

Clayton J. CRANE

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Previous Judicial Duties

1996-1998: Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1996.

Evaluation

3/96 Primary Election – Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Clayton J. Crane, 49, has been practicing law for 20 years. From 1979 to the present, Mr. Crane has had a general practice of law. Between 1976 and 1979 he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Crane is the Village Attorney for the Village of Streamwood. He is also the Prosecutor for the Village of Streamwood which involves prosecuting ordinance violations. As Village Attorney, Mr. Crane supervises outside counsel who are hired for protracted or complicated matters. His private practice does not involve substantial litigation. Mr. Crane is praised for his legal ability and good temperament. However, he lacks sufficient recent litigation experience to qualify him to serve as judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

11/02 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Clayton Jay Crane was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He has sat in the Criminal Division since 1998 and currently hears felony cases. In 1998, and from 2000 to 2001, he was a floating judge. From 1998 until 2000, he was in the Evening Narcotics Section. He was assigned to the Traffic Court from 1996 to 1998. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Crane had varied experience, including his work as Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, a term as Village Attorney and Prosecutor for the Village of Streamwood, and private practice.

Judge Crane is well regarded by both prosecutors and defense attorneys who practice before him, and he is considered one of the fairest judges in the division by attorneys who practice before him. He has been the subject of publicity regarding his May 2002 bench trial decision in *People v. Anthony Bohling*, finding five Cook County Sheriff's deputies not guilty of attempted murder and reckless discharge of a firearm in connection with an off-duty incident in which they chased and shot at an African-American couple in suburban Robbins. In spite of the controversy, there are no indications that Judge Crane acted out of bias or other wrongful motive in acquitting the officers. The Council finds Judge Crane Qualified for retention.

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