private practice for approximately seventeen years. The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Susan Clancy Boles and has interviewed judges and numerous lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practiced with, against, or in front of her. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Susan Clancy Boles also presented herself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee. The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Susan Clancy Boles to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Second District Appellate Court for the State of Illinois.

2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court Vacancy		
<u>Burke Vacancy</u>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Appellate Court</i> Chris Kennedy	 Highly Recommended	Chris Kennedy Chris Kennedy is a candidate for the position of Appellate Court Justice in the Second District of Illinois (now comprised of DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry counties). Except when a circuit court's decision may be appealed directly to the Illinois Supreme Court, a person has the right to appeal the decision to the Illinois Appellate Court. The appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits within that district. Chris Kennedy was appointed to serve as an associate judge in Lake County, Illinois in January 2020. Prior to his appointment, he served as a prosecuting attorney and worked in private practice litigating a variety of cases since 1994. The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Chris Kennedy and has interviewed judges, court personnel, and numerous lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practiced with, against, or in front of him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Chris Kennedy also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee. The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Chris Kennedy to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Second District Appellate Court for the State of Illinois.

2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court Retention		
<u>For the retention of</u>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>Appellate Court</i> Joseph Birkett	 Yes	Joseph E. Birkett Justice Joseph E. Birkett is a candidate for retention to the position of Appellate Court Justice for the Second District of Illinois (now comprised of DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry counties). Except when a circuit court's decision may be appealed directly to the Illinois Supreme Court, a person has the right to appeal the decision to the Illinois Appellate Court. The appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits withing that district. Justice Birkett was appointed to serve as an appellate justice in 2010 and then elected to the position in 2012. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was the State's Attorney of DuPage County beginning in 1996. Prior to that, he was an Assistant States Attorney from 1981 when he was admitted to the bar until his election as State's Attorney. The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Justice Birkett and has interviewed judges, court personnel, and numerous lawyers who know and have worked or practiced with, against, or in front of him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Justice Birkett also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee. The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County recommends a "Yes" for Justice Joseph E. Birkett's retention on the Appellate Court for the Second District of the State of Illinois.

Illinois State Bar Association
JUDICIAL ADVISORY POLL
2022 General Election

The Illinois State Bar Association Judicial Advisory Poll is conducted electronically and by mail and is sent to all ISBA members in the circuit or district from which a candidate seeks election (except Cook County). Illinois licensed attorneys who are not members of the ISBA, or any Illinois licensed attorney outside the circuit or district, may request a ballot. Opinions expressed in the Poll are those of the attorneys who chose to respond to the Poll and their opinions do not reflect the opinions of the ISBA or the opinions of *all* Illinois attorneys.

Candidates are rated as "Recommended" or "Not Recommended" based on whether respondents agree that the candidate "meets acceptable requirements for the office." Candidates must receive at least 65% "yes" responses to that question in order to be rated as "Recommended". Percentage is based on "yes" responses to each question; "no opinion" responses are not included.

2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court <i>Includes Circuits 16, 19, 22 and 23. The following counties fall under the Second Judicial District: DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry.</i>										
	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
Supreme Court Vacancy										
<u>Thomas Vacancy</u>										
Mark C. Curran, Jr.	144	NR	26.81	52.94	37.31	31.39	45.52	52.76	70.34	46.83
Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford	250	R	87.95	95.14	92.74	89.80	93.09	94.58	96.51	93.78
Supreme Court Retention										
No judges are up for retention.										

2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court										
	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
Appellate Court Vacancy										
<u>Burke Vacancy</u>										
Susan Clancy Boles	273	R	94.46	96.31	95.54	95.94	95.57	96.64	97.71	96.59
Chris Kennedy	*									
Appellate Court Retention										
Joseph Birkett	269	R	77.48	83.59	74.71	86.59	79.92	92.06	92.53	84.08

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Nineteenth Judicial Circuit <i>Lake County</i>										
	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
Vacancies										
<u>Cekowski Vacancy</u>										
Reginald Mathews	90	R	91.11	96.59	92.13	83.72	89.77	94.19	98.85	96.59
<u>Ukena Vacancy</u>										
Michael G. "Mike" Nerheim	133	R	90.08	95.35	93.37	90.77	96.15	96.06	98.33	94.31
<u>Winter Vacancy</u>										
John L. Joanem	104	R	66.67	82.65	82.47	62.50	93.00	65.26	96.74	90.91
<u>First Subcircuit – A vacancy</u>										
Chris Ditton	*									
Rod Drobinski	69	NR	64.18	74.63	65.67	71.67	81.54	81.25	93.75	78.79
<u>Second Subcircuit – A Vacancy</u>										
Sharmila Manak	*									
Retention										
Mark L. Levitt	86	R	91.86	92.94	88.37	97.65	94.12	93.90	97.53	91.25
Jorge L. Ortiz	129	R	81.30	90.48	88.00	84.68	70.97	90.32	96.49	92.50
Victoria A. Rossetti	83	R	90.00	92.68	87.50	92.68	92.59	92.50	94.81	91.36