

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.

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 - Thomas Vacancy		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>For Supreme Court</i> René Cruz	Recommended	<p style="text-align: center;">René Cruz</p> <p>René Cruz 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.</p> <p>René Cruz was appointed to serve as an associate judge in Kane County, Illinois in 2012. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was in private practice beginning in 1995. From 2012 to 2021 he presided in the Family Court Division handling complex family law matters. In 2018 he was elected as a circuit court judge for the Sixteenth Circuit in Kane County, Illinois. From 2018 to 2021 he served as the Presiding Judge of the Family Court Division. He currently serves as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Misdemeanor and Traffic Division.</p>

		<p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by René Cruz 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. René Cruz also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds René Cruz to be Recommended for the position of Justice of Supreme Court for the Second District for the State of Illinois.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court		
<i>Thomas Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i> Mark C. Curran, Jr.</p>	<p>Not Recommended</p>	

2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court		
<i>Thomas Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i> Susan F. Hutchinson</p>	<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p>Susan F. Hutchinson</p> <p>Susan F. Hutchinson 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</p>

Second Judicial District

		<p>counties). The Supreme Court is the state’s highest court; it also supervises and administers the state’s judicial system.</p> <p>Susan F. Hutchinson joined the Illinois Appellate Court in 1994. Prior to joining the appellate court, she served on the circuit court for the Nineteenth Circuit from 1992 to 1994. Prior to serving as a circuit court judge, Susan F. Hutchinson was an associate judge from 1981 to 1992.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Susan F. Hutchinson and has interviewed lawyers who now or have previously practiced 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 F. Hutchinson also presented herself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Susan F. Hutchinson to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Supreme Court for the Second District for the State of Illinois.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court		
<i>Thomas Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i></p> <p>John A. Noverini</p>	<p>Not Recommended</p>	<p>John A. Noverini</p> <p>John A. Noverini 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.</p>

		<p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County evaluates judicial candidates for legal ability, experience, fairness, and judicial temperament, among other qualifications. John A. Noverini was offered the opportunity to participate in the ISBA Judicial Evaluations Committee’s investigation into his qualifications but he declined to participate. Without the cooperation of John A. Noverini, it is impossible for the Judicial Evaluations Committee to fully evaluate his qualifications. Therefore, the Judicial Evaluations Committee – Outside Cook County cannot recommend John A. Noverini for the office of Justice of Supreme Court for the Second District for the State of Illinois.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court

Thomas Vacancy

	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i> Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford</p>	<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Second Judicial District

		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court

	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<i>Thomas Vacancy</i>		
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i></p> <p>Nancy Rodkin Rotering</p>	<p>Not Recommended</p>	

2nd Judicial District, Supreme Court

<i>Thomas Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Supreme Court</i></p> <p>Daniel B. Shanes</p>	<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p>Daniel B. Shanes</p> <p>Daniel B. Shanes 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.</p>

Second Judicial District

		<p>Daniel B. Shanes was appointed as an associate judge in the Nineteenth Circuit in 2007. He served in that position until 2010 when he was appointed to his current position as a circuit judge. In 2022 Daniel B. Shanes also assumed the duties of Deputy Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Circuit. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a judicial law clerk for Justice Robert Steigmann of the Illinois Appellate Court and also worked for twelve years as an assistant state’s attorney in the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office where he served as a division chief.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluations Committee – Outside Cook County has reviewed a written submission by Daniel B. Shanes and has interviewed judges, court personnel, and numerous lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practiced before him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experience and activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Daniel B. Shanes also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Daniel B. Shanes to be Highly Recommended for the position of Justice of the Supreme Court for the Second District for the State of Illinois.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court

Burke Vacancy		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p>Susan Clancy Boles</p>	<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p>Susan Clancy Boles</p> <p>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</p>

Second Judicial District

		<p>appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits within that district.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Burke Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p>Michael Cortina</p>	<p>Recommended</p>	<p>Michael Cortina</p> <p>Michael Cortina 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</p>

		<p>appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits within that district.</p> <p>Michael Cortina has been a practicing lawyer since 1998. He has worked in a variety of legal positions and has a diverse background in the legal profession. Michael Cortina began his legal career in the state’s attorney’s office and then entered private practice with a law firm that handled a variety of municipal and civil matters, as well as some general litigation. Currently, Michael Cortina handles complex transactional work involving financial, banking, and real estate matters. He has also acted as an arbitrator on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Illinois State Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County has reviewed the written submission of Michael Cortina and has interviewed several lawyers from various areas of practice who know and have worked or practice with and against him. Areas of inquiry and evaluation include litigation experience; legal knowledge and ability; other professional experiences or activities; integrity; character; professional and judicial temperament; and health. Michael Cortina also presented himself for an interview before a subcommittee of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.</p> <p>The Judicial Evaluations Committee - Outside Cook County finds Michael Cortina to be Recommended for the position of Justice of the Second District Appellate Court for the State of Illinois.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Burke Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p>Chris Kennedy</p>	<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p>Chris Kennedy</p> <p>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</p>

Second Judicial District

		<p>appellate court is organized into five districts, each of which hears appeals from the circuits within that district.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court		
<i>Burke Vacancy</i>		
	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
<p><i>For Appellate Court</i></p> <p>Erin Cartwright Weinstein</p>	<p>Not Recommended</p>	

**Illinois State Bar Association
 JUDICIAL ADVISORY POLL
 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.

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 – Thomas Vacancy										
Rene Cruz	331	R	85.49	93.42	91.56	86.92	94.72	95.25	97.05	95.34
Mark C. Curran, Jr.	144	NR	26.81	52.94	37.31	31.39	45.52	52.76	70.34	46.83
Susan F. Hutchinson	264	R	83.14	90.55	85.83	88.08	88.58	89.20	89.87	90.79
John A. Noverini	231	NR	50.00	76.26	66.82	48.40	68.92	65.16	86.56	73.58
Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford	250	R	87.95	95.14	92.74	89.80	93.09	94.58	96.51	93.78
Nancy Rodkin Rotering	*									
Daniel B. Shanes	169	R	91.07	95.86	89.63	96.95	92.86	98.19	99.40	93.33

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

2nd Judicial District, Appellate Court

Includes Circuits 16, 19, 22 and 23. The following counties fall under the Second Judicial District: DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry.

	Number of Responses	Recommended/ Not Recommended	Meets Requirements Of Office	Integrity	Impartiality	Legal Ability	Temperament	Court Management	Health	Sensitivity
<i>Appellate Court – Burke Vacancy</i>										
Susan Clancy Boles	273	R	94.46	96.31	95.54	95.94	95.57	96.64	97.71	96.59
Michael Cortina	*									
Chris Kennedy	*									
Erin Cartwright Weinstein	122	NR	39.83	70.18	59.48	38.98	68.47	63.96	84.62	72.73

Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit *McHenry County*

No judicial vacancies

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