

**Illinois State Bar Association**  
**JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS**  
**2022 Primary Election**

Candidates seeking election to the Illinois Appellate or 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 “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 June 28, 2022 Primary Election are below.

<b>3rd Judicial District, Supreme Court</b> <i>Includes Circuits 12, 13, 18 and 21. The following counties fall under the Third Judicial District: Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will.</i>		
<b><i>Kilbride Vacancy</i></b>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Supreme Court</i>  <b>Michael J. Burke</b>	<b>Highly Recommended</b>	<p><b>Michael J. Burke</b></p> <p>Michael J. Burke is a candidate for the position of Supreme Court Justice, representing the Third District of Illinois (now comprised of Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will counties). The Supreme Court is the state’s highest court; it also supervises and administers the state’ judicial system.</p> <p>Michael J. Burke currently serves as a Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court to which he was appointed in 2020. Prior to this appointment, he served as an Appellate Justice on the Illinois Appellate Court between 2008 and 2020; a circuit judge in the Eighteenth Circuit between 2001 and 2008; and an associate judge in the Eighteenth Circuit since 1992.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluation Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Michael J. Burke, has interviewed his peers and colleagues, and has received feedback from lawyers who have appeared before him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial</p>

		<p>temperament; and health. Michael J. Burke also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p><b>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Michael J. Burke to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Supreme Court for Third District for the State of Illinois.</b></p>
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3rd Judicial District, Supreme Court		
<i>Kilbride Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i></p> <p><b>Mary K. O'Brien</b></p>	<b>Recommended</b>	<p><b>Mary K. O'Brien</b></p> <p>Mary K. O'Brien is a candidate for the position of Supreme Court Justice, representing the Third District of Illinois (now comprised of Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will counties). The Supreme Court is the state's highest court; it also supervises and administers the state's judicial system.</p> <p>Mary K. O'Brien currently serves as a Justice on the Illinois Appellate Court on which she has served for approximately eighteen years. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as a state legislator from 1996 to 2003.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluations Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Mary K. O'Brien, has interviewed her peers and colleagues, and has received feedback from lawyers who have appeared before 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. Mary K. O'Brien also presented herself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p>

		<b>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Mary K. O'Brien to be Recommended for the position of Justice of the Supreme Court for Third District for the State of Illinois.</b>
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3rd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Wright Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p><b>Liam Christopher Brennan</b></p>	<p><b>Highly Recommended</b></p>	<p><b>Liam Christopher Brennan</b></p> <p>Liam Christopher Brennan is a candidate for the position of Appellate Court Justice in the Third District of Illinois (now comprised of Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will 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.</p> <p>Liam Christopher Brennan was appointed as a Justice on the Illinois Appellate Court in March 2020. Prior to serving on the Appellate Court, he served as a circuit judge for the Eighteenth Circuit since 2014 and an associate judge since 2008. Additionally, he was an assistant state's attorney in the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office for approximately ten years, a law clerk for the Illinois Supreme Court for two years, and he worked in private practice for two years.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Liam Christopher Brennan 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 him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation</p>

		<p>experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Liam Christopher Brennan also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p><b>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Liam Christopher Brennan to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Third District Appellate Court for the State of Illinois.</b></p>
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3rd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Wright Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p><b>James A. Murphy</b></p>	<b>Recommended</b>	<p><b>James A. Murphy</b></p> <p>James A. Murphy is a candidate for the position of Appellate Court Justice in the Third District of Illinois (now comprised of Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will 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.</p> <p>James A. Murphy has been in private practice for the past thirty-two years and has worked on a variety of legal matters in the trial and appellate courts. Prior to entering private practice, he was Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Lawrence D. Inglis on the Illinois Appellate Court in the Second District.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by James A. Murphy and has interviewed judges and numerous lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practiced with or against him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience or activities; integrity; character;</p>

		<p>professional and judicial temperament; and health. James A. Murphy also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p><b>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds James A. Murphy to be Recommended for the position of Justice of the Third District Appellate Court for the State of Illinois.</b></p>
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3rd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Wright Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p><b>Sonni Choi Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Not Recommended</b></p>	

## Illinois State Bar Association JUDICIAL ADVISORY POLLS 2022 Primary 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.

<b>3rd Judicial District, Supreme and Appellate Courts</b>										
<i>Includes Circuits 12, 13, 18 and 21. The following counties fall under the Third Judicial District: Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will.</i>										
	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
<b>Supreme Court – Kilbride Vacancy</b>										
Michael J. Burke	209	R	89.90	92.23	88.35	93.75	93.63	96.08	96.94	92.50
Mary K. O'Brien	263	R	78.68	88.84	80.86	81.78	91.30	89.43	94.12	90.76
<b>Appellate Court – Wright Vacancy</b>										
Liam Christopher Brennan	191	R	88.36	89.84	87.57	93.62	88.24	92.47	94.32	89.13
James A. Murphy	116	R	87.72	90.27	97.22	90.35	93.81	91.15	94.55	91.07
Sonni Choi Williams	283	NR	61.45	81.37	74.90	56.55	77.70	76.76	89.92	85.34

R Recommended    NR Not Recommended    \* Insufficient number of responses

Opinions expressed are of those lawyers who chose to respond and not of the Illinois State Bar Association

<b>Eighteenth Judicial Circuit</b> <i>DuPage County</i>										
<b>JOINT POLL WITH THE DUPAGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION</b>										
	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
<i>Kleeman Vacancy</i>										
Kavita C. Athanikar	213	R	85.05	91.62	88.95	86.84	89.80	91.40	95.83	92.55
Mia McPherson	212	R	79.40	89.50	86.01	80.60	88.44	85.08	93.68	89.58
<i>Mallen Vacancy</i>										
Jill Otte	131	R	73.39	83.05	81.20	71.65	83.19	77.88	88.24	82.91
Michael "Mike" W. Reidy	323	R	93.69	94.64	93.35	96.14	95.24	96.13	98.03	94.72

R Recommended    NR Not Recommended    \* Insufficient number of responses

Opinions expressed are of those lawyers who chose to respond and not of the Illinois State Bar Association