

# **The Chicago Council of Lawyers Evaluation Report:**

## **Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2016 General Election and Judicial Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies**

September 15, 2016

The Chicago Council of Lawyers, in this report, releases its evaluation of the judges seeking retention in the November 8th general election. We also include in this report our evaluation of the candidates who won their primary election held in March 2016 and who are on the November ballot.

### **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.”

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, Hellenic Bar Association, 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, in addition to participating in the evaluation process with the Alliance, also utilized the research conducted by the Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County (JPC). The JPC does not evaluate judges for the purpose of voter education. Rather, the JPC is a group of lawyers and non-lawyers who utilize electronic surveys and phone interviews with lawyers who have filed appearance forms in the courtrooms of those judges being evaluated within the past three years. There are additional interviews with judges, litigants, and others with professional experience with the judges seeking retention. The JPC utilizes its research results to prepare a research summary for each judge, containing strengths and weaknesses of the judge, and if appropriate a judicial performance improvement plan consisting of such suggestions as peer mentoring, court watching, and continuing education. The JPC reports are shared with the judges being evaluated, their presiding judges, and with the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court. The JPC will oversee a court watching program for these judges and will re-evaluate the judges within three years. The JPC shares its research results and findings with bar groups and others doing evaluations for the retention elections.

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 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."

We apply higher standards to candidates for the Supreme Court and 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.

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 2016**

### **General Election**

#### **Hon. Robert Balanoff -- Qualified**

Judge Robert Balanoff was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. He presently serves in the Child Protection Division of the Circuit Court, where he adjudicates claims of abuse and neglect of minor children. Prior to his election, Judge Balanoff in private practice.

Judge Balanoff is praised for his knowledge and his ability to handle complex matters. He is reported to have a good temperament. He treats the parties before him with respect and compassion. Respondents further characterized Judge Balanoff as both very efficient and quite diligent. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

#### **Hon. Steven James Bernstein -- Qualified**

Judge Bernstein was elected to the bench in 2010. Before taking the bench he was in private practice and served as the Acting General Counsel for the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority where he drafted inter-agency agreements, drafts legislation, and prepares and delivers training programs. Upon becoming a judge, he heard traffic, state conservation cases, misdemeanor criminal cases, DUI cases and drug related cases. In 2014, he was moved to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Division with the Second and Third municipal districts.

Judge Bernstein is well respected for his knowledge and diligence. He is praised for his rapport with juries and for showing respect of all persons appearing before him. He is also praised for his courtroom management. He is reported to be handling well his job as a “swing judge” through which he must substitute for another judge – taking cases to trial if the parties are ready. The Council finds him Qualified for retention in his present position.

#### **Hon. Robert W. Bertucci -- Qualified**

Judge Bertucci was elected to the bench in 1992. In 1983, Judge Bertucci began work as an Assistant State’s Attorney with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. He was also in private practice. He was assigned to the County Division in 2001 where he has remained.

Judge Bertucci is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the issues coming before him, and he is praised for his courtroom management. In his mental health commitment call, he is considered to be fair, sensitive, prepared, and decisive. He is reported to be well-prepared and hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Kathleen Marie Burke -- Qualified**

Judge Burke began legal work at Johnson & Bell in 1989 and moved to work with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 1993. She was elected to the bench in 2004. She currently is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District, Judge Burke has served as a part-time Adjunct Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law since 2000.

Judge Burke is considered to be knowledgeable about the issues before her and she is praised as being fair and respectful to the parties before her. She is reported to be well prepared and to have an excellent demeanor. Some lawyers complain about the relatively slow pace of her call, but lawyers generally think she is doing a good job. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Charles Patrick Burns -- Well Qualified**

Judge Burns was elected to the bench in 1998. He was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney before taking the bench. As of May 2007, Judge Burns has presided over a felony trial call as well as the R.A.P. Drug Court since July 2010.

Judge Burns has taught Graduate and Undergraduate classes at Lewis University on Justice, Law, and Public Safety studies, and has authored a number of published works, including as a Topic Writer with the Illinois Judicial Benchbook, as well as articles in the Illinois Bar Journal, the Duke University Journal of Law and Technology, and the Loyola University Chicago Law Journal.

Judge Burns is praised widely for his excellent grasp and application of the law. He is reported to handle both his regular felony call and the R.A.P. call with efficiency and he is praised for his devotion to the lives and rehabilitation of the defendants who come before him. The success of the RAP program is said by many to be the result of Judge Burns' initiative and dedication. He has numerous published works dealing with his judicial role and he is praised for his work ethic as well as his courtroom management. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein -- Qualified**

From 1971 until 1976, Judge Bernstein served as a General Attorney for the Office of Regional Counsel, before going on to work as an independent general practitioner. She was elected to the bench in 2004. She currently is assigned to the Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Cleveland Bernstein is reported to be knowledgeable and diligent as a judge in the Domestic Relations Division. She is praised for being well-prepared and for the accuracy and decisiveness of her rulings. There were respondents who complained that she can be intemperate on the bench. Some of these respondents noted that

these incidents are sometimes part of a case where the lawyer has, in her opinion, needlessly delayed a case or filed a frivolous motion. Other respondents complained that she can be unduly quick to make up her mind about a particular issue. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. John Patrick Callahan, Jr. -- Qualified**

Judge Callahan began his work as a tax consultant for the Price Waterhouse & Company before he became an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in 1989. He also was in private practice before being appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009. He was elected to the bench in 2010. He currently is assigned to the Law Division Motion Call handling pretrial motions. Judge Callahan works as a lecturer at DePaul College of Law for the course Trial Advocacy I.

Judge Callahan is praised for his grasp of the law and for being well-prepared. He is reported to be able to handle even complex cases and many attribute his substantial litigation experience as a lawyer for his ability to handle litigation efficiently and effectively as a judge. He is reported to show respect to all parties before him, and is praised for the patience and understanding he shows pro se litigants. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Bonita Coleman – Not Qualified**

Judge Coleman was elected to the bench in 2010. She was in private practice before becoming a judge. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in Markham.

Judge Coleman is reported to be professional and courteous on the bench. The Council is concerned that many lawyers question Judge Coleman's knowledge of the law, although most respondents note that she does the necessary research to rule. There was a mixed response as to whether she is fair to both men and women who appear before her. Some believe she favors male parties, but others say she is fair and seeks a just outcome. The Council must balance the totality of the positive and negative comments we heard about Judge Coleman's judicial performance. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Ann Finley Collins -- Qualified**

Judge Collins served the Cook County Public Defender's Office from November 1985 until 2010 as an Assistant Public Defender, and from 1997 until 2010 on the Homicide Task Force for that Office. She was elected to the bench in 2010. She is currently assigned to the Fourth Municipal District.

Judge Collins has been hearing misdemeanor cases for most of her judicial career, although she currently hears felony matters, as well. Prosecutors in particular cases claim she favors the defense, but most respondents praise her for being fair and exceptionally patient and respectful of all parties before her. She is well versed in the law and is considered to be very knowledgeable. She is praised as a diligent jurist who does the right thing. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

### **Judge Joy Cunningham – Well Qualified**

Judge Joy V. Cunningham was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2006. She was elected as an Associate Judge in 1997 and served for three years before leaving the bench. From 2000 to 2006 she was Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary at Northwestern Memorial Healthcare. She served as Associate General Counsel for Loyola University from 1986 to 1996. Her legal career also included private practice and she served as a judicial law clerk to Glen Johnson of the Illinois Appellate Court. She is a past president of the Chicago Bar Association. She was a guest lecturer at Loyola University School of Law in 2008 and 2009. She does a considerable amount of teaching which requires extensive preparation of written materials which she provides to others in the judiciary in the context of seminars, conferences or reference materials. She has won numerous awards from 2005 to 2011.

Judge Cunningham was praised as a good practitioner and as a solid, hard-working jurist with good legal ability and temperament. As a trial judge she heard both civil and criminal law matters. As an Appellate Court Judge, she continues to be praised for her work ethic and temperament. She reportedly asks good questions during oral argument and writes well-reasoned opinions. The Council in 2006 found her Well Qualified for the Appellate Court, finds her Well Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court, and finds her Well Qualified for retention.

### **Hon. Paula Marie Daleo – Well Qualified**

Judge Daleo was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in the Fourth Municipal District of the Circuit Court. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. She was admitted to practice in 1978. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Daleo was an Executive Assistant State's Attorney and formerly Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, as well as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She also has experience as a general practitioner.

Judge Daleo came to the bench after having extensive trial experience in complex matters. As a judge, she is widely praised for her legal knowledge and often supports her rulings with explanations. She is reported to be fair to all parties before her and that she applies the law correctly and evenly. She is reported to be especially hard-working and conscientious. She is reported to have an excellent temperament and is praised for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

### **Hon. Deborah Mary Dooling -- Qualified**

Judge Dooling was elected to the bench in 1992. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she served in the Criminal Division and the Chancery Division.

Prior to her assignment on the bench, Judge Dooling worked as a staff attorney for the Florsheim Shoe Company from 1978 to 1980. She became an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1980 through 1992. Judge Dooling is an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School for Trial Advocacy I and II.

Judge Dooling is considered to be a very good judge with good ability and temperament. She has done well in both civil and criminal assignments. She is praised for her ability to do well in a variety of assignments, and she is considered to have good courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Lawrence J. Dunford -- Qualified**

Judge Dunford was elected to the bench in 2004. He was in private practice before taking the bench. He is assigned to the Sixth Municipal District and the Domestic Violence Division in the Sixth Municipal District in a dual capacity.

Judge Dunford is considered to have a good knowledge of the law and he is praised for his courtroom management. In 2010, the Council questioned Judge Dunford's temperament, but he has since changed judicial assignments. Respondents in the current evaluation spoke favorably about his temperament and demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Timothy C. Evans – Highly Qualified**

Judge Evans was elected to the bench in 1992. He is the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County and has served as the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. He was first elected to the position of Chief Judge in 2001. Before taking the bench, he was a sole practitioner. Judge Evans was also an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago and had served as a floor leader for Mayor Harold Washington and as an Alderman for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

As Chief Judge, he does not hear cases, but sees to the administration of the courts. Chief Judge Evans created a domestic violence division for the Cook County Circuit Court, re-instituted a pre-trial services program and changed procedure so that bond hearings are conducted in person, rather than via teleconferencing. He is responsive to public concerns about the judiciary and works to institute diversion and deferral treatment programs in the criminal courts to reduce cost and waste and better serve the interests of the community.

In 2009, he received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented by the National Center for State Courts. The award recognizes a state judge who "exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics." He pushed for the establishment of the Domestic Violence Courthouse that opened in 2005. He is also credited for pushing forward the Court's mortgage foreclosure program. He has been praised for increasing the diversity of the Presiding Judges among the numerous divisions of the Circuit Court. In 2013, he issued a general administrative order outlawing the practice of some preliminary hearing judges of denying a Public Defender to defendants without conducting an indigence hearing. He is currently promoting the development of a community court in the North Lawndale area of Chicago.

Chief Judge Evans has his critics. Some respondents say he is too often slow to respond to the need for major systemic changes. But he has his strong supporters, as well, and the Council notes his many accomplishments. We know that the Circuit

Court needs consistent, enlightened leadership, and the Court must collaborate with all of the major stakeholder governmental agencies to bring about necessary systemic reform. We encourage Chief Judge Evans to meet this challenge. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Denise Kathleen Filan -- Qualified**

Judge Filan was elected to the bench in 1998. Before becoming a judge, she practiced with Odelson & Sterk Ltd. Judge Filan currently serves in a Traffic courtroom hearing a number of municipal traffic violations. She is currently assigned to the Bridgeview Courthouse.

Judge Filan is considered to be a good jurist with good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for treating all litigants with respect and for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Nicholas R. Ford – Not Qualified**

Judge Ford was appointed to the bench in December 1997, and was elected in 1998. Since 2002, he has been assigned to the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. Judge Ford was admitted to practice in 1988. He was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney throughout his career as an attorney.

Judge Ford is considered to have good legal ability and he is regarded as hard-working. In 2010 his demeanor drew some criticism for impatience and inappropriate remarks, but respondents in the current evaluation praise his temperament as being both patient and in control of the courtroom.

But two decisions handed down by the Illinois Appellate Court since 2010 raise serious concerns about Judge Ford’s ability to decide cases in an impartial manner. In *People v. Jackson*, the Appellate Court reversed and remanded a first degree murder conviction rendered by Judge Ford at a bench trial, holding he “abandoned [his] role as a neutral and impartial arbiter of fact by adopting a prosecutorial role when questioning [the] defendant’s expert witness and by relying on matters based on prior private knowledge” that were outside the record, thereby undermining the defendant’s right to a fair trial. And in *People v. Pace*, another first degree murder case, the Appellate Court vacated an aggregate 100 year sentence imposed by Judge Ford upon a 16-year-old defendant, finding that Ford considered and “placed significant emphasis” on impermissible factors during sentencing, including the defendant’s choice to remain silent during the sentencing hearing, Judge Ford’s personal views, and evidence not located in the record. “It is noteworthy,” continued the Appellate Court, “that the portion of the record in which [Judge Ford] announced [his] sentence goes on for 16 pages. At least four of those pages were devoted solely to [Judge Ford] discussing [his] personal feelings about gang violence; other large portions see the judge discussing the victims and stating that he was aligned with them.” In both *Jackson* and *Pace*, the Appellate Court remanded the matters to the Circuit Court with instructions to reassign the cases to a different judge.

Judicial impartiality is a foundational component of our legal system. Deviation from this principle not only deprives litigants of due process, but also undermines public confidence in the courts. On balance, the Council finds Judge Ford Not Qualified for retention

**Hon. Daniel James Gallagher – Qualified**

Judge Gallagher was elected to the bench in 2010. Prior to his appointment, he was in private practice and served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Gallagher is presently assigned to the Misdemeanor Room at Branch 34, presiding over various misdemeanor cases.

Judge Gallagher is considered to have good adequate legal ability and is praised for his willingness to mentor young lawyers. But some respondents noted that he demonstrates a short temper on the bench. Yet Judge Gallagher has acknowledged that temperament can be a problem for him, and is taking steps to remedy the problem. Judge Gallagher has been praised for seeking to find pragmatic solutions for offenders on his call. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Vincent Michael Gaughan – Well Qualified**

Judge Vincent Gaughan was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1991 and was elected in 1994. He presently serves in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Gaughan was a supervising Assistant Cook County Public Defender.

Judge Gaughn is widely praised for his legal ability and for being adept at handling some of the most complex cases in the criminal division. He is reported to have very good courtroom management skills. Many respondents say that he can be short tempered on the bench, but even those who complain about his temperament report that he is a very good trial judge. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. John C. Griffin – Well Qualified**

Judge Griffin was elected to the bench in 2010. He was in private practice before becoming a judge. He currently presides over a commercial calendar in the Law Division and also serves as Supervising Judge for the Commercial Section of the Law Division.

Judge Griffin is widely praised for his legal ability and for being exceptionally hard working. He completes his cases but is reported to be very good at listening to all the parties. He has received equally high praise in a variety of assignments . He possesses a very good temperament. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Sophia Harriet Hall -- Qualified**

Judge Hall was elected to the bench in 1980. She is assigned to the Chancery Division, as well as remaining the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department. Judge Hall has taught and lectured at a large number of schools and conferences in the past six

years, including Loyal University Chicago School of Law, DePaul School of Law, and the Illinois Administrative Law Conference.

Judge Hall is considered to have good legal ability with good courtroom management skills. She has spent her career being a respected jurist on the bench, while working for a fairer and more effective judicial system for all persons. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Kay Marie Hanlon -- Qualified**

Judge Kay Marie Hanlon was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. She is currently assigned to a felony trial courtroom in the Third Municipal District. Judge Hanlon was admitted to practice in 1985. Prior to election, she was in private practice focusing on criminal defense and family law. From 1985 to 1987, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where she did both trial and appellate work. She teaches on-line classes. Judge Hanlon is praised for her legal knowledge and ability. She is reported to be exceptionally hard-working with a good temperament. She is also praised for her courtroom management skills and for the quality of her written opinions. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court and for retention to the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Edward Harmening -- Qualified**

Judge Harmening was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 and elected to the bench in 2010. He began his legal career working as Assistant State's Attorney in 1994 with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, where he prosecuted misdemeanor cases. From there, he moved into private practice in 1997, with Clausen Miller; primarily handling insurance defense cases. In 2000, he became Senior Associate at what is now Nielsen Zehe & Antas, where he once again litigated primarily matters of insurance defense. In 2003, he returned to the Assistant State's Attorney office, where he became Deputy Supervisor in 2006. Since August of 2014, he has presided over jury trials and conducted settlement conferences in the Law Division.

Judge Harmening is praised for his knowledge and ability. He is well – prepared and is praised for his willingness to let lawyers and pro se individuals have their day in court, while maintaining good courtroom management. He is respectful of all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. William H. Hooks – Qualified**

Judge Hooks received his law degree from ITT Chicago-Kent in 1981 and was admitted to the Illinois bar in that year. He was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2008. As a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserves, he prosecuted and defended criminal cases. He left active duty in 1985 (though remained in the Reserves for an additional 10 years) and until 1991 practiced civil litigation (mainly insurance defense) with Pretzel & Stouffer, Hinshaw & Culbertson, and Garland W. Watt and Associates. Between 1995 and 2008, he has practiced on his own and in partnership with others, concentrating on criminal defense and a wide range of civil

litigation. As a lawyer, he has extensive jury and bench trial experience in both federal and state courts, and served as a hearing officer and hearing board chair for the ARDC. As a trial judge, he is considered to have good legal ability, and to be hard-working and well-prepared. He is praised for preparing numerous written orders and opinions for the cases before him.

Judge Hooks is dedicated to the improvement of the court system. As an example, he has since 2010 served as a Commissioner of the Illinois Courts Commission by appointment of the Illinois Supreme Court, and also serves on the Cook County Justice Advisory Council. He lectures frequently in continuing legal education and public information seminars that focus on the administration of justice and ethics. He has published practice-related articles. His professional conduct and personal integrity are above reproach. The Chicago Council of Lawyers finds Judge Hooks Qualified for the Appellate Court and for retention to the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Arnette R. Hubbard – Qualified**

Judge Arnette Hubbard was appointed to the bench in 1997 and elected in 1998. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice.

Judge Hubbard is considered to be a smart and knowledgeable judge who is decisive. She is praised for her even keel temperament, and for showing respect for all parties before her while maintaining control of her courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Cheryl D. Ingram -- Qualified**

Judge Ingram was elected to the bench in 1992. Prior to her assignment to the bench, Judge Ingram served in the Cook County Public Defender's Office. In 1994 she was assigned to the Fourth Municipal District and became the Presiding Judge in 2010.

Judge Ingram is praised both as a jurist and in her administrative role as a Presiding Judge. She is considered to have good legal ability and a very good temperament, being respectful of all parties before her. She is reported to be well-prepared. Commenting on her ability as Presiding Judge, Respondents find that the courthouse in the 4<sup>th</sup> District "runs smoothly." The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Raymond L. Jagielski -- Qualified**

Judge Jagielski was elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently the Presiding Judge of the Fifth Municipal District. Before becoming a judge he served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and was in private practice.

Judge Jagielski is considered to have good legal ability with good courtroom management skills. He is praised for his ability to handle a heavy call, and for being hard-working. He is also noted for his fairness. Practitioners in the Fifth Municipal District praise his management skills as the Presiding Judge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Sharon O. Johnson – Qualified**

Judge Johnson was elected to the bench in 2010. She was in private practice before taking the bench. She sits in the Domestic Relations Division in Markham.

Judge Johnson is considered to have good legal ability. Some respondents say she has been short tempered on the bench in the past, but that she has demonstrated a good judicial temperament in her current assignment. She receives higher marks as a judge in her current assignment than in past assignments – such as better temperament and improved court management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Linzey D. Jones -- Qualified**

Judge Jones was elected to the bench in 2010. Prior to taking the bench, he served as an associate at Sidley Austin from 1982 until 1990, at which time she became a partner. He remained a partner at Sidley Austin until 2003, at which time he became a partner at Pugh, Jones, and Johnson, where he served until 2010. Judge Jones is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District where he presides over bench and jury misdemeanor cases.

Judge Jones is a respected jurist with good legal ability. He is reported to have good legal ability and to be fair to all sides. He is reported to be well-prepared and to have good courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Thomas Joseph Kelley -- Qualified**

Judge Kelley was elected to the bench in 2004. Prior to becoming a judge, he served at Kelley & Greco first as an Associate and then a Partner between 1984 and 2004. He currently sits in the Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Kelley is considered to be a good jurist with good legal ability and temperament. His decisions are considered to be well reasoned. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. John Patrick Kirby – Well Qualified**

Judge Kirby was elected to the bench in 1998. He was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney before becoming a judge. He has served in the Criminal Division and is now sitting in the Law Division. Judge Kirby is a lecturer at DePaul University in Trial Advocacy I as well as a substitute lecturer in other courses. He also lectures high school and college classes that observe court procedures in the Daley Center.

Judge Kirby is considered to be knowledgeable in a variety of areas of law with considerable judicial experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He is reported to have very good temperament and enjoys a reputation of being fair to all sides. He is praised for being well-prepared. In the criminal division, he received praise for his dedication to using alternative sentencing in cases where the defendants are non-violent. He was personally involved in developing a cyber high school as an alternative sentence for youthful offenders. Upon the awarding of a high school diploma, Judge Kirby entered a motion to vacate the judgment. He implemented a special program for defendants who are veterans, and he has personally sought to find alternative

treatment programs to become part of his sentencing. He earns high respect as a jurist in both civil and criminal divisions. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Geary Wayne Kull – Well Qualified**

Judge Kull was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 and was elected in 2010. Before becoming a judge he served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and was in private practice doing criminal defense work. He is assigned to the Fourth Municipal District hearing felony cases.

Judge Kull is widely praised for his knowledge of the law and for his courtroom management skills. He is described as being courteous and professional, although he presides over a heavy court call. He is praised for being well-prepared and he is reported to issue well-reasoned decisions in a timely fashion. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Bertina Lampkin – Well Qualified**

Hon. Bertina Lampkin was admitted to practice in 1974 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. As a lawyer, she had extensive litigation experience in both complex trial and appellate court matters as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. She also has experience trying civil cases as an attorney with the Chicago Department of Law. Justice Lampkin was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009.

As a trial judge, she heard criminal law matters at the Courthouse at 26th and California, and at that time was reported to be a very good, hardworking jurist who was praised for her writing skills. When the Council found her qualified for the Appellate Court in 2009, her written evaluation materials included approximately 100 opinions from cases she heard at 26th street, including findings on post-conviction petitions and motions to quash and suppress. She has served as the chair of the Supreme Court criminal pattern jury instructions committee. In that position, she was responsible for writing the new death penalty instructions and the instructions for specific specialized jury verdict required by the *Apprendi* case. She has taught in the area of death penalty litigation.

As an Appellate Court judge, Justice Lampkin has demonstrated that she meets – and exceeds the higher standards that the Council uses in evaluating candidates for the Appellate Court. In the 2013 judicial evaluation, lawyers report that Justice Lampkin has exceptional command of substantive law, as well as procedural rules. She is praised for being hardworking and her written opinions are considered to be well-reasoned. She is an active participant in oral arguments and is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds Judge Lampkin Well Qualified for the Appellate Court and Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Diane Joan Larsen -- Qualified**

Judge Larsen was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and presently serves in the Chancery Division. She was admitted to practice in 1983. Prior to her election, Judge Larsen was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Judge Larsen is the author and editor of the Civil Motion

Practice Manual, published by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. She has taught at Loyola University Chicago School of Law since 1991 as Adjunct Professor.

Judge Larsen is widely praised for having good legal ability and for being well prepared. She is considered to have a low key temperament but maintains control of her court call. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Daniel Joseph Lynch – Not Qualified**

Judge Lynch was elected to the bench in 1998. He is presently assigned to the Law Division. He is a former Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney.

Judge Lynch is widely respected for his knowledge of the law and procedure. He is considered to be well prepared and is reported to be adept at handling long, complex trials. Some respondents complained that he can, on occasion, be short tempered on the bench. Most say that he has a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that Judge Lynch on several occasions has reached beyond his immediate role as judge in a particular matter to engage in legal acts that seem to be outside his normal course of deciding a case before him. These matters include seeking or having sought to have the attorneys prosecuted for fraud or obstruction. In another matter, the judge unsuccessfully sought to have the Cook County State’s Attorney prosecute one of the parties before him. These unorthodox uses of judicial discretion, including criminal contempt charges, are troubling to the Council. On balance, the Council finds Judge Lynch to be Not Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Thomas V. Lyons – Well Qualified**

Judge Lyons was appointed to the bench in 2008 and was elected in 2010. He had served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He is currently assigned to the Law Division where he presides over jury trials.

Attorneys praise Judge Lyons’ legal ability and his temperament. They describe him as having a good grasp on even complex issues and he is said to treat all parties with respect. He shows patience on the bench but maintains control of the courtroom. Lawyers report that he reads all relevant materials and demonstrates the ability to communicate effectively with the jury. Lawyers often describe him as an excellent judge. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Terrence Fulton MacCarthy – Qualified**

Judge MacCarthy was elected to the bench in 2010. He had served as an Assistant Public Defender for Cook County. He is currently sitting in the Fourth Municipal District , where he has been handling domestic misdemeanor and Class 4 Felony Criminal cases. He has taught at both DePaul University’s College of Law and the University of Chicago’s Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, serving as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the former. MacCarthy has also co-authored a book on Impeachment, entitled “MacCarthy on Impeachment: How to Find and Use these Weapons of Mass Destruction”, published spring 2016 by the American Bar Association. He has also recently authored a book titled “Improv for Lawyers”, to be published at a later date.

Judge MacCarthy is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament. He is reported to be exceptionally punctual and hard working. He is praised for his well reasoned opinions and for showing respect to all parties before him. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. William O. Maki -- Qualified**

Judge Maki was elected to the bench in 1992 and is currently the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District. He also presides over the expungement call. He was previously assigned to the Chancery Division. Prior to election he was in private practice.

Judge Maki is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for showing respect to all parties and is reported to have good courtroom management skills. As a presiding judge, practitioners report that the courthouse is well run. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Daniel Brian Malone -- Qualified**

Judge Malone was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 and was elected in 2010. He was in private practice before becoming a judge. He was assigned in 2013 to the Probate Division, where he currently sits.

Judge Malone is considered to have good legal ability. All respondents consider him to be knowledgeable and he is praised for being a quick study when he was appointed to the Probate Division. He rules in a timely manner and he is praised for his well reasoned opinions. He is reported to have a good temperament and is fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. LeRoy Kendall Martin, Jr. -- Qualified**

Judge Martin was elected to the bench in 2002. He is currently the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division and had served in the Chancery Division. He was in private practice before becoming a judge. Judge Martin taught trial practice at Loyola University School of Law in 2012 and again in 2014. He also lectures on the role of African American soldiers in both the Civil War and World War One and he speaks to young people about the importance of education and ways to succeed

Judge Martin is considered to have good legal ability, and he is praised for how he is grown into a very difficult job of being the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. He is deliberative but decisive. He has a low key temperament and he is praised as both a good judge and an effective administrator. Judge Martin is also praised for always being professional in his demeanor and fair to litigants and court personnel. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. James Patrick McCarthy -- Qualified**

Judge James McCarthy was appointed to the bench in 1996 and elected in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Law Division and previously served in the First Municipal District Traffic Center. Judge McCarthy was admitted to practice in 1978. Prior to appointment, he was in private practice, as well as assistant

Judge McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his preparation and decisiveness. He is well prepared and his rulings are reported to be well reasoned. Judge McCarthy is considered to be professional in his demeanor and fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Clare E. McWilliams – Qualified**

Judge Clare McWilliams was elected to the bench in 2004. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was assigned to the First and Second Municipal Districts. Judge McWilliams was admitted to practice in 1988. She was in private practice prior to becoming a judge.

She has taught as an adjunct professor for the John Marshall Law School on two occasions since January of 2010, once for Legal Counseling & Client Interviewing, and again for Advanced Trial Advocacy.

Judge McWilliams is widely praised for her legal ability and courtroom management skills. She is reported to produce well reasoned opinions in a timely fashion. She is described as having a professional demeanor and is adept at treating pro se litigants with respect. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Mary Lane Mikva – Highly Qualified**

Judge Mary Mikva was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2004. She was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in June 2016. She had been assigned to the Chancery Division and to the Child Protection Division. Judge Mikva was admitted to practice in 1980 and prior to her election, she was law clerk to Judge Prentice H. Marshall and later to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Judge Mikva also served as an appellate attorney for the City of Chicago Law Department, as well as in private practice.

As a trial judge, Judge Mikva is widely praised for her legal ability and courtroom management skills. She has mentored new judges and is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable. She is described as having good interaction with all parties in the courtroom, and she is reported to be scrupulously fair to all lawyers and litigants. She enjoys an excellent reputation for her diligence, punctuality, and for always being well prepared. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Raymond William Mitchell – Well Qualified**

Judge Mitchell was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 and was elected in 2010. He presides over an Individual Commercial Calendar for the Law Division. Judge Mitchell has co-authored a Traffic Court Bench Book.

Judge Mitchell is considered to have very good legal ability. He is reported to be knowledgeable and to issue well reasoned opinions in a timely fashion. He has a professional demeanor, and is reported to be fair to all parties. He enjoys a reputation of being well prepared and holding lawyers to a high standard. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Allen Francis Murphy – Qualified**

Judge Murphy was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 and was elected in 2010. He is assigned to the Sixth Municipal District.

Judge Murphy is generally praised for his legal knowledge and ability. He is praised as being well prepared and for his courtroom management. Defense counsel strongly praised Judge Murphy for being fair and for showing respect to all parties. He is considered generally to have a good temperament and is reported to be punctual. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

#### **Hon. Patrick T. Murphy – Qualified**

From 1978 until December of 2004, Judge Murphy worked as Cook County Public Guardian, supervising a large staff and representing children as well as acting as guardian to disabled adults. He was elected to the bench in 2004. For the first three months on the bench, Judge Murphy worked in traffic court, and was moved in March of 2005 to the Domestic Relations Division, hearing an independent call, as well as being assigned to the Unified Family Court Project.

Judge Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. He is knowledgeable and is praised for his courtroom management. He is considered to be exceptionally hard working. The Council has noted temperament issues in its 2010 evaluation, but the current evaluation reported general praise for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

#### **Hon. Timothy Patrick Murphy -- Qualified**

Judge Timothy Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and was previously in the First Municipal District. Judge Murphy was admitted to practice in 1984. Prior to election, he was in private practice.

Judge Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to be a very capable judge, with good temperament. He is praised for his professionalism in the courtroom and for his knowledge of the law. His rulings are described as thorough and well reasoned. The Council finds Qualified for retention.

#### **Hon. Kathleen Mary Pantle – Well Qualified**

Judge Pantle was elected to the bench in 1998. She is a former Cook County Public Defender. She has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division and the Felony Trial Division. In January 2007, she was reassigned to the Chancery Division, where she has remained since, presiding over equitable matters, contract actions, class actions, administrative review actions, property disputes, partnership disputes, and general commercial litigation. Judge Pantle coached the DePaul University College of Law Trial Team through spring 2012, and is the author of an article entitled “Defending Illinois Criminal Cases” in *Arrest, Search, and Seizure*.

Judge Pantle is widely praised as a capable judge with very good legal ability. She is praised for well reasoned opinions issued in a timely fashion, for being well prepared,

and for being knowledgeable. She is reported to be fair to all parties and has a professional demeanor. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Daniel J. Pierce -- Qualified**

Judge Pierce was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 and elected in 2010. He served early in his career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. In 1975, he worked for the Cook County Assessor's Office as the Chief Deputy Assessor. He became a partner at a civil and criminal litigation and real estate tax firm in 1980 before he became a solo practitioner from 1986 until 2008. He most recently was assigned to the Law Division before he was appointed to the First District Illinois Appellate Court in 2013.

As an Illinois Appellate judge, respondents say that he is well versed in the issues and is well prepared for oral argument. It is reported that his opinions are well reasoned. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Sandra Gisela Ramos -- Qualified**

Judge Ramos was elected to the bench in 2010. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in April, 1986. She began her career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and then worked as a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense cases. She has been assigned to a variety of misdemeanor courtrooms. She currently is assigned to Branch 48 where she hears felony preliminary hearings.

Judge Ramos is considered to have good legal ability, and she is reported to have a professional demeanor. She is described as being fair to all parties and is considered to be knowledgeable. The Council finds her Qualified for retention in her current assignment.

**Hon. James J. Ryan -- Qualified**

Judge Ryan was admitted to practice in 1992 and was elected to the bench in 2004. He is currently hearing jury trials in the First Municipal District. Before taking the bench, Judge Ryan was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1993 to 1995 and was the Director of Operations and General Counsel for the Cook County Sheriff's Office from 1995 to 2004. He has been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District and from September of 2008 until February of 2013, Judge Ryan served in the First Municipal District, presiding over felony preliminary hearings, as well as criminal misdemeanor/ordinance bench and jury trials. Judge Ryan has written two legal texts; the First Municipal Jury Bench Book of 2015, and "First Municipal Juries in a Nutshell" which has been submitted for publication.

Judge Ryan is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to be a conscientious judge who is well prepared and diligent. Practitioners say that he has a professional demeanor, and treats everyone fairly. In 2010, the Council noted that he had a serious temperament issue. Our 2016 evaluation shows a very different judicial behavior. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Kevin M. Sheehan -- Qualified**

Judge Sheehan was elected to the bench in 1998. He currently is assigned to the Criminal Division hearing bench and jury trials. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He has taught as a Trial Advocacy Instructor at DePaul University Law School since 2010.

Judge Sheehan is considered to be a knowledgeable judge with good legal ability. He is praised for his courtroom management and for his temperament. He is reported to be fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Irwin J. Solganick – Qualified**

Judge Irwin J. Solganick was elected to the bench in 1986. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. He has also served in the First Municipal District and the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Solganick was admitted to practice in 1972. Prior to election, he was a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney and was also in private practice. Judge Solganick often fills in for the Acting Presiding Judge when he is away. Judge Solganick authored the Law Division Jury Bench Book chapters on Limiting Instruction, and Liens in 2015.

Judge Solganick is praised as a conscientious jurist who possesses good legal ability and is especially hard working. He is reported to have good courtroom management skills. He has a low key temperament and moves his call fairly and efficiently. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Sharon Sullivan – Qualified**

Judge Sullivan was elected to the bench in 1992. Since June 2015 she has been the Acting Presiding Judge of the County Division. Her responsibilities include the administration of the Division and supervising the judges. She is working with the Clerk's office and attorneys on e-filing for the County Division and on updating the adoption and civil asset forfeiture forms available online. She meets regularly with stakeholders in her Division to get feedback on how the Division is operated. From 2000 to 2015, she was assigned to the Criminal Division in the Second Municipal District. Prior to her election Judge Sullivan was an assistant State's Attorney and had previously been in private practice as well as with Corporation Counsel in the Chicago Department of Law.

Judge Sullivan is praised for her transition to her new assignment as Presiding Judge of the County Division. Practitioners report that she has demonstrated her grasp of new statutes and procedures. She has good courtroom management skills. She is reported to be fair to all parties and to have a professional demeanor. She is respected in her role as Presiding Judge. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Susan Kennedy Sullivan – Qualified**

Judge Sullivan was elected to the bench in 2010. She is assigned to both the Elder Law and Probate Divisions. Before becoming a judge, she was a sole practitioner. Judge Sullivan has taught Elder Law at DePaul University College of Law since 1998.

Judge Kennedy is praised for her legal knowledge and ability in probate law and in her position with the Elder Law Division. It is reported that Judge Sullivan treats parties with equal respect and is fair to all parties. She has a low key temperament and has good courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

**Hon. John D. Turner, Jr. – Qualified**

Judge John Turner was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Sixth Municipal District and was previously in the First Municipal District. Judge Turner was admitted to practice in 1984. Prior to election, he was an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority, for the Chicago Park District and both with the Office of the Public Guardian and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. In 2010 the Council noted that Judge Turner had a serious temperament issue. In 2016, Judge Turner is now hearing a larger variety of cases. Practitioners say he has a good temperament, and is respectful to all parties before him. They also say that his determinations are well reasoned and thoughtful. He is also praised for having a good grasp of the law and that he has good courtroom management skills. The Council in 2016 finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Edward Washington, II – Well Qualified**

Judge Washington was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2002 and was elected to the bench in 2004. He is currently hearing jury trials in the Law Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a partner with two law firms doing complex regulatory litigation and government relations work. He has also served as a division chief with the Illinois Attorney General's Office and as an administrative law judge with the Illinois Commerce Commission. He has also served as a senior attorney with MCI Telecommunications. He is currently hearing jury trials in the Law Division. Judge Washington has taught as Visiting Faculty at Harvard Law School since January of 2014.

Judge Washington is respected as a well prepared jurist who is fair to all parties. He is considered to have very good legal ability. He is praised for his temperament and his diligence. He brought to the trial bench a variety of experiences in complex litigation matters and is considered to have excellent court management skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Alexander Patrick White – Qualified**

Judge White was elected to the bench in 1986. He is currently the Supervising Judge in the Tax & Miscellaneous Remedy Section of the Law Division, where he has served since his election. Judge White was admitted to practice in 1964. Prior to election, he was with the Federal Defender's office, counsel to the US Department of Labor and special assistant attorney general to the Illinois State Board of Investments.

Judge White is considered to be very knowledgeable regarding the variety of areas of law he handles as a judge. He is praised for his temperament, for being well prepared, and for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Hon. Thaddeus L. Wilson – Qualified**

Prior to being appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2007, Judge Wilson worked in small firms. He was elected to the bench in 2010. He had substantial trial experience in both civil and criminal law matters and practiced in both the state and federal courts. He has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 2009, and currently presides over a felony courtroom. Judge Wilson is an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School teaching Criminal Procedure- Adjudication and Voting Rights and Election Law.

Judge Wilson is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and for doing the legal research necessary to allow him to stay abreast of the law. He has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Judges Seeking Election in the November 2016**

**General Election**

Appellate Court – 1<sup>st</sup> District (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. James R. Epstein

**Hon. Eileen O’Neill Burke – Qualified**

Hon. Eileen O’Neill Burke became a judge in 2008 and currently sits in the Law Division presiding over commercial calendar cases. Judge Burke’s previous judicial assignments included motion calls and tax and miscellaneous remedies cases. Prior to becoming a judge, Eileen O’Neill Burke served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney for about ten years and then went into private practice as a sole practitioner. Judge Burke is widely respected as a jurist. Lawyers report that she understands the issues, and praise her for her courtroom management skills. She grasps complex issues quickly and her opinions are considered well-reasoned. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Appellate Court – 1<sup>st</sup> District (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Patrick J. Quinn

**Hon. Bertina Lampkin – Well Qualified for the Appellate Court**

Hon. Bertina Lampkin was admitted to practice in 1974 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. As a lawyer, she had extensive litigation experience in both complex trial and appellate court matters as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. She also has experience trying civil cases as an attorney with the Chicago Department of Law. Justice Lampkin was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009.

As a trial judge, she heard criminal law matters at the Courthouse at 26th and California, and at that time was reported to be a very good, hardworking jurist who was praised for her writing skills. When the Council found her qualified for the

Appellate Court in 2009, her written evaluation materials included approximately 100 opinions from cases she heard at 26th street, including findings on post-conviction petitions and motions to quash and suppress. She has served as the chair of the Supreme Court criminal pattern jury instructions committee. In that position, she was responsible for writing the new death penalty instructions and the instructions for specific specialized jury verdict required by the *Apprendi* case. She has taught in the area of death penalty litigation.

As an Appellate Court judge, Justice Lampkin has demonstrated that she meets – and exceeds the higher standards that the Council uses in evaluating candidates for the Appellate Court. In the 2013 judicial evaluation, lawyers report that Justice Lampkin has exceptional command of substantive law, as well as procedural rules. She is praised for being hardworking and her written opinions are considered to be well-reasoned. She is an active participant in oral arguments and is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds Judge Lampkin Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Paul P. Biebel, Jr.

**Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. – Qualified**

Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1994 and was recently appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court. He was a sole practitioner doing criminal defense work. He was also an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Licensing. He served for six years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney where his work included the prosecution of complex criminal law matters. Judge Lyke is considered by most lawyers and judges contacted for this evaluation to be a good lawyer who is knowledgeable and an appropriately zealous advocate for his clients. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Richard J. Elrod

**Hon. Rosanna Patricia Fernandez – Qualified**

Hon. Rosanna Patricia Fernandez was admitted to practice in Illinois in May 1997. She was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, she was a partner at Sanchez and Daniels doing personal injury litigation. From 1997-2000 she worked at Eannace Lowery & Meade as an Associate Attorney. Judge Fernandez is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. Most respondents say she has a good temperament. All say she

is a zealous advocate for her clients. She has substantial jury trial experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Thomas L. Hogan

**Hon. Allison Conlon – Qualified**

Hon. Allison Conlon was admitted to practice in 2000 and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge Charles Kocoras of the federal district court, and then went on to become an Associate and Partner with the law firm of Wildman Harrold. She then joined Barnes and Thornburg as a partner. She did tort and commercial litigation for both firms. She maintained an active pro bono practice, as well. She is considered to have very good legal ability and trial skills. She is praised for her temperament and for being hardworking. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Michael J. Howlett, Jr.

**Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie – Qualified**

Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie was admitted to practice in 1993, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before becoming a judge, she was a career First Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, and served as a First Chair prosecutor in felony matters. She has substantial litigation experience in both jury and bench criminal law trials. Ms. Gillespie is considered to have very good trial skills. She is reported to have been a very knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair prosecutor. She is considered to have very good legal ability and a professional demeanor. She is praised for treating colleagues, opposing counsel, and pro se litigants with respect. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Marilyn F. Johnson

**Carolyn Joan Gallagher -- Qualified**

Carolyn Joan Gallagher was admitted to practice in 1982. She is a solo practitioner focusing on litigation, appellate work, real estate, and transactional matters. She has done commercial litigation in both state and federal courts. Between 1985 and 1992 she was an associate with Dardick & Denlow and between 2000 and 2004 was a Legal Writing Instructor at the DePaul University College of Law. As a writing consultant, she has assisted in the writing and editing of several law practice-related books. Ms. Gallagher is praised for her legal ability and knowledge. She has substantial commercial litigation experience. She is reported to be a zealous advocate for her

clients, but she is praised for professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Themis N. Karnezis

**Mary Kathleen McHugh – Qualified**

Mary Kathleen McHugh was admitted to practice in 1993. She is a Partner at the law firm of Parrillo, Weiss & O'Halloran where she concentrates in personal injury and subrogation litigation. She has spent most of her legal career with this firm. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation-related experience. She is praised for her knowledge of the law and for her diligence in dealing with opposing counsel. She is reported to have courtroom skills and a good temperament both in court and with opposing counsel. She is also reported to be a good mentor to less experienced attorneys. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Noreen Valeria Love

**Brendan O'Brien – Well Qualified**

Brendan O'Brien was admitted to practice in 1996. He has been a a Partner in the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson since 1999 and was an attorney with Connelly and Schroeder between 1996 and 1999. Mr. O'Brien has substantial litigation experience in insurance defense and medical malpractice cases. He is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for being a hard-working, well-prepared practitioner. He is reported to have excellent litigation skills and his integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Patrick W. O'Brien

**Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon -- Qualified**

Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon was admitted to practice in 1991. She is an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney working in the Conflict Counsel Unit, where she is responsible for the defense of Cook County Offices, Elected and Appointed Officials, and Cook County employees in various areas of state and federal civil litigation. Within the State's Attorney's Office, she has served in the Special Projects and Assignment Unit, the Municipal Litigation Unit, the Transactions Unit, and the Labor and Employment Unit. She came to the State's Attorney's Office in 1994 after a stint in private practice and then left the office between 1995 and 1998 to be an Associate

with Burke, Burns, and Pinelli, Ltd. She returned to the office in 1999. Ms. Hannon is considered to have good legal ability. She has extensive experience in more complex litigation matters, and she is praised for her litigation skills and for her professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Stuart E. Palmer

**Susana L. Ortiz -- Qualified**

Susana L. Ortiz was admitted to practice in 2001. She is a staff attorney doing criminal defense litigation in the Law Offices of the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Prior to her current position, Ms. Ortiz worked as an Associate in the Law Offices of Raul Villalobos. She is praised as a good practitioner with good legal ability. She is reported to be knowledgeable and to have good litigation skills. She has substantial litigation experience. Lawyers say she is a zealous and persuasive advocate for her clients. They also praise her for being trustworthy and for having a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Susan Ruscitti Grussel

**Hon. Daniel Patrick Duffy – Not Qualified**

Hon. Daniel Patrick Duffy was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014 and currently sits in the First Municipal District. He was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995 and in Wisconsin in 1994. Before becoming a judge, he was an attorney with several private firms doing a variety of matters including criminal defense, commercial litigation, and insurance litigation. Judge Duffy presents several issues. Prior to becoming a judge, many attorneys were critical of Judge Duffy, noting incivility in their dealings with him. While some attorneys praised his litigation skills, the Council on balance found him Not Qualified in an earlier evaluation. Since becoming a judge, many lawyers have praised his knowledge and court management skills. But the Council is also concerned that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit recently found that Judge Duffy as a personal litigant had brought an appeal that the Court believed was frivolous, and levied sanctions. On balance, the Council finds Judge Duffy Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Richard F. Walsh

**Patrick J. Powers -- Qualified**

Patrick J. Powers was admitted to practice in 1987. He has been a sole practitioner throughout his career focusing on domestic relations, as well as real estate and

contract litigation. He is reported to have good legal ability and to be hard-working. Lawyers report that he is knowledgeable and always prepared. He has substantial litigation-related experience and a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (First Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Cynthia Y. Brim

**Jesse Outlaw -- Qualified**

Jesse Outlaw was admitted to practice in 1980. Mr. Outlaw has been a solo practitioner in the City of Chicago for 33 years. He represents clients in real estate, divorce, probate and bankruptcy matters. He is also appointed by judges in the Probate Division to act as guardian ad litem for adult disabled people. Around 4 years ago, Mr. Outlaw joined the law firm of the Stuttley Group, LLC as an associate member. As an associate with the Stuttley Group, he represents legislators, park district boards and school boards; when necessary, he also conducts hearings on red light violations for municipalities. Mr. Outlaw is praised for his temperament and for his diligence. He is considered an intelligent lawyer who is a zealous advocate for his clients. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (First Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Vanessa A. Hopkins

**Rhonda Crawford – Not Recommended**

Rhonda Crawford failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Maryam Ahmad – Qualified (may run as a write-in candidate)**

Hon. Maryam Ahmad was admitted to practice in 2000, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She had been in private practice, a full time attorney volunteer at First Defense Legal Aid, an Assistant Cook County Public Defender, and an Assistant Cook County States' Attorney. She is considered to have good legal ability and has a range of litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Second Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Drella Savage

**D. Renee Jackson – Not Recommended**

D. Renee Jackson failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fourth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. William J. Kunkle

**Hon. Edward J. King -- Qualified**

Hon. Edward J. King was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. He was a sole practitioner and since 1988 had served as a Special Assistant Illinois Attorney General. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Loretta Eadie-Daniels

**Hon. Leonard Murray – Qualified for the Circuit Court**

Hon. Leonard Murray was admitted to practice in 1974. He spent most of his career prior to becoming a judge as a sole practitioner. He was elected to be an Associate Judge in 2007. He is currently sitting in the First Municipal District presiding over jury trials. He presided over forcible entry and detainer cases for most of his judicial career. Since becoming a judge, he has received praise for his knowledge of the law and for his ability to manage high volume courtrooms. Lawyers note his ability and willingness to assist pro se litigants in an effective and appropriate manner. Some attorneys representing landlords report that Judge Murray favored tenants. Most attorneys say that he is fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Jane L. Stuart

**Hon. Freddrenna Lyle -- Qualified**

Hon. Freddrenna Lyle was admitted to practice in 1980. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011. She was recently assigned to the Elder Law Division Before becoming a judge, she worked in small firms and as a solo practitioner. She had substantial experience in more complex litigation matters, and was a respected practitioner. She served for 13 years as a member of the Chicago City Council. Judge Lyle is reported to be knowledgeable and is praised for her ability to manage a high volume court call. She is reported to have a good judicial temperament. The Council finds Judge Lyle Qualified for the Circuit Court

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Shelli D. Williams-Hayes

**Daryl J. Jones -- Qualified**

Daryl J. Jones was admitted to practice in 2005. Mr. Jones is a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, having been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Illinois Senate. From 2005 to 2013 he served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He is considered to have good legal ability with a variety of experiences. The Council is concerned about the short length of time he has been a lawyer but he had substantial litigation experience as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney and is praised for the work he has done more recently. He is praised for his temperament. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Edmund Ponce de Leon

**Eulalia “Evie” De La Rosa -- Qualified**

Eulalia “Evie” De La Rosa was admitted to practice in 2004. She has been a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender since 2005, and has been assigned to the felony trial division since 2009. For a year after becoming a lawyer, she worked for the Cook County Office of the Chief Judge as a staff attorney and court coordinator. She is considered to have good legal ability with substantial litigation experience, despite her relatively short career. She is praised for her litigation skills and her temperament. She is active in community activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Leida Gonzalez Santiago

**Richard Cooke -- Qualified**

Richard Cooke was admitted to practice in 1992. He is a sole practitioner. From 1992 to 1994 he was a trial attorney for a captive insurance company law firm, and served as in-house staff counsel for CNA insurance from 1994 to 1997. Since 2008 he has operated a self-funded pro bono legal clinic – the Cooke Legal Aid Clinic. He is active in community activities. Mr. Cooke is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be a good lawyer who is praised for his integrity and for being exceptionally hard-working. He has substantial litigation experience in complicated matters, and his practice involves complex transactional matters that further demonstrate the analytic thinking necessary to be a good judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / Additional Judgeship A

**Hon. Anna Loftus – Qualified**

Hon. Anna Loftus has been practicing law for about 15 years, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She had been a partner at Hall, Prangel and Schoonveld doing medical malpractice and appellate work. She is a former Associate at Peterson & Ross. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in litigation matters. She is praised for her temperament and her courtroom skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Seventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Anthony L. Burrell

**Hon. Marianne Jackson -- Qualified**

Hon. Marianne Jackson was admitted to practice in 1973. She has served as an Associate Judge since 1997 and has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division since 1999. Prior to becoming a judge she served as an Assistant United States Attorney and as a private criminal defense counsel. She served as a Deputy U.S. Attorney and was named Chief of the Criminal Division. As a lawyer, she had substantial litigation experience in complex matters and was praised for her litigation skills. As a judge, she is reported to possess good legal ability and to be very knowledgeable. She has a good judicial temperament and is praised for being well-prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Seventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Anita Rivkin-Carothers

**Hon. Patricia Susan Spratt – Well Qualified**

Hon. Patricia Susan Spratt was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. From 1992 to 1995 she was an associate at a small firm doing civil litigation involving securities issues. She then became a partner as Shefsky & Froelich where she does both trial and appellate work. She is considered to have very good legal ability and her knowledge of the law is well regarded. She has written and lectured extensively, including a book on professional responsibility which is used as a source for the members of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility on which she serves. She is considered to be a resource for research and trial tactics. She is praised for her professional demeanor. Judge Spratt had substantial experience in a variety of complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Ninth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Andrew Berman

**Hon. Jerry A. Esrig – Highly Qualified**

Hon. Jerry A. Esrig was admitted to practice in 1978 and was first appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2013. He lost a Primary election in 2014. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court for another interim term in 2014. He currently sits in the First Municipal District hearing a variety of cases. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a Partner with a small firm, focusing on sophisticated personal injury and commercial litigation matters. Mr. Esrig was an accomplished litigator with substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex matters. He was active in pro bono matters, as well. He was praised for his litigation skills, as well as for his professionalism and integrity. He was considered to have excellent legal ability and is always well-prepared. Mr. Esrig was a highly respected practitioner and a role model for younger lawyers. As a judge, he is reported to have good courtroom management skills, and is praised for his judicial temperament when dealing with both seasoned attorneys and pro se litigants. He is contributing written work to the Judicial Benchbook (a judicial handbook) now being prepared on credit card debt, the City of Chicago Landlords and Tenants Ordinance, Subrogation, and Guaranties. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Tenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Garritt E. Howard

**Hon. Eve Marie Reilly**

Hon. Eve Marie Reilly was admitted to practice in 1997. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. She was a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, having extensive litigation and appellate experience. As a lawyer she was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Eleventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Carol A. Kelly

**Catherine Ann Schneider -- Qualified**

Catherine Ann Schneider was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1994. She began her career at Beverly & Pause, focusing on civil litigation of personal injury defense. In 1998, she started working for State Farm, investigating body injury claims. From 2000-2001 she oversaw the Attorney of the Day program, which produced pro bono counsel to defendants in eviction court. She then worked at Schneider & Tarr (a two person law firm) before moving on to become the Vice President of Operations at Millennium Financial in 2002. Following that, she worked at Career Services for Loyola Law for two years and then at the Law Offices of Deborah Ashen for another two. Currently, Ms. Schneider is the supervising Attorney for CARPLS.

Regarding her pro bono work, Ms. Schneider served as a guardian ad litem as well as an attorney for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. She has also spent seven years

helping Chicago Legal Aid Online. Lastly, she has spent time on the Board of Directors, Associate Board and as a Volunteer Attorney at CARPLS. Ms. Schneider has limited trial experience but has extensive motion practice in a variety of Cook County courtrooms. She has conducted more than 50 arbitrations. She is reported to be smart, motivated, and a good advocate. Attorneys with whom she works praise her ability to supervise and teach. She is reported to be always civil but clear in her dealings with opposing counsel. She has authored numerous published materials related to the practice of law and has demonstrated a commitment to pro bono work. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Eleventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Susan F. Zwick

**Hon. William Bernard Sullivan – Qualified**

Hon. William B. Sullivan was admitted to practice in 1992. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. He had been a sole practitioner since 1992. He worked on various civil legal issues including, but not limited to, commercial and real estate litigation and transactions. Much of his trial experience has been litigation involving eviction cases turning on interpretations of commercial leases. He is active in community affairs. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Joseph Kazmierski, Jr.

**(D) Hon. Marguerite A. Quinn – Well Qualified**

Hon. Marguerite A. Quinn was admitted to practice in 1986. She was elected as an Associate Judge in 2007 and currently serves in the Skokie Courthouse hearing a variety of cases including domestic violence and criminal law matters. From 1999 to 2007, Judge Quinn was in private practice focusing on real estate taxation. From 1986 to 1998, she served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. As a lawyer, she was considered to have good legal ability and had substantial litigation experience. As a judge, she is praised for her courtroom management and for her ability to handle a variety of matters, including those that are complex. She is praised for her calm and even temperament. She is considered well-versed in the law and respondents say she is always well-prepared. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**(R) Thomas Flannigan – Qualified**

Thomas Flannigan has been a lawyer since 1983. He has a MA degree in International Relations. After clerking with Illinois Supreme Court Justice William Clark, he served as an attorney with the firms of Arvey Hodes and Freeborn & Peters, concentrating on international business transactions and litigation. He worked as an attorney in Japan in 1988 and between 1991 and 1992. Since 1990, he has been a sole practitioner

focusing on civil litigation, intellectual property matters, and estate planning. He has had a limited number of cases go to trial but has been involved in other aspects of complex civil litigation matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Veronica B. Mathein

**(D)Janet Cronin Mahoney -- Qualified**

Janet Cronin Mahoney was admitted to practice in 1987. She is a career Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney where she is a supervisor in the Appellate Division. She has handled more than 280 appellate matters. Lawyers generally report that she has good legal ability. As a seasoned appellate lawyer, she has experience with a large number of issues. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**(R) James L. Allegretti -- Qualified**

James L. Allegretti was admitted to practice in 1978. From 2005 to 2011, Mr. Allegretti served as the Fourth Ward Alderman for the city of Park Ridge. Since 1990, he has been the Principal in the firm of Allegretti and Associates, focusing on Plaintiff’s personal injury cases and petitioners’ workers compensation representation. He has practiced as a solo practitioner or in a small firm doing traffic, DUI, personal injury and workers’ compensation cases since 1978. He is considered to have good legal knowledge and ability. Lawyers say he knows the law and has a good temperament. He is civil even in difficult cases. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Sandar Tristano

**(D)Hon. Carrie Hamilton – Qualified**

Hon. Carrie Hamilton was admitted to practice in 1996. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. She was an Assistant United States Attorney who had prosecuted a number of high visibility cases in Chicago. She is praised for her legal ability and for her courtroom skills. She is considered to have a good temperament. She has extensive litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**(R) David Lawrence Studenroth -- Qualified**

David Lawrence Studenroth was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. In 1987 he became an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. In 1998 he began a solo practice

focusing on criminal defense matters. Mr. Stedenroth is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has litigation experience and is reported to be a solid practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / Additional Judgeship A

**(D) James Edward Hanlon – Qualified**

James Edward Hanlon was admitted to practice in 1984. He is in private practice. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**(R) Steven A. Kozicki -- Qualified**

Steven A. Kozicki was admitted to practice in 1985. Since 1998 he has been a sole practitioner with a general practice. From 1989 to 1998, he was a trial attorney with a small firm, and between 1986 and 1988, he served as a DuPage County Assistant Public Defender. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being an experienced lawyer with good litigation skills in a variety of areas. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Thirteenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Thomas P. Fecarotta

**(D) Hon. Ketki Shroff Steffen -- Qualified**

Hon. Ketki Shroff Steffen was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court for a second time in 2015. In 2013 she was a sole practitioner and from 2013-2015 she served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2010 and served as a Circuit Judge between 2010 and 2013. From 1991 to 2010, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She is considered to have good legal ability. As a lawyer, she enjoyed a reputation as a trusted and experienced litigator. As a judge, she is praised for her ability to grasp the issues, for her courtroom management, and for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**(R) Kevin M. O'Donnell -- Qualified**

Kevin M. O'Donnell was admitted to practice in 1988. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career, although he practiced with small firms for several years early in his career. His current practice concentrates on estate planning, probate, litigation, corporate work, and real estate matters. He is active in community activities. He is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He reports handling

relatively few trials, but he has been involved in substantial pretrial practice activities in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fourteenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Lisa Ruble Murphy

**Matthew Link – Not Recommended**

Matthew Link failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

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