

The Chicago Council of Lawyers Evaluation Report:

Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2006 General Election and Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies in Contested Elections

October 3, 2006

The Chicago Council of Lawyers, in this report, releases its evaluation of the 71 judges seeking retention in the November 7th general election. We also include in this report our evaluation of the candidates who won their primary election held in March 2006 and who are on the November ballot in contested races.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY FOR RETENTION CANDIDATES

The criteria for the Council's evaluations are whether the retention candidate has demonstrated the ability to serve on the relevant court in the following categories:

- fairness, including sensitivity to diversity and bias
- legal knowledge and skills (competence)
- integrity
- experience
- diligence
- impartiality
- judicial temperament
- respect for the rule of law
- independence from political and institutional influences
- professional conduct
- character
- community service

If a candidate has demonstrated the ability to perform the work required of a judge in all of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of "qualified." If a candidate has demonstrated excellence in most of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of "well qualified." If a candidate has demonstrated excellence in all of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of "highly qualified." If a candidate has not demonstrated that he or she meets all of the criteria evaluated by the Council, the Council assigns a rating of "not qualified."

We apply higher standards to candidates for the Appellate Court. Because these Courts establish legal precedents that bind the lower courts, their work has a broad impact on the justice system. Moreover, qualities of scholarship and writing ability are more important to the work of the Supreme and Appellate Court justices than they are to satisfactory performance as a trial judge.

The Council does *not* evaluate candidates based on their substantive views of political or social issues. Nor do we take into account the particular race in which a candidate is running or the candidates against whom a candidate is running. We apply a uniform standard for all countywide and subcircuit elections because judges elected through either method can be assigned to any judicial position in the Circuit Court.

As part of the evaluation process, we require candidates to provide us with detailed information about their backgrounds, including any complaints filed against them with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”) or the Judicial Inquiry Board (“JIB”).

In conducting these evaluations, the Council has participated in a joint investigation and interview process with the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening (“Alliance”). The Alliance includes the following bar associations: Asian American Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hispanic Lawyers’ Association of Illinois, Illinois State Bar Association, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. The Council’s evaluation process includes:

- (1) a review of a written informational questionnaire provided to the Alliance by the candidate, including details of the candidate’s career and professional development and information on any complaints filed against the candidate with the JIB or the ARDC;
- (2) a review of the candidate’s written responses to the Alliance’s supplemental essay questionnaire;
- (3) interviews of judges, attorneys, and others with personal knowledge about the candidate, including those who have and those who have not been referred to the Alliance by the candidate, and not restricted to Council members;
- (4) a review of the candidate’s professional written work, where available;
- (5) an interview of the candidate done jointly with the Alliance;
- (6) review of any information concerning the candidate provided by the ARDC or the JIB;
- (7) a review of any other information available from public records, such as the Board of Election Commissioners and prosecutorial agencies; and
- (8) an evaluation of all the above materials by the Council’s Judicial Evaluation Committee;
- (9) submission of the proposed evaluation and write-up to the candidate prior to its public release, to provide an opportunity for comment, correction, or reconsideration.

The Council places special importance on interviews with attorneys who practice before the judge, particularly those who were not referred to the Council by the candidate. Most evaluations are based on information gathered and interviews held during the past few months.

In evaluating candidates, the Council expresses written reasons for its conclusions. Without knowing the reason for a recommendation concerning a candidate, the public cannot use the bar's evaluations intelligently to draw its own conclusions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RETENTION ELECTIONS

The retention elections provide the voter with an opportunity to remove those judges whose judicial performance has been, in some respect, unsatisfactory. Retention elections provide the only practical opportunity for the voters as a whole to focus on the performance of judges, with a realistic opportunity to defeat those candidates who deserve to be defeated.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES IN CONTESTED ELECTIONS

Judicial candidates seeking election must run for specific vacancies. Candidates seeking election to the Circuit Court – which is the County's trial-level court for both civil and criminal matters – may run in either a countywide or a subcircuit race. Legislation creating the subcircuits provides that approximately one-third of the judges are elected by voters of the entire County, and each of the remaining judges elected by voters runs in one of fifteen geographical districts into which the County has been arbitrarily divided. Once elected, there is no distinction between a "countywide" judge and a "subcircuit" judge. Either kind can be assigned to any judicial post in the County.

The Council rates candidates as "*highly qualified*," "*well qualified*," "*qualified*," or "*not qualified*." If a candidate refuses to submit his or her credentials to the Council, that candidate is rated "*not recommended*" unless the Council is aware of credible information that would justify a "not qualified" rating. Because we believe a willingness to participate in bar association and other public evaluations is a key indicator of fitness for public office, no candidate who refuses to be screened can be found "qualified."

It should be noted that a lawyer might be performing well or even very well without being qualified to be a judge. A good lawyer may be unqualified to be a judge, for instance, because of a narrow range of prior experience, limited trial experience, or limited work doing legal research and writing. A lawyer may have the temperament and intelligence to be a judge without yet having worked in a position that would allow the candidate to demonstrate that capacity. Accordingly, it should be recognized and expected that we will rate some good lawyers "not qualified."

Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2006 General Election

Martin Agran – Well Qualified

Hon. Martin S. Agran has been a judge since 1994. He currently sits in the Chancery Division. Prior to that, he was assigned to the Law Division and the Juvenile Justice Division. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in private practice. He was a panel attorney with the Federal Defender's Office for 14 years. Judge Agran is considered to have excellent legal ability, having brought to the bench extensive federal and state litigation experience. He is even-tempered and is respected for his ability to control the courtroom. He is always well-prepared. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Patricia Banks -- Qualified

Hon. Patricia Banks has been a judge since 1994. She sits in the Law Division, Jury Section. From 1994 until 2001, she was assigned to the Domestic Relations Division, being one of the first judges to be part of the pilot individual calendar program. Prior to becoming a judge, she spent most of her legal career in private practice. Judge Banks has adequate legal ability and judicial temperament. Her judicial performance, in general, has improved since she last ran for retention in 2000. The Council finds her Qualified.

Ronald Bartkowicz -- Qualified

Hon. Ronald F. Bartkowicz has been a judge since 1985. He currently hears an individual commercial calendar in the Law Division. He has also been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, he was an attorney with the Chicago Transit Authority. Judge Bartkowicz is considered by most lawyers to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified.

Carole Kamin Bellows -- Qualified

Hon. Carole Kamin Bellows was first appointed to the Circuit Court in 1986 and was elected to office in 1988. She has served her entire career in the Domestic Relations Division, and presently serves as a team leader hearing pretrial matters. Before reaching the bench, Judge Bellows had 26 years of experience as a Clerk to the Illinois Court of Claims and as partner at Bellows & Bellows; Reuben & Proctor; and Isham, Lincoln & Beale. Judge Bellows is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She is respected for her diligence and knowledge of the law. The Council finds her Qualified.

Maura Slattery Boyle -- Qualified

Hon. Maura Slattery Boyle was elected to the bench in 2000 following six years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She currently sits in the Criminal Courts in the First Municipal District. Judge Slattery Boyle is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for being even-tempered but firm. She has good courtroom management skills and is respected for her detailed rulings. The Council finds her Qualified.

Cynthia Brim – Not Qualified

Cynthia Brim sits in the Fifth Municipal District hearing eviction, small claims and cases in which the parties have waived jury demands. She was elected to the bench in 1994 after a career as an Assistant Chicago Corporation Counsel and as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Many lawyers report that Judge Brim demonstrates a lack of punctuality, and there were reports that some lawyers routinely ask for a substitution of judge when assigned to her courtroom. She is professional and dedicated, but she has demonstrated too often a lack of a good grasp of the law. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Rodney Hughes Brooks – Not Qualified

Hon. Rodney Hughes Brooks was first elected to the bench in 1994 and serves as a trial judge in the Juvenile Justice Division. Before being elected to the bench, the Judge had 14 years of practice experience, mostly as a solo practitioner focusing on bankruptcy. Judge Brooks receives mixed reviews for legal ability and temperament. There are many reports, in addition, that question his ability to manage his courtroom. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Mary Margaret Brosnahan -- Qualified

Hon. Mary Margaret Brosnahan has been a judge since 2000 and is presently a floating judge in the Criminal Division. Before her election, she was a Supervisor in the Felony Trial Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where she served for fourteen years. Judge Brosnahan is widely respected as a solid jurist with good legal ability. She is praised as having a very good judicial temperament with the ability to both move cases along and to be fair to all parties. The Council finds her Qualified.

Robert Lopez Cepero – Not Qualified

Hon. Robert Lopez Cepero has sat in the First Municipal District since his appointment and later election in 1994. He currently hears the Calendar X Jury Motion Call. He has previously heard the Municipal Jury Trial call, matters brought under the Forcible Detainer statute, and collection cases involving Post Judgment Remedies. Prior to his appointment, Judge Lopez Cepero spent ten years in private practice as a solo practitioner representing small and mid-sized businesses in civil matters. Judge Lopez Cepero has a good understanding of the law, but there are many reports that he often is short-tempered and has issued unclear and inconsistent orders and opinions. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Thomas R. Chiola – Not Qualified

Hon. Thomas R. Chiola has been a judge since 1994 and currently sits in the Law Division, Jury Section. Prior to becoming a judge, he worked with the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, first as Chief Administrative Law Judge, and then as General Counsel. He has also been a prosecutor with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Judge Chiola is considered to have good legal ability and unquestioned integrity. His behavior on the bench, however, is reported to be inappropriate, harsh, and abrasive. He is often described as short-tempered and impatient. The Council said these same sorts of things when he was reviewed for retention in 2000. There has been little improvement. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Mathew Coghlan -- Qualified

Hon. Matthew E. Coghlan was elected in 2000 and currently sits at 26th and California where he hears bond hearings, source of funds for bail hearings, and felony traffic matters. Before becoming a judge, he spent his entire legal career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Coghlan has adequate legal ability and a good temperament. He is considered to be hard-working and, in general, is doing a satisfactory job in his current assignment. The Council finds him Qualified.

Claudia Grace Conlon -- Qualified

Hon. Claudia Grace Conlon has been a judge since 1994. She sits in the Second Municipal District in Skokie hearing misdemeanor, traffic, small claims, bond court, and orders protection matters. Before becoming a judge, she served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and she was an attorney with the Forest Preserve District. Judge Conlon is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for taking the time to communicate with each litigant, despite the fact she presides over a high volume courtroom. She is hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified.

Maureen E. Connors – Well Qualified

Hon. Maureen E. Connors sits in the Probate Division hearing cases involving disabled adults/guardianships. She has also been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. Judge Connors was appointed to the bench as an associate in 1988 and was elected in 1994. Before that, she was in private practice and worked as an Assistant General Attorney with the Chicago Park District. Judge Connors is reported to have excellent legal ability and is especially praised for her temperament. She has helped pioneer systemic reforms in the Probate Division, is involved in community service, and teaches at the Loyola Law School. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

Barbara Disko

Hon. Barbara Disko will appear on the November 7th ballot, but she has announced her

retirement from the bench. She was not evaluated for retention.

Francis Dolan -- Qualified

Hon. Francis Joseph Dolan was appointed to serve as a Circuit Court Judge in 1999 and was elected in 2000. He has been hearing civil jury trials in the First Municipal District since 2001. From 1996 to 1999, he was of counsel with the firm of Field & Golan. Prior to that, he was a sole practitioner for fourteen years. From 1978 to 1981, he was a partner at Hartigan & Ward involved in civil rights and commercial litigation. He spent the first six years of his legal career as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Judge Dolan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is respected for his ability to control his courtroom and praised as being of high integrity. The Council finds him Qualified.

Christopher Donnelly – Not Qualified

Hon. Christopher J. Donnelly has been a judge since 1994. He has been assigned to the Sixth Municipal District in Markham since 2000 and currently hears felony trials. He was previously assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division. Before becoming a judge, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Donnelly is considered to have adequate legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be hard-working. The Council, however, continues to receive reports that Judge Donnelly demonstrates a pro-prosecution bias from the bench. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified.

Loretta Eadie-Daniels -- Qualified

Hon. Loretta Eadie-Daniels currently hears a misdemeanor call in the Sixth Municipal District, where she has been assigned since her election in 2000. Prior to her election, she was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and, before that, an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority. Judge Eadie-Daniels is considered to have adequate legal ability and is well-regarded as a judge in her current assignment. She has a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified.

James D. Egan – Well Qualified

Hon. James Daniel Egan has been a judge since his appointment as an associate in 1988. He was elected in 1994. He sits in the Criminal Division at 26th and California Avenue hearing felony cases. Before taking the bench, he served as both an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Egan is widely respected as a solid jurist with very good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and he considered to be hard-working. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

James R. Epstein – Highly Qualified

Hon. James R. Epstein was appointed to fill a vacancy March 1999 and elected in 2000. For most of this judicial career he sat in the Second Municipal District. He was recently assigned to the

Chancery Division. From 1985 until his appointment, he was a partner with Epstein, Zaideman & Esrig, a practice that included a variety of civil and criminal trial work. Prior to that, he spent five years as an Assistant Public Defender. Judge Epstein is considered to have outstanding legal ability and to be well-skilled in courtroom management. Although some lawyers report that he occasionally can be short-tempered, he is generally considered to have an excellent temperament with litigants, jurors, and court personnel. Judge Epstein brought to the bench substantial experience with both civil and criminal litigation matters and he is always well-prepared. He is involved actively with community services. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

Donna Phelps Felton -- Qualified

Hon. Donna Felton was elected in 2000 and presently sits in the Third Municipal District hearing violations of village ordinances, traffic, and misdemeanor cases. Prior to her election, she worked as a Labor Relations Hearing Officer. From 1996 to 1998, she worked for the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Prior to that, she spent eleven years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Phelps Felton is considered to be a capable jurist in her current assignment. She is considered to have average legal ability. Some lawyers question her temperament, saying that she can be short-tempered and arbitrary. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified.

Kathy M. Flanagan – Not Qualified

Hon. Kathy M. Flanagan was first elected as Circuit Court Judge in 1988. Since 1993, she has served on the Motion Call in Law Division. Prior to reaching the bench, Judge Flanagan had ten years of legal experience, mostly in a solo general practice. Judge Flanagan presents a difficult case. She is considered to have very good legal ability and is hard-working. Her superiors consider her to be a good judge. But when she was evaluated in 2000 for retention, the Council noted extensively the problems Judge Flanagan has with temperament – to the level that the Council referred to her behavior as “judicial rudeness.” The Council noted that she was working on this “one flawed facet” and found her Qualified. In the current investigation, it is apparent that Judge Flanagan continues to demonstrate the same severe temperament problems. The Council is compelled to conclude that on balance, Judge Flanagan is Not Qualified.

Peter Flynn – Well Qualified

Hon. Peter A. Flynn was appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999 and was elected in 2000. He currently sits in the Chancery Division. He has also been assigned to the Individual Commercial Calendar Section. From 1976 until his appointment to the bench, he was a partner at Cherry & Flynn, working mostly on complex commercial civil litigation. He was an associate at Jenner & Block from 1969 to 1975. Judge Flynn is considered to be an excellent jurist who brought to the bench substantial experience in complex litigation matters. He is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. He treats pro se litigants with due respect and is very hard-working. He is praised for his substantial knowledge of the law. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Margaret O'Mara Frossard – Well Qualified

Hon. Margaret O'Mara Frossard was assigned to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1997 although she is running for retention to the Circuit Court. She was appointed as an associate judge in 1998 and elected in 1994. In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Judge Frossard served in the Second Municipal District and the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Lawyers praise Judge Frossard for her excellent legal ability and temperament. She is an active inquisitor during oral argument and is always well-prepared. Her legal opinions are well-researched and well-written. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

Raymond Funderburk -- Qualified

Hon. Raymond Funderburk has been a judge since 1993. He sits in the First Municipal District hearing civil jury trials. He has also sat in the Forcible Entry and Detainer Section and the Domestic Violence Section. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice and was with the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation (now part of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago). Judge Funderburk is considered to have good legal ability. He is diligent and hard-working. Some lawyers report that Judge Funderburk can be overly critical of lawyers and court observers over such issues as dress and protocol while in the courtroom. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified.

Joyce Murphy Gorman – Not Qualified

Hon. Joyce Murphy Gorman was elected in 2000. She currently sits in the First Municipal District where she hears contract and tort cases with damages under \$30,000. Judge Gorman had 4 years of experience as a solo general practitioner and one year as an associate before coming on the bench. Judge Murphy Gorman is reported to have adequate legal ability, but some lawyers question her grasp of evidentiary and procedural rules. Her temperament is described as "condescending" and she is short-tempered. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Alan J. Greiman – Well Qualified

Hon. Alan J. Greiman has been a judge since 1987. Since 1991, he has served on the Illinois Appellate Court, although he is running for retention to the Circuit Court. He was a Circuit Court judge from 1987 to 1991 and sat in the Law Division and the First Municipal District. He came to the bench after serving 14 years in the Illinois General Assembly, much of that time as Assistant Majority Leader. Justice Greiman is widely respected for his intellect and his judicial temperament. He is well-prepared for oral argument and is praised for his active questioning. As Chair of the Executive Committee of the First District Appellate Court, he has demonstrated his commitment to improving the administration of justice. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Catherine Marie Haberkorn -- Qualified

Hon. Catherine M. Haberkorn has been a judge since 1994. She has sat in the Criminal Division in Skokie since 1999. She has also been assigned to the Evening Narcotics Courtroom at 26th and California Avenue. She served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney before becoming a judge. Judge Haberkorn is considered to have good legal ability and is praised by both

prosecutors and defense counsel for her fairness. The Council is concerned, however, about some reports that she can be short-tempered. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified.

Marsha D. Hayes – Not Qualified

Hon. Marsha D. Hayes has been a judge since 1994. She has sat in the County Division hearing adoptions, mental health commitments, elections and property tax matters since 1998. Before becoming a judge she was Chief Attorney in the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. Judge Hayes is reported to have adequate legal ability. She is considered punctual, but many lawyers report that she is often unprepared for trial. She is described as sometimes imperious, impatient, and overly harsh from the bench. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Michael Healy -- Qualified

Hon. Michael T. Healy was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1999 and elected in 2000. He is currently assigned to a jury motion call in the First Municipal District. Before his appointment to Judge, he briefly served as Director of Labor Relations for the Chicago Board of Education. From 1995 to 1999, he litigated as an assistant attorney for the Chicago Board of Education. Prior to that, he was in private practice for eight years, gained three years of litigation experience as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General, and spent four years as a hearing officer for the City of Chicago. Judge Healy is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered, in general, to be a good judge in his current assignment and is praised for his professional courtroom demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified.

James F. Henry – Well Qualified

Hon. James F. Henry has been a judge since 1988. He currently sits in the Chancery Division and has also served in the Law Division, the County Division, and in the Fifth Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Henry is considered to have excellent legal ability and is especially praised for his temperament. He is hard-working and always well-prepared. He is praised for his fairness, for his knowledge of the law, and for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Garritt Howard -- Qualified

Hon. Garritt E. Howard has been a judge since 1994. He hears felony trials in the Second Municipal District, where he is currently acting Presiding Judge. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for twelve years. Judge Howard is considered to have good legal ability and is especially praised for his temperament. He runs an efficient courtroom. Some criminal defense lawyers claim that he is pro-prosecution in his rulings. Most lawyers say that he is fair. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified.

Anthony Iosco -- Qualified

Hon. Anthony A. Iosco was elected to the bench in 2000 and currently hears civil and criminal matters in the First Municipal District. Before his current assignment, he sat in the Juvenile Justice Division for two years. Before his election, he spent 10 years as a solo general practitioner. Before that, he was Chief of General Prosecutions for the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations. Judge Iosco is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has a professional demeanor on the bench and is praised for being well-prepared and hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified.

Moshe Jacobius – Well Qualified

Hon. Moshe Jacobius has been a judge since 1991. He is the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. He has served as a judge in both the Domestic Relations Division and in the Chancery Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Judge Jacobius is considered to have very good legal ability. He is respected for his court management skills and for reforms that he has brought to the Domestic Relations Division. He is praised by many lawyers for his willingness to listen to those seeking to improve the way the Division operates. Based on these attributes, the Council would consider a Highly Qualified rating for Judge Jacobius. However, many lawyers say that he demonstrates at times a poor judicial temperament. We urge Judge Jacobius to remedy this problem. On balance, the Council finds him Well Qualified.

Edward Jordan -- Qualified

Hon. Edward R. Jordan has been a judge since his election in 1994. He is a Preliminary Judge in the Domestic Relations Division. He was in private practice for twenty-one years before becoming a judge. Judge Jordan is considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for being fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified.

Paul A. Karkula -- Qualified

Hon. Paul A. Karkula currently sits in the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure and Mechanic's Lien Section. He was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1999 and was elected in 2000. Prior to his appointment, he was an associate with Edward R. Vrdolyak, Ltd. Judge Karkula is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is especially praised for being hard-working and for his impartiality. The Council finds him Qualified.

Joseph G. Kazmierski -- Qualified

Hon. Joseph G. Kazmierski has sat in the Criminal Division at 26th and California Avenue since his appointment and subsequent election in 1994. He currently serves as Supervising Judge. He was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for twelve years before becoming a judge. Judge Kazmierski is considered to have very good legal ability. He is praised for his knowledge of the law and for his even temperament. He is praised as being hard-working and fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified.

Robert Kowalski – Not Qualified

Hon. Robert J. Kowalski sits in the Fourth Municipal District hearing criminal cases. From 1992 until early 2006, he sat in the Third Municipal District. He was appointed Associate Judge in 1988 and elected in 1994. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a sole practitioner and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. While Judge Kowalski is reported to have good legal ability, there are serious complaints about his judicial performance. He is reported to be insensitive as a judge to diversity issues. It is reported that he has made offensive remarks in open court based on gender and national origin – about litigants, court employees, and other judges. While some respondents find him to be a conscientious and earnest judge, there are many complaints about his being short-tempered at times. There are many reported incidents in which Judge Kowalski is accused of unprofessional behavior while in the courtroom. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Marcella Carmen Lipinski – Not Qualified

Hon. Marcella Carmen Lipinski was elected in 2000 and currently serves as a backup judge in the Sixth Municipal District in Markham. Before her election, she spent fourteen years as an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County. Before that, she spent four years in private practice. Judge Lipinski received mixed reviews for legal ability, but most lawyers interviewed say that she is short-tempered and gets flustered easily on the bench. Her judicial behavior is described as sarcastic and demeaning. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Stuart Lubin – Well Qualified

Hon. Stuart F. Lubin has sat in the Juvenile Justice Division since 1991. He served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender for seventeen years before becoming a judge. Judge Lubin is considered to have very good legal ability. He is praised for his temperament and is described as being particularly conscientious while on the bench. He is efficient but allows sufficient time for each case. He is hard-working and fair to all parties. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Marvin Luckman -- Qualified

Hon. Marvin P. Luckman was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1991. He currently sits in the First Municipal District hearing both bench and jury trials. Prior to becoming a judge, he was the managing attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority. He also had a small private practice. Judge Luckman is considered to have average legal ability and is reported to be courteous and patient on the bench. He is praised for his diligence. The Council finds him Qualified.

Marcia Maras -- Qualified

Hon. Marcia Maras was appointed in 1999 and since then has sat in the County Division presiding over misdemeanor trials, statutory summary suspension hearings, motions to quash, and other matters. Prior to her appointment, she was Chief Deputy of the Cook County Assessor's Office for five years. Before that, she was Assistant General Counsel in the Assessor's Office, a law

firm associate, an Assistant State's Attorney in the Real Estate Tax Unit, and a law clerk to an Illinois Appellate Court Justice. Judge Maras is considered to have good legal ability. She is very knowledgeable and is praised for keeping up-to-date on the state of the law. She is hard-working and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified.

Colleen McSweeney Moore -- Qualified

Hon. Colleen McSweeney Moore was first elected to the bench in 1994 and presently serves in the Fifth Municipal District in Bridgeview hearing misdemeanor and traffic cases. Before that, she was a Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division. Before reaching the bench, she served as an Assistant States Attorney for eleven years. Judge Moore is considered to have good legal ability and manages her courtroom well. Although some lawyers report that she can be short-tempered on the bench, many others say that her temperament is fine and that she is only short with unprepared lawyers. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified.

Marya Nega – Well Qualified

Hon. Marya Nega has been a judge since 1994. She has sat in the Domestic Relations Division since 1995. Prior to her election, she was Principal Assistant Attorney with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Judge Nega is considered to have very good legal ability and is especially praised for her temperament. She is patient but firm with lawyers and litigants. She is hard-working and well-prepared. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

P. Scott Neville -- Qualified

Hon. P. Scott Neville was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2004. Before that, he had sat in the First Municipal District as a Circuit Judge since 1999. Prior to becoming a judge, he had extensive litigation experience in complex civil litigation, election law cases, and criminal and civil appeals. Judge Neville is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is diligent and hard-working. He was reported to be a solid Circuit Court judge before his appointment to the Illinois Appellate Court. The Council finds him Qualified.

Edward P. O'Brien -- Qualified

Hon. Edward P. O'Brien has been a judge since his election in 1994. He sits in the County Division hearing a variety of cases, including tax, real estate, mental health commitment, and election law cases. He has also served in the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Judge O'Brien is considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

Joan Margaret O'Brien - Well Qualified

Hon. Joan Margaret O'Brien has sat in the Child Protection Division, hearing child abuse and neglect cases from the Austin area of Chicago since her election in 2000. Prior to her election, she spent her entire legal career in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where she was Chief of the Municipal Division from 1996 to 2000. Judge O'Brien is praised as an excellent jurist who has very good legal ability and manages her courtroom and her docket well. She is considered to be fair to all parties and is well-prepared. The Council finds her Well Qualified

Stuart Palmer – Highly Qualified

Hon. Stuart E. Palmer has been a judge since 1994. He was recently assigned to the Chancery Division after spending ten years in Criminal Division at 26th and California Ave. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in private practice. Judge Palmer is considered to have excellent legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his legal knowledge and for being hard-working. He is widely-respected for always being well-prepared. He was praised as an outstanding jurist in the Criminal Division and continues to be praised as a judge in the Chancery Division. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

Thomas Panichi -- Qualified

Hon. Thomas P. Panichi is presently the Presiding Judge of the Felony Division of the Sixth Municipal District. Prior to his election in 1994, he had been a lawyer in general practice for twenty-one years as well as the Village Attorney for Lansing for eight years. Judge Panichi is considered to be a capable jurist, with good legal ability and temperament. He is knowledgeable and is fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified.

Lee Preston – Not Qualified

Hon. Lee Preston has been a judge since 1994 and for the past seven years has been assigned an individual commercial calendar in the Law Division, where he is a Supervising Judge. He was previously assigned to the Juvenile Protection Division. Prior to becoming a judge, much of his legal career was spent as a sole practitioner. Judge Preston presents a difficult case for the Council. In 2000 the Council reported Judge Preston as a very good judge. The investigation in 2006 uncovered a very different situation. While Judge Preston is reported to have good legal ability and temperament, half of the lawyers contacted during the current evaluation report that he is often indecisive and does not have good command of his court schedule. He is reportedly ill-prepared on occasion – failing to have a good command of the issues before him. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Patrick Quinn – Not Qualified

Hon. Patrick J. Quinn was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1996. Prior to his election, he spent fifteen years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where he had been the supervisor of the Public Integrity Unit and was a supervisor in the Sixth Municipal District in Markham before that. Judge Quinn is considered to have good legal ability and is well-prepared at

oral argument. However, serious concerns have been raised about his judicial performance. He is accused by many criminal defense practitioners as having a bias favoring the prosecution. Many claim that his opinions unfairly favor the prosecution, and he is reported to be derisive of criminal defense lawyers during court proceedings. In general, he is too often described as having a demeanor more appropriate for an advocate. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Ralph Reyna -- Qualified

Hon. Ralph Reyna has been a judge since his appointment as an associate judge in 1984. He became a full Circuit Judge in 1994 and has sat in the Law Division hearing civil tort claims since 2003. He served in the Criminal Division at 26th and California Avenue from 1987 until 2003. He was assigned to the Second Municipal District hearing both civil and criminal cases from 1985 to 1987. His first assignment was to the Traffic Court. Before becoming a judge he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. As a judge in the Criminal Division, the Council found Judge Reyna to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge in the Law Division, some lawyers indicate that he can be short-tempered and sometimes not well enough prepared. The Council urges Judge Reyna to consider these criticisms, but on balance, the Council finds him Qualified.

Daniel Riley -- Qualified

Hon. Daniel A. Riley has been a judge since his election in 1994. He sits in the Unified Family Court Pilot project in Bridgeview. He has also served in the Domestic Relations Division. He was in private practice for nineteen years before becoming a judge. Judge Riley is considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and good courtroom management skills. He is fair to all parties and is praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

Ronald Riley – Not Qualified

Hon. Ronald C. Riley has been a judge since 1988. Since 2000, he has been the Presiding Judge in the Sixth Municipal District. He has sat in the Chancery Division, the Law Division, and the Domestic Relations Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General and as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Riley is considered to have adequate legal ability. In 2000 the Council found Judge Riley to be Not Qualified for retention, finding among other things that his judicial temperament was "often brusque and rude at times." In 2006, there are many respondents who continue to question his temperament. In addition, Judge Riley failed to disclose during the investigation an incident later reported in the media that calls his judgment into question. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Thomas Roti -- Qualified

Hon. Thomas David Roti was elected to the bench in 2000 and hears civil jury trials in Rolling Meadows. Prior to his current assignment, he heard misdemeanor trials in the First Municipal District. Before his election, he spent three years engaged in private investing. Prior to that, he spent 22 years as Vice President and General Counsel of Dominick's. Judge Roti is

considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is specially praised for his temperament in the way that he handles pro se litigants. He is fair and diligent. The Council finds him Qualified.

Lisa Ruble-Murphy -- Qualified

Hon. Lisa Ruble-Murphy has been a judge since her election in 1994. She hears pre and post-decree cases in the Domestic Relations Division. Before becoming a judge, she was the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the Chicago City Council Committee on Finance and was involved in the 1990 ward redistricting of the City of Chicago. Judge Ruble-Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her legal knowledge. Some lawyers say that she is too insistent that the litigants resolve disputes through pre-trial conferences, even where the parties have clear and irreconcilable differences that could better be resolved at trial. In addition, although some lawyers report that she can be short-tempered at times, most state that she is a solid jurist. The Council finds her Qualified.

Drella Savage -- Qualified

Hon. Drella C. Savage has sat in the Domestic Relations Division since her election in 1994; she is currently a Supervising Judge. Before becoming a judge, she was a hearing officer in the expedited child support system, a legal assistant employed by the Illinois Appellate Court, and a sole practitioner. Judge Savage is considered to have a very good knowledge of the law and she is praised for her temperament. She is fair and decisive in her rulings and has good courtroom management skills. She is reported to be very good in handling pro se litigants and is involved in legal reform efforts. The Council finds her Qualified.

Colleen Sheehan -- Qualified

Hon. Colleen F. Sheehan has sat in the First Municipal District since her election in 2000. She currently hears Domestic Violence cases in the Branch 64 court. For eight years before her election she was a solo practitioner with a general practice. She spent the first four years of her legal career as an Assistant Public Defender. Judge Sheehan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is credited for developing innovative sentencing alternatives and for being involved in other legal reform efforts. The Council finds her Qualified.

Lon Shultz -- Qualified

Hon. Lon W. Shultz has been a judge since 1994. He sits in the Criminal Division at 26th and California Avenue. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Shultz is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is diligent and decisive. The Council finds him Qualified.

Henry Simmons -- Qualified

Hon. Henry Richard Simmons, Jr. has been a judge since 1992. He sits in the Criminal Court at 26th and California Avenue. He has also sat in the Evening Narcotics Court. Prior to becoming a judge he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Simmons is considered to be a

solid jurist with good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his impartiality. The Council finds him Qualified.

Leslie Elaine South -- Qualified

Hon. Leslie Elaine South was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1996. Prior to that she served as a judge in the Sixth Municipal District in Markham from 1988 to January 1995 where she presided over misdemeanor cases, felony jury trials, and domestic violence cases. Before becoming a judge, she had experience as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, as a solo practitioner, and as an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority. Justice South is considered to have good legal ability and is hard-working. She is an active questioner during oral argument and is praised for being prepared. Lawyers report that her rulings are well-reasoned. The Council finds her Qualified.

John Steele – Well Qualified

Hon. John Steele was appointed in 1997 and was elected a full Circuit Judge in 2000. He is currently assigned to Domestic Relations Court, having previously served in Juvenile Court and Traffic Court. Prior to being appointed Judge, he spent most of his legal career in sole practice with a focus on domestic relations. Judge Steele is well-versed in the law and is praised as having an excellent temperament. He is a conscientious and hard-working judge who is fair to all parties. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Victoria Stewart -- Qualified

Hon. Victoria Stewart presently hears felony narcotics trials in the Criminal Division. Before her current assignment, she sat in the First Municipal District. Before she was elected to the bench in 1994, she had twenty years experience as an attorney, at different times working as an Assistant States Attorney, and for the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, the Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Division, the Chicago City Council and for three years in private solo practice. Judge Stewart is praised as being knowledgeable and hard-working. She has a good judicial temperament and is fair to all parties. The Council finds her Qualified.

Bill Taylor -- Qualified

Hon. William H. Taylor, II has been a judge since his election in 1994. He has sat in the Law Division since 2000. He has also been assigned to the First Municipal District hearing non-jury trials and housing court cases. He was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General before he became a judge but spent much of his legal career in private practice. Judge Taylor is considered to be knowledgeable and most lawyers report that he has a good temperament. He runs an efficient and impartial courtroom. The Council finds him Qualified.

Lawrence Terrell – Not Qualified

Hon. Lawrence W. Terrell has been a judge since 1994. He has sat in the Fourth Municipal

District since his election and currently hears felony criminal matters. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and was in private practice. Judge Terrell is considered to have adequate legal ability. The Council, however, is concerned about his temperament – a factor cited by the Council when it found him Not Qualified for retention in 2000. The current investigation shows that many lawyers continue to complain about Judge Terrell's temperament – finding him short-tempered to the point that judicial proceedings are affected adversely. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Amanda Toney – Not Qualified

Hon. Amanda S. Toney has been a judge since 1994. She hears jury trials in the First Municipal District. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a sole practitioner with a general practice focusing on probate and estates. Judge Toney is considered to have adequate legal ability. There were two concerns raised during the evaluation. First, some lawyers complain that she does not move cases expeditiously, a serious matter in a high volume court call. Second, there were many concerns raised about her temperament. She can be short-tempered and sometimes exhibits a lack of respect for lawyers appearing before her. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Joseph J. Urso – Highly Qualified

Joseph J. Urso has been a judge since 1977. He has been the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District since 1998. He has also served in the Criminal Division and in the First Municipal District. Judge Urso is considered to have outstanding legal ability. As a trial judge, lawyers report that his rulings are consistently clear, precise, and fully explained. His courtroom demeanor is professional, but always courteous. He is hard-working and fair to all parties. As the Presiding Judge, he is praised for his management style. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

James Varga -- Qualified

Hon. James M. Varga has been a judge since 1994. He sits in the Law Division, Jury Section. Prior to his current assignment, he spent six years in the Complex Litigation Section. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney doing defense of medical negligence cases. He has also been in private practice. Judge Varga is considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability. He is praised for his knowledge of evidentiary and procedural matters and conducts his own legal research to keep abreast of the issues. He has a good temperament and is reported to be hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified.

Richard Walsh -- Qualified

Hon. Richard F. Walsh has been a judge since 1994. He sits in the Juvenile Justice Division. Before becoming a judge, he was a sole practitioner and a staff attorney in the Federal Defender Program. Judge Walsh is considered to have good legal ability and his opinions are praised as well-reasoned. The Council has questioned his temperament in the past, but lawyers during this evaluation reported a good judicial temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

Camille Willis -- Qualified

Hon. Camille E. Willis has been a judge since 1994. She hears a general civil call in the Sixth Municipal District, where she has sat since 1999. She has also been assigned to the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Court. Before becoming a judge, she was a lawyer with the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas E. Fairchild of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Judge Willis is considered to have good legal ability and lawyers report that she is hard-working and well-prepared. She is fair to all parties and has good courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified.

Warren Wolfson – Highly Qualified

Hon. Warren D. Wolfson was assigned to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1994, after having been a Circuit Court Judge since his appointment to the bench in 1975. He has been an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy and Director of the Trial Advocacy Program at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law since 1971. Judge Wolfson is considered to have outstanding legal ability. His writing is described as clear and decisive. He is always well-prepared and an active questioner during oral argument. He is of the highest integrity and has an excellent temperament. He is described as a model judge. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. -- Qualified

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. has been a judge since 1994. Since 2003, he has been the Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District. His previous assignment was to the Probate Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a solo general practitioner. Judge Wright is considered to have good legal ability and is specially praised for his temperament. He has good courtroom management skills and is praised for his work as the Presiding Judge. He is also praised for his community service activities. The Council finds him Qualified.

CANDIDATES FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE: CONTESTED SUBCIRCUIT JUDICIAL ELECTIONS: (R) Republican; (D) Democrat

Twelfth Subcircuit (Hon. John K. Madden Vacancy)

(D) Hon. Mary Katherine Rochford – Well Qualified

Hon. Mary Katherine Rochford was appointed to the bench in 1991. She is currently assigned to the Law Division in the Second Municipal District, where she has sat since 1993. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice for six years. From 1979 to 1986, she worked for the Chicago Department of Law, Appeals Division, rising to the position of Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel in 1985. She was admitted to practice in 1979. Judge Rochford is considered to be a very good jurist with good legal ability and an excellent temperament. She has broad experience and is praised as being exceptionally well-prepared, hard-working, and fair to all parties.

The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Don R. Sampen – Well Qualified

Don R. Sampen has been practicing law since 1975. He has been a partner at Meckler Bulger & Tilson since 2003. From 1995 until 2003, Mr. Sampen was Chief of Special Litigation at the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Before that, he was in private practice as a partner at Martin Craig Chester & Sonnenschein (1988 to 1995) and was an associate and later a partner at Jenner & Block (1976 to 1988). Mr. Sampen spent his first year as a lawyer as law clerk to Judge Philip W. Tone of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Sampen is praised for having broad legal knowledge and a good temperament. He is exceptionally articulate and has substantial litigation experience in a variety of forums. He is an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School and has been published widely. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Twelfth Subcircuit (Hon. Richard A. Siebel Vacancy)

(D) Hon. Grace G. Dickler – Well Qualified

Hon. Grace G. Dickler was appointed to the bench in 1988 and has sat in the Domestic Relations Division since 1991. She is currently assigned to an individual calendar in Skokie. She has also served in Housing Court and Traffic Court. Prior to becoming a judge, she spent two years as an Immigration Judge. From 1982 to 1986, she was an Administrative Law Judge at the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Before that she was a supervising attorney at Travelers and Immigrants Aid. She was a solo general practitioner from 1979 until 1981. She spent her first year as a lawyer as a staff attorney, Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation. Associate Judge Dickler is considered to be a solid jurist and a good administrator. She has good legal ability and an excellent judicial temperament. She is known to be diligent and hard-working, and treats parties before her with dignity and compassion. She is praised for explaining her rulings to litigants. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Steve Goebel – Well Qualified

Steve Goebel has been with the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney since he was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1981. In 1993, he was made Supervisor of the Traffic Court. From 1993 to the present, he has been Supervisor of the Second Municipal District. Mr. Goebel is praised by both other prosecutors and defense counsel as a "consummate professional." He is considered to have very good legal ability and treats opposing counsel with respect. He is even-tempered generally and is praised for his ability and willingness to consider and weigh the arguments of defense counsel in reaching fair agreements. He is known to be an excellent, hard-working lawyer. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Twelfth Subcircuit (To Fill Additional Judgeship A)

(D) Ellen L. Flannigan – Not Recommended

The candidate elected not to participate in the evaluation process. The Council accordingly finds the candidate Not Recommended.

(R) Ronald J. Nelson – Not Qualified

Ronald J. Nelson was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1977, and has been in solo practice for his entire career. He has at different times served as general counsel to the Illinois General Assembly Republican leadership and the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Mr. Nelson is considered to be a competent lawyer with a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he has very little litigation experience, making him unprepared to become a judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Fifteenth Subcircuit (Hon. Thomas F. Nowinski Vacancy)

(D) Daniel Patrick Brennan – Not Recommended

The candidate elected not to participate in the evaluation process. The Council accordingly finds the candidate Not Recommended.

(R) Anthony C. Scrementi – Not Qualified

Anthony Scrementi was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1974. He has been in private practice since his admission and concentrates in the area of civil litigation. Mr. Scrementi is considered to be knowledgeable in his areas of practice and he is reported to have a good temperament. The Council, however, is troubled by several reports during the evaluation and from three Illinois Appellate Court decisions questioning Mr. Scrementi's legal skills. It is uncertain that he has sufficiently distinguished himself in practice to warrant a promotion to the bench. The Council finds him Not Qualified.