

**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS – COOK COUNTY

2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies

Illinois Appellate Court – First District – Hall Vacancy

Debra B. Walker – Highly Qualified

Debra Walker has been licensed since 1987. After a career in private practice with different litigation firms, she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2008. Since 2009 she has been assigned to Domestic Relations Division. She is a past president of the Illinois Judges Association, the Illinois Bar Foundation and the Women’s Bar Association and served as a section chair for the Illinois State Bar Association. She served as Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism for six years. In 2019 she was given the Distinguished Alumna Award by the University of Illinois College of Law. She has been a speaker at several law schools and written on legal topics.

Lawyers contacted spoke highly of her as being a true student of the law, describing her as exceptional, sensitive, patient, and beyond reproach.

The Committee finds that Debra Walker is **highly qualified** for election to the Illinois Appellate Court.

Illinois Appellate Court – First District – Harris Vacancy

Raymond W. Mitchell – Highly Qualified

Raymond Mitchell was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. After rising to partner at Winston and Strawn, handling appeals, he was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2008 and elected in 2010. Since 2017 he has been assigned to the Chancery Division; prior to that, he was assigned to the Law Division from 2011 until 2017 after started in the Traffic Division.

He has taught as an adjunct professor, written on legal topics and been a committee member with the American Bar Association. Lawyers report that he has a thorough understanding of the legal process with excellent legal knowledge, and his written opinions are thorough and well-researched. He is known as a hard worker who is fair and patient.

The Committee finds Raymond W. Mitchell **highly qualified** for election to the Appellate Court.

Circuit Court - Cook County – Brennan Vacancy

Lisa Michelle Taylor – Qualified

Lisa Taylor has been licensed since 2001. In 2017 she joined Schwartz Gilligan where she focuses on general tort defense and insurance coverage litigation, with some probate practice. Prior to joining her current firm, she had worked at various other firms with civil defense practices. She is a member of several bar associations, has been a speaker on legal topics, mentored law students, and served on the City of Chicago’s Board of Ethics from 2009 until 2012.

In 2014 she was given the Cook County Special Advocate Volunteer Spirit Award. She has litigation experience in civil jury and bench trials. Attorneys praised her legal ability, thoroughness, professionalism, and work ethic.

The Committee finds Lisa Michelle Taylor **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Callahan vacancy

Tracie Porter - Qualified

Tracie Porter has been licensed since 1994. She currently practices with Tracie Porter PC handling residential and commercial real estate matters, and probate, corporate and securities matters. At various times she has worked with law firms and had her own practice and spent the first four years of her legal career with the U.S. Department of Labor as a Labor Litigation attorney. She has taught and lectured at various law schools and has been a committee member with various bar associations. She is Chairman of the Board and a Founder of the Alexander Family Foundation.

She has experience in both state and federal courts, and reports having tried several civil jury trials, as well as bench trials and motions. Lawyers contacted described her as possessing exceptional legal knowledge and ability, with integrity that is beyond reproach. They say she is professional, diligent, organized, and prepared, with an excellent temperament.

The Committee finds Tracie Porter **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Cannon vacancy

Diana López - Qualified

Diana López has been licensed since 2001. She was selected as an associate judge in 2021 and is currently assigned to the Traffic Division. Prior to her appointment, she had practiced with Lopez Law Group and other firms, handling mainly domestic and family law matters. She also served for three years as an assistant state's attorney before entering private practice. She has taught as an adjunct professor at DePaul and served as Vice-Chair of the Schiller DuCanto and Fleck Family Law Center there as well. She is a board member of Greenlight Family Services and has served on bar association committees.

She is considered to have excellent legal knowledge, and to be organized, knowledgeable, and balanced. Before being appointed to the bench, she had tried a considerable number of civil bench trials.

The Committee finds Diana López **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Hyman vacancy

Thomas E. Nowinski - Qualified

Thomas E. Nowinski has been licensed since 2004. Since December 2020 he has been Chief of Staff to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Prior to that, he held various other government positions, including as Labor Counsel to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Legal Counsel to the Assessor, Deputy Director of Labor Relations for the Cook County Board; he also served as an assistant state's attorney for several years, and was Deputy Supervisor of Torts and Federal Civil Rights Litigation Unit of the Civil Actions Bureau. He is currently the Treasurer of the Advocates Society and a committee member.

The Committee finds Thomas E. Nowinski **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Ingram vacancy

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.

The Committee finds Elizabeth Ryan **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Leeming vacancy

Rena Marie Van Tine – Highly Qualified

Rena Marie Van Tine was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in February 2021 after serving as an associate judge since 2001. She is currently assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section, after a previous assignment in Child Protection.

Prior to ascending to the bench, she had served as an assistant state’s attorney and as Special Counsel to the State Comptroller. She is a past president of the Asian American Bar Association and on the Board of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois and has been active with other bar associations. In 2021 she received the Mary Heftel Hooton award from the WBAI and in 2019 received the Sandra Otaka Leadership Award from the AABA. She also teaches at judicial conferences. Lawyers report that she knows the law and how to apply it, and issues thoughtful rulings. She is considered to be fair and impartial, with high character.

The Committee finds Rena Marie Van Tine **highly qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Lynch vacancy

Michael Weaver – Qualified

Michael Weaver has been licensed since 2006. He has been with McDermott Will handling commercial litigation since 2007, as a partner since 2013, and is currently the Pro Bono Litigation Partner. Prior to joining the firm, he spent a year in American Samoa as a law clerk. He is a former Board president of the Family Defense Center NKAA Ascent Justice. Has been a speaker on legal topics and is a member of various bar associations. He was named to the inaugural list of Crain’s Chicago Business Notable LGBTQ Executives in 2018.

He has both civil and criminal jury and bench experience, has handled appeals, and litigated other motions and restraining orders in both federal and state courts. He is regarded by fellow attorneys as possessing exceptional legal skills, and being very inclusive and even keeled, with high integrity.

The Committee finds Michael Weaver **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – McGury vacancy

Ruth Isabel Gudino – Qualified

Ruth Isabel Gudino was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. In 2021 she was appointed to the circuit court and is currently assigned to the Sixth District (Markham). Prior to her appointment, she was the Supervisor of the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau for the State’s Attorney’s Office in the Fourth District (Maywood), where she had also been Deputy Supervisor. She had been with the SAO since 2001; prior to that she worked for the Cook County Public Guardian and the United Auto Workers Legal Services Plan, as well as another stint as an assistant state’s attorney.

She has taught law classes, and is a member of various bar associations, having served on committees with several of them. She has substantial criminal jury and bench experience. Attorneys report that she is an excellent attorney with good litigation skills, professional, and a hard worker.

The Committee finds Ruth Isabel Gudino **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – O’Brien vacancy

Araceli Reyes De La Cruz – Qualified

Araceli Reyes De La Cruz was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001. In January 2022 she was appointed to the Circuit Court where she is currently assigned to Traffic Court. Prior to her appointment, 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.

She has some jury, bench and quasi-trial experience. Attorneys praised her legal knowledge and ability, her diligence and her even keeled temperament.

The Committee finds Araceli Reyes De La Cruz **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – Sullivan vacancy

Thomas More Donnelly – Highly Qualified

Thomas More Donnelly has been licensed since 1986. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2021 after serving as an associate judge since 2003; he also served a brief time as an appointed circuit court judge in 2000. He has been assigned to the Law Division – Jury Section since 2017. His prior assignment include First Municipal, Civil Jury Trials, Misdemeanor Jury Call, and Supplementary Proceedings and Miscellaneous Remedies; Domestic Violence; and Traffic Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he had been an assistant public defender and a law clerk at the appellate level for the Hon. Mary Ann McMorrow. He has served on the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee for thirty years, taught trial advocacy, written and taught classes on legal ethics. He currently serves on the faculty of the National Judicial College. In 2018 he received the Harold Sullivan Award from the Illinois Judges Association, and in 2019 was given the Impact Award from the Center for Disability and Elder Law. He is a past president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild and has served as a Board member of the Illinois Judges Association.

Attorneys contacted reported that he knows the law, is thorough, and has a great grasp of evidentiary issues and that his written opinions are excellent. He has a reputation as a person of great integrity who listens, is always prepared, and treats all with respect.

The Committee finds Thomas More Donnelly **highly qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court – Cook County – 1st Subcircuit – Johnson vacancy

Maria M. Barlow – Not Recommended

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

Circuit Court - Cook County – 4th Subcircuit – Gavin vacancy

Nick Kantas – Qualified

Nick Kantas was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2004. He is a career assistant state’s attorney who is currently a supervisor in the Juvenile Justice Division. Previous assignments include Child Support and Felony Trial. He is a commissioner on the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission and served as a trustee for Lyons township School Treasurer’s Office and is a member of several bar associations. He has been a speaker at internal seminars.

He has substantial jury and bench trial experience. Attorneys praised his legal knowledge, fairness, work ethic, and demeanor.

The Committee finds Nick Kantas **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 4th Subcircuit – Rogers vacancy

ShawnTe Raines-Welch – Not Qualified

ShawnTe Raines-Welch has been licensed since 2009. Since 2019 she has been with Ancel Glink focusing on civil litigation defense and local government representation. Prior to that she worked at several other firms handling labor, employment and personal injury matters. She has been a local prosecutor and administrative law judge for several suburban municipalities. She has been a speaker and written about legal issues and served on the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission and the Hillside Zoning Commission.

She reports one jury and no bench trial experience as lead counsel, though she has litigated pre-trial motions in state and federal courts. While attorneys stated that she handles her duties as administrative law judge well and is knowledgeable in those areas, fair and even keeled, the Committee has concerns about her lack of trial experience and the depth and breadth of her overall legal experience.

The Committee finds ShawnTe Raines-Welch **not qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 5th Subcircuit – Portman-Brown vacancy

David L. Kelly - Qualified

David L. Kelly has been licensed since 2001. In 2021 he was appointed to the circuit court. Prior to this he served as an assistant state’s attorney until 2006 when he opened his own general practice focusing on criminal defense and real estate. He has both criminal and civil trial experience. He is well-regarded for his litigation skills, knowledge, and temperament, and is considered to be ethical and respectful. He is active in bar associations and legal clinics.

The Committee finds David L. Kelly **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 5th Subcircuit – Shelley vacancy

Timothy W. Wright III - Qualified

Timothy W. Wright III has been licensed since 1984. Since 2011 he has been a partner at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood and Boyer, focusing on commercial litigation, public affairs, and public finance. He worked at several different firms before joining his current firm, focusing on similar areas. In addition, he was Chief of Staff to Representative Bobby Rush from 1997 to 1999, and member of the Clinton Transition Team from 1992 to 1993 as Domestic Policy Director, and Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development for the City of Chicago from 1985 to 1989.

He has been on the Board of Chicago’s Theological Seminary and Claremont McKenna College and was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award by Claremont McKenna in 2019. He is a member of several bar associations.

He is an experienced commercial litigator, with some jury and bench trial experience and substantial complex quasi-litigation before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other boards. The vast majority of attorneys described him as being smart and knowledgeable with an inclusive approach and high integrity.

The Committee finds Timothy W. Wright III **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 6th Subcircuit – Araujo vacancy

Charles “Charlie” Beach - Qualified

Charles “Charlie” Beach has been licensed since 1996. In September 2017 he was appointed as an associate judge to the Circuit Court, Traffic Section. He is currently assigned to the Pre-Trial Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Prior to his appointment, Judge Beach owned his own practice where he primarily focused on DUI and criminal defense. Early in his career he was a clerk for the Appellate Court and assistant public defender. Judge Charles Beach is found to be **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 6th Subcircuit – Vega vacancy

Kerry 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 having been appointed as an associate judge in 2017. 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.

The Committee finds Kerrie Maloney Laytin **qualified** election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 7th Subcircuit – Martin vacancy

Marcia O’Brien Conway - Qualified

Marcia O’Brien Conway was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984. She currently practices with the Conway Law Group. 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. 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.

The Committee finds Marcia O’Brien Conway **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 8th Subcircuit – Gordan vacancy

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.

The Committee finds Bradley R. Trowbridge **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 8th Subcircuit – Lipscomb vacancy

Stephen Swedlow - Qualified

Stephen Swedlow was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. He is currently the managing partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, where he has been employed since 2011, focusing on business litigation. Prior to that, he was with two other firms handling corporate litigation, and also served for one year as a clerk to the U.S. Court of Appeals. He is a member of several bar associations, has lectured on legal matters to seminars and at Northwestern University.

He has both jury and non-jury experience in civil cases, has an extensive motion practice, appears in both state and federal courts, and has handled fifteen appeals. Attorneys describe him as having an encyclopedic knowledge of substantive law, unflappable, always prepared, and a straight shooter.

The Committee finds Stephen Swedlow **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 9th Subcircuit – Bernstein vacancy

Sanjay Tailor – Highly Qualified

Sanjay Tailor has been licensed since 1991. He was appointed to the circuit court as a full judge in January 2021 and is currently the Presiding Judge of the County Division. Prior to the appointment, he had been serving as an associate judge since 2003 in First Municipal, Domestic Relations, Law Division, and Chancery. Prior to his appointment, he had worked as an assistant state’s attorney, for First National Bank and Chapman and Cutler. He is a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Education, and also served on the Court’s Committee on Judicial Performance for six years. He was a founding member of the South Asian Bar Association. He is active with other judicial organizations and has lectured on legal topics and taught at Loyola.

Lawyers appearing before him describe him as having superior legal knowledge, being always prepared, and excellent with complex cases. He has a calm demeanor and is always on time.

The Committee finds Sanjay Tailor **highly qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 9th Subcircuit – Jacobius vacancy

Barry Goldberg - Qualified

Barry Goldberg was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1999. He has spent his career as an assistant attorney general, where is currently is the Bureau Chief of the Charitable Trust Bureau. He is a member of several bar associations and a past president of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. In addition, he has lectured at law schools and written on legal topics and is active in community organizations.

He does not report jury or bench trial experience, but does have substantial quasi-trial civil experience, including administrative and evidentiary hearings. Attorneys reported that his legal knowledge was superior in the art of charitable trust issues and fraud. He is considered to have high integrity with a good temperament.

The Committee finds Barry Goldberg **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 11th Subcircuit – McGuire vacancy

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.

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.

The Committee finds Aileen Bhandari **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 13th Subcircuit – Groebner vacancy

Joe Gump (D) – 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.

The Committee finds Joe Gump **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 13th Subcircuit – Groebner vacancy (continued)

Gary William Seyring (R)– Qualified

Gary William Seyring has been licensed since 1978. 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.

The Committee finds Gary William Seyring **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 14th Subcircuit – Brown vacancy

Iris Y. Chavira – Not Recommended

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

Circuit Court - Cook County – 14th Subcircuit – Jagielski vacancy

Viviana Martinez – Not Qualified

Viviana Martinez has been licensed since 2007. Since 2022 she was appointed Deputy General Counsel for Chicago Public Schools, managing attorneys, and drafting CPS contracts. Prior to her recent appointment, she held various positions within Cook County government, including as Special Assistant for Legal Affairs in the Cook County Bureau of Administration (April 2018 to April 2022), Interim Director of the Cook County Department of Adoption and Family Supportive Services (November 2018 to August 2019); Assistant Special Legal Counsel to the Office of Cook County Board President (March 2013 to April 2018); and Chief of Staff and General Counsel to then Cook County Commission Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (December 2010 to March 2013). Before that she has been an assistant attorney general and in private practice. She is a member of various bar associations, and a past board members of the Puerto Rican Bar Association. Currently she is on the board of the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation and volunteers with other community groups.

She does not report having any jury trial experience, and some non-jury trials from early in her career. Attorneys reported that, while due to the nature of her job, they had limited experience observing her legal knowledge and ability, within the confines of her current role, she did have good knowledge of, especially with the effects of proposed legislation. All consider her to be very diligent, with a good temperament, and described her as a strong proponent of promoting equity and diversity.

The Committee finds Viviana Martinez **not qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Circuit Court - Cook County – 15th Subcircuit – Lawler vacancy

Bernadette Barrett - Qualified

Bernadette Garrison Barrett has been licensed since 1991. She practices in the areas of domestic relations, civil litigation and corporate law with the Barrett Law Group. Prior to starting her firm in 2019 she worked in a general practice with Barrett and Sramek from 1991 to 2018. She is a former president of the Southwest bar Association and a member of various other bars. She is currently serving as Trustee of Moraine Valley Community College and as a board member for Rise From The Ashes.

She has some civil jury trial experience, has handled some appeals and substantial quasi-litigation experience. Attorneys reports that she is known for handling complex family law cases and has more than a typical knowledge of the law. They described her as professional and calm.

The Committee finds Bernadette Barrett **qualified** for election to the Circuit Court of Cook County.

**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS – COOK COUNTY

2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Justices and Judges Seeking Retention

SHOULD THIS JUDGE BE RETAINED?

(Please note: Though the ratings are shown in ballot order, for ease in searching for a judge's name, the narratives are herewith presented in alphabetical order within a Court)

Illinois Supreme Court – 1st District

Mary Jane Theis - Yes

Hon. Mary Jane Theis has been licensed since 1974. She was an assistant public defender until she was selected as an associate judge in 1983. In 1988 she was elected to the Circuit Court, where she was assigned to the Criminal and Chancery Divisions. In 1993 she was appointed to the Appellate Court, First District, and then elected in 1994. In 2010 she was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court, and then elected in 2012. While on the Appellate Court she served as a presiding judge and was a member of committees for the Illinois Judicial Conference and the Illinois Supreme Court. She is a past president of the Appellate Lawyers Association, the Illinois Judges Association, and the Illinois Judges Foundation.

She has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association. She has taught at law schools and bar association seminars. She has received various awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Judges Association, the Mary Heftel Hooton Award from the Women's Bar Association, the Access to Justice Award from the Illinois State Bar Association, and the John Paul Stevens Award from the Chicago Bar Association.

Attorneys regard her as an outstanding jurist who knows civil and criminal law in great depth, asks thoughtful questions, and writes detailed opinions. She was praised for her ethics and her commitment to diversity in her judicial appointments, as well as her demeanor and diligence. Commencing October 26, 2022, Justice Theis will begin serving a three-year term as Chief Justice succeeding Justice Anne M. Burke.

The ISBA finds Justice Mary Jane Theis recommended for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

Illinois Appellate Court – 1st District

Maureen E. Connors - Yes

Hon. Maureen Elizabeth Connors has been licensed since 1979. She was a litigation attorney until selected as an associate judge in 1988, serving in First Municipal, Traffic Court, Domestic Violence Court, and the Fifth District (Bridgeview). After being elected to the Circuit Court in 1994, and retained in 2000 and 2006, where she served in Probate Court, she was appointed to the Appellate Court, First District, in 2010, and then elected in 2012. She has been chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Discovery Procedures.

Attorneys and judges reported that she is a very well-versed jurist who issues thorough and even-sided opinions. She treats people respectfully, is well-prepared, and issues opinions in a timely manner.

The ISBA finds Justice Maureen Elizabeth Connors recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Mathias William Delort - Yes

Hon. Mathias Delort has been licensed since 1985. He was a private practitioner who focused on local government and election law. He was selected as an associate judge in 2007 and served almost exclusively in Chancery until his election to the Appellate Court in 2012. He has served on Supreme Court committees and as chair of the Appellate Court's Mediation Committee. In 2017, he received the Judge Howard T. Markey Award from the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association, and in 2020 he was awarded the Robert J. Mangler Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association. He also received the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Court of Honor Award in 2012. He has taught, written, and spoken on legal topics, and served as an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School. He is a former member of the Board of Managers and a past committee chair of the Chicago Bar Association.

Attorneys all described him as an excellent judge with a high level of legal knowledge and ability, and praised his impartiality and integrity, and his calm demeanor and temperament.

The ISBA finds Justice Mathias Delort recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse, Jr. – Yes

Hon. Nathaniel Howse has been licensed since 1976. He was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2012 after serving by appointment since 2009. In 1998 he was elected to the Circuit Court and retained in 2004 and 2010. While in the Circuit Court his other assignments included the County, First Municipal District, Adoption, and Traffic Divisions. Before service on 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.

The ISBA finds Justice Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse, Jr. recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Terrence J. Lavin - Yes

Hon. Terrence Joseph Lavin has been licensed since 1983. He was a civil trial attorney at several firms and with his own practice, focusing on personal injury matters until 2010, when he was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court, First District. He was subsequently elected to the Appellate Court in 2012. He is a past president of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Society of Trial Lawyers and has published numerous articles. He also speaks on legal topics and was an adjunct professor of law at Chicago-Kent College of Law

He was universally praised by attorneys for his legal knowledge and ability, they stated that he is always prepared for oral arguments and asks excellent questions. He has an even-keeled temperament, high integrity, and issues well-reasoned opinions in a timely manner.

The ISBA finds Justice Terrence J. Lavin recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Jesse G. Reyes - Yes

Hon. Jesse G. Reyes has been licensed since 1984. He was appointed as an associate judge in 1997 with assignments in the Chancery Division hearing mortgage foreclosure matters, and elected to the Circuit Court in 2008, and elected to the Appellate Court in 2012. While a circuit court judge, he sat in Mortgage Foreclosure, Traffic, Domestic Violence, and the Sixth Municipal District (Markham). Before services on the bench, he was an assistant corporation counsel and an attorney for the Chicago Board of Education. He is a past president of the Illinois Judges Association and the Latin American Bar Association.

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.

The ISBA finds Justice Jesse G. Reyes recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Illinois Appellate Court – 1st District (continued)

James G. Fitzgerald Smith - Yes

Hon. James Fitzgerald Smith was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975. He worked as an assistant corporation counsel for the city of Chicago and then as City Attorney for DesPlaines until 1989. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1989 and then elected in 1994 and retained in 2000. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 2002 and retained in 2012. He has served as presiding judge of the Second Division. He is a past president of the John Marshall Law School Alumni, and the recipient of the Howard Markey Award in 2018 from UIC Law School Alumni, formerly known as John Marshall Law School.

Most attorneys thought highly of his legal acumen, and a few noted that he is one of the more experienced judge in the First District. He was praised for his integrity, respectfulness, professionalism, organization and hard-work.

The ISBA finds Justice James Fitzgerald Smith recommended for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Cook County Circuit Court

James L. Allegretti – Yes

Hon. James Leonard Allegretti, has been licensed to practice in Illinois since 1978. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. He has been assigned to the Second District (Skokie) since February 2017, where he has been hearing a mixed civil call since October 2019 after first sitting in misdemeanor and traffic rooms. He is a past member of the Illinois State Bar Association Assembly, a past president of the Justinian Society, and an officer of the North Suburban Bar Association.

Attorneys gave favorable comments about his knowledge of the law in the areas he currently handles, and stated that he is even-tempered, efficient, and reasonable.

The ISBA finds Judge James L. Allegretti recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Robert “Bob” Balanoff - Yes

Hon. Robert Balanoff has been licensed since 1982. He was elected to the Circuit court in 2004; retained in 2010 and 2016. He is currently the Presiding Judge of Child Protection, a position he has held since December 2020 when he was appointed Acting Presiding Judge. He initially spent a year in Traffic Court. He has spoken on legal topics and monitors election in Eastern Europe as part of the International Election Observation Mission.

He was highly praised by attorneys and judges for his legal knowledge and his technology skills during the transition to zoom hearings during the pandemic. He is described as fair, with a good judicial temperament and high integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Robert Balanoff recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Steven James Bernstein - Yes

Hon. Steven James Bernstein has been licensed since 1971. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. He currently sits in the Juvenile Justice Division hearing cases in Skokie, Rolling Meadows, Maywood, and Bridgeview. He has been assigned to Juvenile Justice since 2015 after a prior stint in First Municipal.

He is considered by attorneys appearing before him to be a hard worker of high character who is extremely knowledgeable about the law, and skilled at keeping the focus of his courtroom the juveniles appearing there.

The ISBA finds Judge Steven James Bernstein recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Kathleen Marie Burke - Yes

Hon. Kathleen Marie Burke has been licensed lawyer since 1989. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, retained in 2010 and 2016. She is currently assigned to the Municipal Department, Fifth District (Bridgeview). Before moving to the Fifth District in 2009, she was assigned to Child Protection and First Municipal, Traffic Division. She is a part time Adjunct Professor/Instructor at Loyola University School of Law.

Attorneys reported that she makes thoughtful decisions and is knowledgeable about procedure and law. She is considered to be a fair person who treats all with respect.

The ISBA finds Judge Kathleen Marie Burke recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Charles Patrick Burns - Yes

Hon. Charles Patrick Burns has been licensed since 1981. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and retained in 2004, 2010 and 2016. He is assigned to the Criminal Division where he presides over a felony trial call as well as the specialized drug court program at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. He is a committee member of the Illinois Judicial Council and has published articles. He has received several awards, including the Donald Hubert Public Service Award in 2021 from the Chicago Inns of Court; the Promotion of Social Justice Award in 2016 from the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys in 2016; and the Distinguished Service Award from the Friends of Recover in 2021.

Almost every attorney praised his knowledge of criminal law and the rules of evidence and procedure, as well as his long involvement with the Rehabilitative Alternative Probation initiative in the drug court. While they also praised his integrity, character, and diligence, a few did express that he could at times be irascible and several female attorneys raised concerns over what they perceived to be as inadequate attention to sensitivity. Others did not have such concerns.

The ISBA finds Judge Charles Patrick Burns recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Bonita Coleman - Yes

Hon. Bonita Coleman has been licensed since 1992. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2015 and retained in 2016. She has been assigned to Domestic Relations in the Sixth District (Markham) since 2011, after first sitting in Traffic Court. She is past president of the Illinois Judicial Council, a former board member of the Illinois Judges Association and has been chair of various committees of the Cook County Bar Association.

Attorneys commented on her ability to manage her court call, and to apply the law to the facts and give a good explanation of her ruling. She is described as professional, and most reported that she is even keeled.

The ISBA finds Judge Bonita Coleman qualified for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Ann Finley Collins - No

Hon. Ann Finley Collins declined to participate in the judicial evaluation process in a timely manner. Pursuant to ISBA guidelines, Judge Collins is found to be **not recommended** for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Alison C. Conlon – Yes

Hon. Alison C. Conlon has been licensed since 2000. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and subsequently elected in 2016. She is currently assigned to the Chancery Division, General Chancery Section, after first sitting in several different First Municipal courts. She has been a speaker and a panelist and has served on several Illinois Court committees. She was a member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association, and a past recipient of the Court of Honor Award from Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Attorneys reported that she knows the law and Rules of Evidence, and praised her sensitivity, in particular her patience with pro se litigants. She is described as respectful, fair, and diligent.

The ISBA finds Judge Alison C. Conlon recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Eulalia “Evie” De La Rosa – Yes

Hon. Eulalia De La Rosa has been admitted to the Illinois bar since 2004. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016 and is currently assigned to the Municipal Department in the Fourth District (Maywood), hearing a variety of cases on a rotating basis. Her first assignment was in First Municipal. She is a past president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and was a Board member of the Illinois Judges Association and Illinois Latino Judges Association.

Attorneys praised her knowledge of the law, high integrity, judicial temperament, and fairness.

The ISBA finds Judge Eulalia De La Rosa recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Daniel Patrick Duffy - Yes

Hon. Daniel Patrick Duffy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2014 and elected in 2016. After first being assigned to First Municipal, in 2019 he was assigned to the Law Division, Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies.

Attorneys reported that he is diligent, fair, even keeled and sensitive to diversity. Those who appeared before him in First Municipal described his legal knowledge as above average; those appearing before him in his current assignment reported that while he was not initially familiar with that area of law, he has worked to learn it and gives fair rulings.

The ISBA finds Judge Daniel Patrick Duffy recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Jerry A. Esrig – Yes

Hon. Jerry Esrig was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2013, reappointed in 2014, and elected in 2016. After first being assigned to First Municipal, he currently presides in the Law Division, Commercial Calendar Section.

Multiple attorneys described him as being very smart and intelligent, with excellent legal knowledge and ability, and as being professional, impartial, and patient.

The ISBA finds Judge Jerry A. Esrig recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Timothy C. Evans - Yes

Hon. Timothy Evans has been licensed since 1969. After serving as an alderman in the Chicago City Council for the 4th Ward from 1973 until 1991, while maintaining a civil law practice, he was elected in 1992 to the Circuit Court, and has been retained four times since. He served as presiding judge of Domestic Relations and the Law Division before being elected Chief Judge in 2001, a position he has recently been elected to for an eighth term. As Chief Judge he is responsible for the overall operation of the Court system as well as various agencies like Adult Probation, the Juvenile Detention Center, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Mandatory Arbitration Program, and other court-related offices. He has served on Illinois Supreme Court committees, been a speaker on many occasions, and is a member of various bar associations. In 2021 he was honored with the Archibald Carey Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Northwest Suburban Bar Association has named a scholarship in his honor.

Judge Evans does not hear a court call. People, both attorneys and non-attorneys, contacted during the investigation reported that he is known for having a calm, measured and pleasant demeanor and temperament. As the face of the court system, he makes many public appearances at bar association events. He was praised for his efforts to improve diversity on the bench, and for his support of diversion courts like the Restorative Justice programs, and Drug, Mental Health, and Veteran's Courts. They also agreed that he is sharp, aware of legal issues and sees them from many angles.

Issues were raised about the court system's response to the pandemic, with some saying the transition to virtual hearings was not well-handled at first, while others saying that it was handled well under the circumstances. The effectiveness of the bond court and electronic monitoring has also been an issue, with some complaining about a lack of transparency at times.

The ISBA finds Judge Timothy C. Evans recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Rossana P. Fernandez – No

Hon. Rosanna Fernandez has been licensed since 1997. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and elected in 2016. She has been assigned to Domestic Relations in the Third District (Rolling Meadows) since August 2018; her prior assignments include Domestic Violence and Traffic Court. She is the president of the Illinois Latino Judges Association and has been a Board member of the Hispanic Lawyers Association and the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Lawyers, and a committee member with the Illinois State Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association. She has spoken on legal topics and served on Supreme Court committees. While attorneys agreed that she knows the law, writes well thought out opinions and is hard-working, substantial concerns were raised about her judicial temperament and demeanor. It was reported that at times she could be condescending and disrespectful to both attorneys and litigants, and that there are times she speaks Spanish directly to litigants without properly employing the official court interpreter.

The ISBA finds Judge Rossana P. Fernandez **not recommended** for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Carolyn J. Gallagher - Yes

Hon. Carolyn Gallagher was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1982. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. She has been assigned to the Probate Division since 2018, currently sitting in Decedent's Estates. She has also been assigned to Housing and Traffic Court. She has been a committee member with the Chicago Bar Association.

She is well-respected by attorneys and judges for her legal knowledge, integrity, judicial demeanor, and preparation.

The ISBA finds Judge Carolyn J. Gallagher recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Daniel J. Gallagher – Yes

Hon Daniel James Gallagher has been licensed since 1994. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. He has been assigned to various criminal misdemeanor calls in First Municipal since 2013, after first presiding in Traffic Court. He has been a speaker or moderator on legal topics both in-person and virtually.

Attorneys praised his thorough understanding of the legal process, thoroughness, and ability to manage his court call.

The ISBA finds Judge Daniel J. Gallagher recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Aleksandra “Alex” Gillespie - Yes

Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie has been licensed since 1993. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2014 and elected in 2016. Since 2015 she has been assigned to the Municipal Department in the Second District (Skokie), hearing a variety of cases on a rotating basis. She also serves as Acting Presiding Judge when the Presiding Judge is unavailable. In addition, she helped create the Cook County Drug Court Treatment Program in the Second District.

Attorneys overwhelmingly reported that she has a good command of the law and knows how to apply it. She is described as being professional, fair, efficient, and even-tempered.

The ISBA finds Judge Aleksandra Gillespie recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Sophia Hall - Yes

Hon. Sophia H. Hall has been licensed since 1967. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 1980 and has been retained six times since then. She has been assigned to the Chancery Division since 2001 and is currently Acting Presiding Judge, while also the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department. Prior to her assignment in Chancery, she was the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division; she also previously served in Criminal, Chancery and First Municipal. She is a past president of the National Association of Women Judges and the Illinois Judges Association. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Hon. Charles Freeman Judicial Merit Award from the Decalogue Society in 2017; the Earl Burris Dickerson Award from the Chicago Bar Association in 2019; the Mary Heftel Hooton Award from the Women's Bar Association in 2020; and the Vanguard Award from the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association in 2021.

Attorneys reported that she is well-regarded and respected for her extensive legal knowledge and experience. She is described as fair, patient, and sensitive to all.

The ISBA finds Judge Sophia H. Hall recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Carrie E. Hamilton - Yes

Hon. Carrie E. Hamilton has been licensed since 1996. After a career as a United States Attorney, including as Deputy Chief of the Public Corruption Section, she was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and elected in 2016. After first spending time in the Traffic Division, she was assigned to Eviction Court in 2016. Since 2017 she has been assigned to a civil call in the Sixth District (Markham). She is also an adjunct professor at Northwestern School of Law. She is a former board member for the James Moran Center in Evanston and sat on the Illinois Supreme Court Character and Fitness Committee.

Attorneys uniformly described her legal knowledge and ability as excellent. She prepared thoroughly for each case and is described as patient and kind to the many pro se litigants appearing before her.

The ISBA finds Judge Carrie E. Hamilton recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon – Yes

Hon. Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon has been licensed since 1991. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016 and has been sitting in the County Division since 2018, after first being assigned to First Municipal Division, Traffic Court.

Attorneys uniformly praised her legal knowledge and command of the law, fairness, professionalism, and temperament.

The ISBA finds Judge Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

William H. Hooks - No

Hon. William Hooks has been licensed since 1981. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2008, elected in 2010, and retained in 2016. He has been assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Courthouse since 2009, and to the Veterans Treatment Court since 2018. From October 2018 until January 2019, he was temporarily assigned to administrative duties in the Sixth District (Markham) by the Executive Committee of the Circuit Court. In January 2019 he returned to the Criminal Division. He is a past president of the Cook County Bar Association, a past Section chair with the Illinois State Bar Association, a committee member with the Illinois Judges Association, and has served on Illinois Supreme Court committees and the Illinois Courts Commission. He is also a United States Marine Corps veteran and received the Hon. Mary Ann McMorrow Service to the Profession Award in 2012 from the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. He is a board member of the Illinois Judicial Council.

Many attorneys praised his legal knowledge and ability, stating that he understands the issues in complex matters and has a good sense of justice. A few felt he was unimpressive and did not always follow the rules. He was praised for his work in Veterans Court and his diligence and impartiality. Concerns were raised, by some attorneys, about his demeanor and temperament, and some instances of insensitivity towards women. As noted, and as was reported in the press at the time, Judge Hooks was referred to anger management counseling by the Executive Committee when he was reassigned temporarily to administrative duties in 2018 upon being accused by another judge of creating a hostile work environment outside of the courtroom. Attorneys were split in their assessment of his courtroom demeanor - some stated that he runs his courtroom well, while others referenced his brusque manner, and felt that he could be disrespectful and arrogant at times, especially towards women attorneys.

The ISBA finds Judge William H. Hooks **not recommended** for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

D. Renee Jackson - Yes

Hon. Dorothea Renee Jackson has been licensed since 2006. She was elected to the Circuit Court. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in the Fifth District (Bridgeview); prior to this assignment, she presided in Domestic Relations in the Daley Center, to the Sixth District (Markham) and to First Municipal, Traffic Division. She has been a speaker and has participated in committees for the Cook County Bar Association and the Illinois Judicial Council.

Attorneys appearing before her and colleagues remarked that she is a hard worker who understands the legal issues well, and treats all with respect, though sometimes her conferences tend to run long due to allowing both parties a lot of time, in an effort to be fair and make sure both sides are heard.

The ISBA finds Judge D. Renee Jackson recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Daryl J. Jones - Yes

Hon. Daryl Jones has been licensed since 2005. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. He is currently assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division, with a dual assignment to the First Municipal Division Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED) Court. The Seed Court is a diversion court for defendants between 18-26 charged with drug offenses. He is a past member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. He also lectures on legal topics and has bar association involvement.

He has been a guest lecturer at local law schools and on Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts committees.

Attorneys gave positive comments on his legal knowledge and ability, his integrity, his diligence and the high level of respect he shows for people appearing before him.

The ISBA finds Judge Daryl J. Jones recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Linzey D. Jones

Hon. Linzey D. Jones has been licensed since 1982. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. He has been assigned to the Municipal Department in the Fifth District (Bridgeview) where he presides over various criminal calls. He is a past member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association, and also a past committee member and board member of the Cook County Bar Association.

He is extremely well-respected by attorneys appearing before him for his legal knowledge, sensitivity, temperament, and integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Linzey D. Jones recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Thomas J. Kelley - Yes

Hon. Thomas Kelley has been licensed since 1984. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and retained in 2010 and 2016. He is currently assigned to Domestic Relations in the Third District (Rolling Meadows).

Attorneys appearing before him gave him high marks for his legal knowledge and abilities, and his ability to think outside the box and find creative solutions. He was described as being very fair, with high integrity, organization, and diligence, particularly praising how smooth his courtroom has run during Covid.

The ISBA finds Judge Thomas J. Kelley recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Susan Kennedy Sullivan – Yes

Hon. Susan Kennedy Sullivan has been licensed since 1994. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. Since 2018 she has been assigned to the Probate Division. Initially she served in First Municipal and in the Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Division. She serves on the Boards of the Catholic Lawyers Guild and the Illinois Judicial Foundation.

Most attorneys interviewed stated that she had excellent knowledge of the law and understood the nuances of guardianship and probate well. She received high praise for her integrity and her sensitivity towards the many diverse people that appear before her, include those appearing pro se.

The ISBA finds Judge Susan Kennedy Sullivan recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

John Patrick Kirby - Yes

Hon. John Patrick Kirby has been licensed since 1983. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and retained in 2004, 2010 and 2016. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. Prior to that assignment, he had been the Presiding Judge of the Pretrial Division at the Leighton Criminal Court House since 2017. Other assignments have included the Civil Division, both Law Jury and Pretrial motions, Criminal, and First Municipal.

Attorneys described him as being professional, knowledgeable, diligent, and fair.

The ISBA finds Judge John P. Kirby recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Steven A. Kozicki - Yes

Hon. Steven A. Kozicki has been licensed since 1985. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016, after many years as a private practitioner. Since February 2017, he has been assigned to the Municipal Department in the Third District (Rolling Meadows) where he hears a variety of matters on a rotating basis. He is a past president of the Advocates Society.

Attorneys reported that he is very bright with excellent legal knowledge, gives clear rulings, is sensitive to all, and has high integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Steven A. Kozicki recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Geary W. Kull - Yes

Hon. Geary W. Kull has been licensed since 1974. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2009, elected in 2010 and retained in 2016. Since September 2014 he has been assigned to the Municipal District in the Fourth District (Maywood) where he presides in a felony call. Attorneys gave him high marks for his legal knowledge and ability, his sensitivity to diversity, fairness, and diligence.

The ISBA finds Judge Geary W. Kull recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Matthew Link - Yes

Hon. Matthew Link has been licensed since 2004. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. He has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division since 2017 after previously sitting in First Municipal.

Attorneys reported that he is a solid judge with very good legal knowledge and a good understanding of evidence and is impartial with a good temperament.

The ISBA finds Judge Matthew Link recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Anna Maria Loftus – Yes

Hon. Anna Maria Loftus has been licensed since 1998. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2014 and elected in 2016. After first being assigned to Traffic Court and then the Mortgage Foreclosure call in Chancery, in August 2018 she was transferred to her current assignment in General Chancery.

Attorneys praised her thoroughness, thoughtful opinions, fairness, high integrity, and temperament.

The ISBA finds Judge Anna Maria Loftus recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. – Yes

Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. has been licensed since 1994. He was a private practitioner until his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2015 and subsequent election in 2016. He has been assigned to Criminal Division since October 2017; since October 2021 he has presided over a felony call after previously serving in the Pre-Trial Division. His initial assignment was in First Municipal. In 2019 he received the Cornelius Stradford Award from the Cook County State's Attorney. He has lectured at New Judges School.

Attorneys generally complimented his legal knowledge and ability and referenced his well-written rulings. He was generally described as fair, honest, and respectful.

The ISBA finds Judge John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Freddrenna M. Lyle - Yes

Hon. Freddrenna M. Lyle has been licensed since 1980. After working in private practice and representing the 6th Ward in the Chicago City Council for thirteen years, she was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011, re-appointed in 2014, then elected in 2016. She is currently assigned to the Chancery Division – Mortgage Foreclosure Mechanics Lien Section, and to Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies. After initially serving in Traffic Court, she then served in the Elder Law Division from 2013 until 2015. She has served on several Illinois Supreme Court committees.

In addition to praise of her legal knowledge and ability, many attorneys also gave good marks to her ability to manage a high-volume courtroom while being respectful to the man pro se litigants in her courtroom.

The ISBA finds Judge Freddrenna M. Lyle recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Thomas V. Lyons - Yes

Hon. Thomas V. Lyons has been licensed since 1987. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2008, elected in 2010 and retained in 2016. He is currently assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section where he has sat since 2013. Prior to that, he was assigned to First Municipal. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges Association and a speaker.

It was consistently reported by attorneys that his legal knowledge and ability is excellent, and he is able to grasp complex legal theories and understanding of the issues. He was described as calm, patient and sensitive.

The ISBA finds Judge Thomas V. Lyons recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Terry MacCarthy - Yes

Hon. Terrence Fulton MacCarthy has been licensed in 1990. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. He is presently assigned to the Domestic Violence Division in the Fourth Municipal District (Maywood) since February 2012; prior to that he was assigned to Traffic Court. He has taught on legal topics.

He received high praise from attorneys contacted during the investigation for his knowledge, fairness, patience, and diligence.

The ISBA finds Judge Terry MacCarthy recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Daniel Malone - Yes

Hon. Daniel Malone has been licensed since 1986. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2009, elected in 2010 and retained in 2016. He currently serves as the Presiding Judge in the Probate Division, after being appointed Acting Presiding Judge in 2019. He has served in the Probate Division since 2013 after an initial assignment in First Municipal. He has been a speaker for various bar associations.

Attorneys praised his knowledge of probate law and his thorough and well-reasoned written opinions. All reported that he is courteous, respectful, and hardworking.

The ISBA finds Judge Daniel Malone recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. - Yes

Hon. LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. has been licensed since 1984. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2002, elected in 2004, retained in 2010 and 2016. In January 2021 he was assigned to sit on the Appellate Court – First District. Prior to that assignment, he has been Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division since 2015; his other assignments include General Chancery, Domestic Relations and First Municipal. In 2016 he received the Earl Dickerson Award and has served on several Supreme Court committee.

The ISBA finds Judge LeRoy K. Martin recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Mary Kathleen McHugh - Yes

Hon. Mary Kathleen McHugh has been licensed since 1993. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. After initial assignments in Traffic Court and First Municipal, she is currently assigned to the Municipal Department in the Fifth District (Bridgeview).

Attorneys reported that she handles a high-volume court call with efficiency and fairness and applies the law fairly.

The ISBA finds Judge Mary Kathleen McHugh recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Clare Elizabeth McWilliams – Yes

Hon. Clare Elizabeth McWilliams has been licensed since 1988. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, retained in 2010 and 2016. She has been assigned to the Law Division, Jury Trial Section since 2007, and also is the Supervising Judge, Cook County Asbestos Docket. Since 2013 she has been Supervising Judge of the County's Asbestos Docket. She lectures often on legal topics and is the recipient of several awards, including the May Heftl Hooton Award from the Women's Bar Association in 2018, the Judicial Service Award from the Northwest Suburban Bar Association in 2019, and she was named the 2022 Celt of the Year by the Celtic Legal Society.

All attorneys described her as well prepared with excellent legal knowledge, and they praised her well-reasoned decisions in complex matters. She also received positive comments for her character, integrity, sensitivity, and temperament.

The ISBA finds Justice Clare Elizabeth McWilliams recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Mary Lane Mikva - Yes

Hon. Mary Lane Mikva has been licensed in 1980. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, retained in 2010 and 2016. Since July 2016, she has been assigned to the Appellate Court – First District; prior to that assignment, she served in the Chancery Division for six years and in the Child Protection Division. She has taught at judicial seminars.

Attorneys reported that she is fair minded, hard-working, professional, and diligent.

The ISBA finds Judge Mary Lane Mikva recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Patrick T. Murphy - Yes

Hon. Patrick T. Murphy has been licensed since 1965. After serving as Cook County Public Guardian, he was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, retained in 2010 and 2016. He has been sitting in the Child Protection Division since 2017. From 2007 until 2017, he was assigned to the Unified Family Court Project in the Fifth District (Bridgeview). He is a former officer of the Alliance of Illinois Judges.

Attorneys widely praised him for his work in his current assignment and his knowledge of abuse and neglect law. He is always prepared and issues thorough and well-reasoned opinions.

The ISBA finds Judge Patrick T. Murphy recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Leonard Murray - Yes

Hon. Leonard Murray has been licensed since 1974. He was chosen as an associate judge in 2007 and retained as such in 2011 and 2015. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. He is currently serving as Acting Supervisor of the Housing Section, First Municipal. He has been assigned to the Housing Section since 2016 after initially serving in various sections of First Municipal. He has served on various committees and boards of various bar associations, including the Illinois State Bar Association, and has been a speaker on legal topics.

Most attorneys reported that he has good legal knowledge in his current assignment and is sensitive to the many pro se litigants who appear before him and stated that he is efficient in getting cases resolved.

The ISBA finds Judge Leonard Murray recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Brendan A. O'Brien - Yes

Hon. Brendan A. O'Brien has been licensed since 1996. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. He is currently assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section. He lectures on legal topics.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge, especially in the area of medical malpractice which was his practice area before his election as a judge. He also received positive comments on his temperament, diligence, impartiality, and integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Brendan A. O'Brien recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Kevin M. O'Donnell - Yes

Hon. Kevin Michael O'Donnell has been licensed since 1988. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. After first sitting in First Municipal, Traffic Division, in October 2018 he moved to his current assignment in the Municipal Department in the Third District (Rolling Meadows) where he hears a variety of matters.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge and well thought out rulings, his fairness, professionalism, and his integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Kevin M. O'Donnell recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Susana L. Ortiz - Yes

Hon. Susana L. Ortiz has been licensed since 2001. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. She has been assigned to the Pretrial Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since 2019, after first being assigned to the Traffic Division and Domestic Violence in the Sixth District (Markham). She is a past president of the Illinois Latino Judges Association and has been a speaker on legal topics.

Attorneys praised her strong legal knowledge, her commitment to the elimination of bias, her impartiality, her integrity, and her judicial temperament.

The ISBA finds Judge Susana L. Ortiz recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Jesse Outlaw - Yes

Hon. Jesse Outlaw, Jr. has been licensed since 1980. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016 and has been assigned to the Probate Division since 2017.

Attorneys highly respect him for his expertise in guardianship law, and for his professionalism and fairness. He was also praised for his temperament, sensitivity, diligence, and integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Jesse Outlaw recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Daniel James Pierce – No Rating

Hon. Daniel James Pierce announced his retirement too late for his name to be removed from the ballot. Votes for or against his candidacy will not be counted.

Patrick Joseph Powers - Yes

Hon. Patrick Joseph Powers has been licensed since 1987. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. After initially sitting in Traffic Court and in Bridgeview, since June 2021 he has been assigned to Domestic Relations as preliminary matters judge. He has been a speaker and received the Jurist of the Year Award in 2019 from the Southwest Bar Association.

Attorneys praised his legal knowledge and ability, his sensitivity, and efficiency in running his courtroom, especially during the transition to zoom hearings.

The ISBA finds Judge Patrick Joseph Powers recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Marguerite Anne Quinn – Yes

Hon. Marguerite Anne Quinn has been licensed since 1986. She was named an associate judge in 2007, retained in 2011 and 2015. In 2016 she was elected to the Circuit Court. Since 2016 she has been assigned to the Law Division where she currently sits in the Trial Division. From 2009 until 2016, she was assigned to the Criminal Division in the Second District (Skokie).

Attorneys gave high marks for her ability to resolve complex legal issues, her ability to preside over jury trials, her professionalism, and her diligence.

The ISBA finds Judge Marguerite Anne Quinn recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Sandra Gisela Ramos – Yes

Hon. Sandra Gisela Ramos has been licensed since 1986. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010 and retained in 2016. Since 2019 she has been assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section; she was previously assigned to First Municipal. She has been a board members of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and an officer of the Illinois Latino Judges Association.

Attorneys appearing before her spoke highly of her as a judge stating that she does the right research when needed, is patient and diligent.

The ISBA finds Judge Sandra G. Ramos recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Eve Marie Reilly – Yes

Hon. Eve Marie Reilly has been licensed since 1997. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2014 and elected in 2016 after a career as a prosecutor. She has been assigned to Chancery since January 2019. Prior to Chancery, she was assigned to a First Municipal jury room.

The vast majority of attorneys reported that she is smart, knowledgeable, good at researching issues, and thorough. While most attorneys praised her temperament, a few found her to be impatient at times.

The ISBA finds Judge Eve Marie Reilly recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Jim Ryan – Yes

Hon. James J. Ryan has been licensed since 1992. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and retained in 2010 and 2016. Since 2013 he has been assigned to First Municipal, where he currently presides over a Civil Jury courtroom. Before that he served in various First Municipal assignments, including Traffic, Domestic Violence and Criminal Misdemeanor, as well as in the Fifth District (Bridgeview).

Attorneys reported that he knows civil procedure and runs a very tight and efficient court. He is also known to be impartial, ethical, and diligent.

The ISBA finds Judge Jim Ryan recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Catherine Ann Schneider – Yes

Hon. Catherine Ann Schneider has been licensed since 1994. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2016. She currently sits in the Law Division, Motion Section. Prior assignments include a variety of calls in First Municipal, including the Civil Jury room, Motions and Assignments, and Traffic. She has been the co-chairperson of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Forms Committee, and a committee chair for the Illinois Judges Association, as well as a speaker.

Attorneys praised her legal ability, and her commitment to eliminating bias. She is described as thoughtful and fair.

The ISBA finds Judge Catherine Ann Schneider recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Patricia “Pat” Spratt – Yes

Hon. Patricia Susan Spratt was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and elected in 2016. She currently holds a dual assignment in the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien section, and the Juvenile Justice Division, where she presides over the North Lawndale Restorative Justice Community Court, an assignment she was given in 2019. Her first assignments were to First Municipal, both Traffic and Civil Trial Section, Non-jury. She has been a speaker on legal topics and active in the Illinois Judges Association.

All attorneys contacted praised her legal knowledge and ability, thoroughness, sensitivity, temperament, and integrity.

The ISBA finds Judge Patricia Spratt recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

William B. Sullivan – Yes

Hon. Williams B. Sullivan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and elected in 2016. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section.

Attorneys interviewed during the investigation agreed that he shows broad legal knowledge and ability, including in complex cases, and is fair and professional. Some specifically cited his exceptional patience with pro se litigants.

The ISBA finds Judge William B. Sullivan recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.

Thaddeus L. Wilson - Yes

Hon. Thaddeus L. Wilson has been licensed since 1994. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007, elected in 2010 and retained in 2016. He is currently assigned to Chancery, after previously sitting in the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. He is a past president of the Illinois Judicial Council and received the Northern Illinois University College of Law Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

Attorneys consider him to be very knowledgeable on the law and as someone who stays up to date on current law. He is described as fair, diligent, and sensitive to diversity.

The ISBA finds Judge Thaddeus L. Wilson recommended for retention to the Cook County Circuit Court.