

The Chicago Council of Lawyers Evaluation Report:

Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2014 General Election

and

Judicial Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies

September 15, 2014

The Chicago Council of Lawyers, in this report, releases its evaluation of the judges seeking retention in the November 4th general election. We also include in this report our evaluation of the candidates who won their primary election held in March 2014 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 2014

General Election

Judge Mauricio Araujo--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Mauricio Araujo was in-house counsel for American Family Insurance. In 1996, Judge Araujo was an attorney at the Chicago Housing Authority. Before that, in 1995, he was an associate at Cohn, Lambert, Ryab & Schneider after moving on from associate attorney general hearing Workers' Compensation cases.

Judge Araujo is currently hearing Felony Narcotics cases at the Criminal Courts Building at 26th and California. Judge Araujo's previous judicial assignments included multiple assignments in the First Municipal District in 2008 and hearing Independent Orders of Protection cases in 2011.

Judge Araujo is considered to be a diligent and capable jurist with good legal ability. He has been successful as a judge in learning new areas of law. He is praised for his patience on the bench, particularly with unrepresented parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Edward A. Arce--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Edward A. Arce had been a partner at the general civil litigation firm Whitcup & Acre since 1986. Judge Arce is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in the Daley Center as a trial judge. Judge Arce's previous judicial assignments include the Domestic Relations Division of the Sixth Municipal District in Markham from 2008 until March 2014. Judge Arce is considered to have good legal ability and courtroom management skills. He is praised for his temperament in dealing with unrepresented parties appearing before him. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Andrew Berman—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Andrew Berman was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1979 to 1996. Beforehand, he was an assistant appellate defender for four years. Judge Berman has been assigned

since 2007 to the Juvenile Justice Division. Judge Berman has also served in the Chancery Division. Judge Berman is considered to have very good legal ability and is widely respected for his legal knowledge. He serves as a mentor to other judges and serves as the acting Presiding Judge when Presiding Judge Toomin is unavailable. He is especially praised for his professionalism. His temperament is considered to be excellent and he is praised for the way he manages his courtroom. His rulings are considered to be well-reasoned and he spends the necessary time explaining his rulings to the parties appearing before him. He is active in court reform efforts. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Margaret Ann Brennan--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Margaret Ann Brennan was Assistant General Counsel for Exelon Business Services from 1994 to 2002, when she was elected to the bench. In 1989, Judge Brennan began as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago after serving as an associate with the general practice firm, Pierce, Yavitz & Eslick. Before that, she had been a legislative coordinator for the American Legal Services Institute and a law clerk for the ABA Private Bar Involvement Project.

Judge Brennan is currently assigned to a Commercial Calendar in the Law Division. Judge Brennan's previous judicial assignments include the Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies of the Law Division from 2011 to 2013, the Chancery Division from 2008 to 2011, and the Fifth Municipal district from 2002 to 2008. Judge Brennan is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her courtroom management skills. A few respondents said she can get short-tempered on the bench but most lawyers appearing before her say she has a good temperament – appropriately holding lawyers to a high standard. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Eileen Brewer—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Eileen Brewer was the Chief Counsel to County Board President, John H. Stroger. From 1988 to 1994, Judge Brewer served as the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Before that, she worked for a year as an associate attorney at Jenner & Block. Judge Brewer was elected to the bench in 2002 and is currently sitting as a motion judge in the Law Division. She spent much of her judicial career in the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Brewer is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. Practitioners report that she has successfully made the transition from the Domestic Relations Division to the motion call in the Law Division. She is praised for her court management skills and is reported fair to all parties. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Janet Brosnahan--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Janet Brosnahan was a senior associate at the general practice firm James J Roche & Associates from 1997 to 2002. Judge Brosnahan began civil litigation work as an associate at Whitfield, McGann & Ketterman in 1994. Before that she had been an associate at the now dissolved Hugh J McCarthy & Associates firm for four years.

Judge Brosnahan is currently serving in the motions section of the Law Division. Judge Brosnahan's previous judicial assignments included civil and criminal cases in the Fifth Municipal District Courthouse from 2003 to 2014.

Many lawyers report that Judge Brosnahan has improved as a jurist over the past three years. Respondents praise her efforts to be fair while moving cases through her courtroom. They note that she is prepared, having read the materials submitted to her. Most respondents with current experience before Judge Brosnahan are positive in their assessments of her as a judge. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge James Brown--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James Brown worked as a solo practitioner, and an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Brown is currently sitting at the Central Bond Court and preliminary hearings. His previous judicial assignments were in the First and Fourth Municipal districts from 2005 until 2009 presiding over traffic, misdemeanor and bail hearings as well as misdemeanor trials and felony preliminary hearings. Judge Brown is considered to be a diligent judge with a good demeanor. He is reported to be prompt in starting his call, and is praised for being fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to his current position.

Judge Thomas Byrne--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Thomas John Byrne served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and was the supervisor in the Third Municipal District for 5 years. Judge Byrne is currently sitting at the Criminal Division of Cook County. Judge Byrne's previous judicial assignments included the Misdemeanor Branch Court of the First Municipal Division from 2008 to 2013. Judge Byrne is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his knowledge of the law and for his courtroom management skills. He is reported to provide well-reasoned rulings. Respondents say he is fair to all parties and that he has a low-key, effective demeanor on the bench. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Diane Gordon Cannon – No Rating. Judge Cannon was unable to complete her evaluation.

Judge Evelyn B. Clay--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Evelyn B. Clay served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Clay is currently a supervising judge hearing felony trials. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. The results of her current evaluation show that Judge Clay is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Ann E. Collins-Dole--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ann E. Collins-Dole served six years as Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. She has also worked as a supervising attorney, trial attorney and municipal

prosecutor for the city. Judge Collins-Dole has been sitting at the Probate Division since 2011. She was first elected to the bench in 2008. Judge Collins-Dole is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and diligence. Lawyers say she is doing a good job. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Donna L. Cooper--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Donna L. Cooper was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the City of Chicago Department of Law's Torts Division and Municipal Prosecutions Division. She has also worked in the Chicago Park District Law Department, and as a Cook County Public Defender. Before that, she was a technical advisor for the Illinois Industrial Commission. Judge Cooper is currently sitting at the Juvenile Justice Division, to which she was assigned in 2009. Judge Cooper was assigned to the juvenile calendar in the Sixth Municipal District in 2010. Judge Cooper is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her professionalism on the bench and for her court management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Mary E. Coghlan--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Mary E. Coghlan was an Assistant Attorney General for the Illinois Attorney General's Office, working in the General Law Division. She was also an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office. Before that, Judge Coghlan was in private practice. Since 2010, Judge Coghlan has been Presiding Judge of the Probate Division. She was first assigned to the Criminal Division in 1995 and transferred to the Probate Division in 2003. Judge Coghlan is praised for her administrative duties as Presiding Judge. As a trial judge, she is reportedly knowledgeable about the law, is well-prepared, and rules promptly. She is very involved in systemic reform efforts. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Clayton J. Crane—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Clayton J. Crane was in private practice. He has also served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County. Judge Crane is currently sitting at the Criminal Division. He was first assigned to the Criminal Division in 1998. Judge Crane is praised as an excellent jurist by both prosecutors and defense counsel. He is considered to be fair to all parties, and to have very good legal ability and temperament. He has been involved in the development of specialty courts and other reform efforts in the Criminal Division. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Anna Helen Demacopoulos--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Anna H. Demacopoulos was a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Demacopoulos was elected to the bench in 2008 and is currently sitting at the Sixth Municipal District, presiding over felony hearings. Her previous judicial assignments included domestic violence, misdemeanor and traffic hearings at the Sixth Municipal District. Judge Demacopoulos served on the Illinois Supreme Court Education Committee, where she was a topic writer for the DUI/Traffic bench book for judges. Judge Demacopoulos is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her work ethic and for her knowledge of the law. She is reported to have good courtroom management skills and holds attorneys in her courtroom to high standards. She has a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Lynn Marie Patricia Egan--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Lynn Egan was in private practice. She also served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Judge Egan is currently sitting in the Law Division. She was appointed to the bench in 1995 and elected in 1996. Her previous judicial assignments included the Fifth Municipal District. Judge Egan has authored many materials, the most recent of which are "Reconstruction Evidence," "Dead-Man's Act" and "Instructing the Jury on Sole Proximate Cause in Medical Negligence Cases." Judge Egan is considered to have good legal ability and to be very knowledgeable about civil law. She has a good temperament and court management skills. She is praised as a solid, hard-working jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Candace J. Fabri—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Candace J. Fabri was in private practice. She also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for nine years. Judge Fabri has taught at Loyola University School of Law and clerked for a district judge in the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Fabri has been sitting at the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Court since 1996. She is also presiding judge for the Family Treatment Court, where a judge, the lawyers, addiction specialists work with families where drug addiction has prevented reunification of a family. Judge Fabri is considered to have very good legal ability. She is praised for the quality and timeliness of her evidentiary rulings. Many respondents praised her opinions as "excellent" and "painstakingly thorough." She is also praised for her ability to handle a high volume courtroom. During this current evaluation, all respondents described her temperament as "very professional", "low key", "respectful" and/or "effective." Some respondents noted that she can be sharp with lawyers and caseworkers she believes are not prepared. She is often described as caring deeply for children and parents appearing in her courtroom. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Peter A. Felice--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Peter A. Felice was in private practice. Judge Felice is currently sitting at the Fifth Municipal District, where he presides over bond and preliminary hearings. He is also a supervising judge for traffic and misdemeanor hearings. Judge Felice's previous judicial assignments included the First Municipal District and the Domestic Violence Division. Judge Felice is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised as a hardworking jurist with a good grasp of the law and the ability to apply it. He is praised for his ability to move cases along while being respectful to those appearing before him. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Thomas E. Flanagan--Qualified

Thomas E. Flanagan has been a judge since his election in 1984. He has been assigned to the Law Division for most of his judicial career. Judge Flanagan hears civil jury cases at the Daley Center. Judge Flanagan is considered to have good legal ability. He is respected as a solid jurist with good temperament and case management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge James P. Flannery Jr.—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James P. Flannery worked as assistant corporation counsel in municipal and federal litigation for the City of Chicago until 1980, when he was hired as an associate attorney for Murphy, Preston & Jaffe. Judge Flannery worked in corporate, real estate, and labor law for two years before establishing a general practice as an associate at John T. Mitchell & associates. In 1984 Flannery worked as a solo practitioner maintaining his general practice before being hired as chief assistant attorney general where he was assigned to the Land Acquisition division in 1985.

Judge Flannery's current assignment is Presiding Judge of the Law Division, where he has served since January, 2014 and supervised approximately 50 judges in the Law Division. His administrative duties include handling assignment and motion calls, as well as hearing contested motions involving the Law Jury section, Motion section, Commercial section, Tax and Miscellaneous section, and Individual calendar section of the Law Division of the Circuit Court. Previous judicial assignments include an assignment to the Law Division, Jury Section in 1997, where he presided over jury trials primarily involving personal injury and commercial cases. Before that, Judge Flannery spent 5 years assigned to the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County where he heard every type of felony case, including death penalty cases, with as many as 300 cases on his docket at any given time.

Judge Flannery is considered to have very good legal ability and an excellent knowledge of the law. He is praised for his legal analysis of often complex issues and is reported to serve as a mentor to many other judges. He is also praised for his fairness and integrity – some respondents noted that he is willing to reconsider a ruling if sufficiently persuaded. He has an excellent demeanor and many respondents noted that he treats all parties fairly while having a calm yet effective temperament. He is reported to be exceptionally hard-working and many respondents noted that he is always prepared for court proceedings. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Jack Fleming--Qualified

Before becoming a judge, Jack Fleming worked for nine years as an assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 1991 to 1994 he served as a Deputy Attorney General supervising litigation for the Chicago Park District before working as a solo practitioner in probate, criminal, traffic and administrative law and judge for the City of Chicago in various departments. During that time Judge Fleming also worked as Director of Administrative Hearings for the Department of Streets and Sanitation in the City of Chicago from 1994-1996. Judge Fleming is currently assigned to the Probate Division where presides over all of the Probate courtrooms and acts as a relief judge since January of 2010. He presides over minor guardianships of the person and estate, Adult Guardianships, and Decedent's Estates. Judge Fleming is considered to have good legal ability with a calm temperament. He is praised as being hard-working and always well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Justice Rodolfo Garcia—Well Qualified

Justice Rodolfo Garcia was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2003 and served there until 2012. He is now assigned to the Chancery Division. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. From 1983 to 1996, Judge Garcia worked as a sole practitioner with concentrations in criminal defense and immigration. From 1981 to 1983, he worked as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals Division. In March 2011, he was appointed to fill the elected spot of retiring Appellate Court Judge Michael J. Gallagher.

As an Appellate Court Judge, Judge Garcia was praised for being well-prepared for oral argument and for issuing well-reasoned, well-written opinions. As a trial judge, he is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. The Council found him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court during the 2012 primary election. He is also an excellent trial judge. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Judge James Gavin--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James Gavin worked as a partner in general practice at Gavin & Gavin PC in Cook County, IL from 1985-1996. Judge Gavin is currently assigned to the 4th Municipal District where he was worked since December, 2007. He hears both municipal and law cases and presides over forcible entry and detainer actions, small claims and administrative matters. Judge Gavin is also head of a specialty court, the Mental Health Court. Judge Gavin's previous judicial assignment included Misdemeanor cases in the 4th Municipal District from 2003 to 2007, as well as seven years in the Domestic Relations Division at the Daley Center and in the 6th Municipal District. Judge Gavin is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised as a hard-working judge who is fair and respectful to all parties, and knows how to manage his courtroom. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Justice Robert E. Gordon—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Robert Gordon spent 5 years working as an Associate Partner doing Insurance Defense work at Gordon & Brustin, followed by 10 years as a Partner and Insurance Defense litigator for Gordon Brustin. He then spent another 5 years as a Partner at Gordon, Schaefer, & Gordon, Ltd. where he represented both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation. Gordon then became President of Gordon & Gordon, Ltd. where he spent 15 years in General Litigation.

Justice Gordon is currently a Circuit Court judge sitting by appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Appellate Court, First District since 2005. Justice Gordon is presiding judge of the Fifth Division and was previously presiding judge of the Sixth Division. Prior judicial assignments also included presiding over jury cases as a Jury trial Judge in the Law Division at Richard Daley Center, and presiding as a Jury Trial judge in the Municipal Division. He reports that he is currently working on a textbook on evidence which has yet to be published. Additionally Judge Gordon is a member of the Appellate Court Administrative Committee.

Justice Gordon is considered to be a highly knowledgeable Appellate Court Justice who is praised for the quality of his written opinions and for the quality of his questioning during oral argument. He is considered to be exceptionally hard-working and prepared. He was also praised as an excellent trial judge before 2005. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Justice Thomas E. Hoffman—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Thomas Hoffman worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the Chicago Department of Law and as an attorney in the private sector. Currently Justice dge Hoffman serves on the Illinois Appellate Court for the First District, where he has worked since 1993. Prior to joining the Appellate Court in 1993, Justice Hoffman served in the Law Division. Justice Hoffman is highly praised for his excellent knowledge of the law and for the quality of his written opinions. He is

respected as a mentor for other judges. He is also praised for his work ethic – he is described generally as being always well-prepared. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Appellate Court.

Judge Margarita Kulys Hoffman--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Margarita Hoffman's was in private practice and spent four years as staff attorney and primary counsel for the Office of Legal Counsel at the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2006.

Judge Hoffman was assigned to the 3rd Municipal District in Rolling Meadows in 2006. She currently presides over misdemeanor cases, violations of supervision and probation, the mental health court and the veteran's court, housing matters, as well as traffic and local ordinance violations. Judge Hoffman is considered to have good legal ability and respondents give her excellent marks for temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Justice Michael Hyman—Well Qualified

Justice Hyman was assigned to the First Judicial District of the Illinois Appellate Court effective January 2013. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2006 after being respected private sector practitioner since 1979. Justice Hyman is a former president of the Chicago Bar Association and the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, and former chair of the Bench and bar Section of the Illinois State Bar Association. He has published numerous articles on legal issues. As a trial judge, Justice Hyman was reported to have very good legal ability and temperament. He was praised for the quality of his written opinions and for his ability to thoughtfully bring about fair settlements. He was and continues to be well-respected for his dedication to improving the judicial system. As an Appellate Court Justice, he continues to be praised for his work ethic and for the quality of his written opinions. He is reported to be well-prepared. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Judge Marilyn Johnson—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Marilyn Johnson worked as a staff attorney for the Legal Assistance Foundation in Chicago providing civil representation of indigent clients. She then worked for a year as Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, Department of Law, followed by nine years as Deputy Corporation Counsel in the same department. Between November 1994 and December 1995 Johnson worked as General Counsel for the Chicago Housing Authority, before becoming General Counsel for the Chicago Board of Education. In March, 2003 she began working as Chief of Staff for the Illinois State Toll highway Authority in a managerial/administrative capacity until 2006.

Judge Johnson is assigned to the Child Protection Division of the Cook County Court, where she has served since 2006. Judge Johnson is widely praised for being a hard-working jurist who is very knowledgeable. She has very good legal ability, as demonstrated by both her performance as a judge and in the wide array of professional positions she held before becoming a judge. She is praised for combining her legal knowledge with common sense – a combination praised by practitioners. Her opinions are considered well-reasoned. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Rickey Jones--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Rickey Jones worked as a Judge Advocate for the General Corp. U.S. Navy at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. Jones' was prosecution and/or defense counsel at military court-martials, medical and disciplinary discharge boards and as special assistant U.S. Attorney. After 4 years at the Naval Training Center, Jones became an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County where he worked in the Juvenile Prosecutions and Child Protection Division from 1990 to 1996.

Judge Jones is currently assigned to Criminal Court, Courtroom 304 where he has presided over trials, motions and related hearings involving felony cases since February, 2003. Previously he presided over misdemeanor trials, motions and related hearings including those for issuance of civil and criminal orders of protection in Domestic Violence Court. Judge Jones is considered to have good legal ability who is praised for being well-prepared. He reported treats all parties fairly and his rulings are considered well-reasoned. He is considered to be a solid jurist. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Themis Karnezis – Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Themis Karnezis worked as a lawyer in criminal, workers' compensation and real estate tax matters. He then served as an Associate Judge and, later as a Circuit Judge. From 1983 to 1998 he was assigned to the Criminal Division. He then went to the Law Division, and became the Presiding Judge of the Fourth Municipal District in 1999. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2002 and served there until 2012. Judge Karnezis then served as Supervising Judge at the Traffic Center. In 2014, he was transferred to the Law Division. Judge Karnezis has been regarded as one of the Circuit Court's best trial judges and was considered an excellent Appellate Justice, as well. He has outstanding legal knowledge, integrity, temperament, and diligence. He serves as a mentor to practitioners and to other judges. Some lawyers are reporting that recently Judge Karnezis has been having difficulty with stamina, but the Council notes that for most of his career Judge Karnezis has been an outstanding jurist. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention based on the totality of his career.

Judge Kerry M. Kennedy--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kerry Kennedy worked as Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1979 to 2002. Currently Judge Kennedy is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District hearing the priority call, violation call, and preliminary hearings. Judge Kennedy is considered to be a knowledgeable jurist doing a good job in his current assignment. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Kathleen Kennedy—Qualified

Prior to her election to the Circuit Court in 1996, Kathleen Kennedy worked as a law clerk to Illinois Appellate Justice Dom Rizzi, and to then U.S. Magistrate Lefkow. She was a supervising attorney in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office for approximately five years, and a Circuit Court hearing officer in child protection cases for approximately two years. Her initial assignment as a judge was to the expedited child support calendar and served there until 2008. From 2008 to 2012 she was assigned to an individual calendar in the Domestic Relations Division. In 2012 she was assigned to the Chancery Division. All respondents say she is regarded as well-informed in the law and thorough in her handling of the matters coming before her. She is always well-prepared and conducts whatever research is necessary. She is praised for her legal ability, with many respondents saying she could handle cases in any division

of the Circuit Court. Several respondents who appeared before her in the past praised her for her ability to deal with pro se litigants. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Diana Lee Kenworthy--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Diana Kenworthy was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1996 to 2000. In 2004, she began working as an arbitrator for the Circuit Court's Mandatory Arbitration Program before becoming a hearing officer in the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Between 2000 and 2008 Kenworthy also developed her practice as a partner at Jester, Kenworthy and Eagle LLC. She was elected to the bench in 2008. Currently, Judge Kenworthy sits in the Domestic Violence Division, but prior to that assignment she served in the First Municipal District in both Traffic Court and the branch courts where she presided over misdemeanor cases and felony preliminary hearings. Judge Kenworthy is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is considered to be adept at dealing with unrepresented parties appearing before her – a substantial number in her current assignment. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Maureen Ward Kirby--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Maureen was partner at Bell, Boyd and Lloyd (now known as KL Gates), after spending seven years there as an associate and summer associate between 1989 and 1995. Judge Kirby was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2007, and was elected to the bench in 2008. Currently she is assigned to the County Division where she has served since 2009. Judge Kirby presides over adoptions, civil mental health proceedings, election disputes, tax disputes and other matters. Judge Kirby served from January 2008 through early September 2009 in the Domestic Relations Division, where she was assigned to the domestic violence courthouse.

Judge Kirby is considered to have very good legal ability. She is praised for her knowledge of the law and for her well-reasoned opinions. She is described as “meticulous” in her work as a jurist and is always well-prepared. She is courteous and polite on the bench and is reported to be respectful to every party appearing before her. She is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is considered hard-working and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge William G. Lacy—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, William G. Lacy spent six and a half years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, two years as an associate doing personal injury defense work for Fidelity National Law Group, and nearly five years as a partner at Tressler LLP doing insurance defense work. He was elected to the bench in 1996. Currently, Judge Lacy is assigned to the Criminal Division, Courtroom 604 where he has served since 2001. His previous judicial duties include an initial assignment to the 1st Municipal District, followed by three years as an evening narcotics judge, before being assigned as a back-up judge in the criminal division. Judge Lacy is considered to have good legal ability and exhibits a professional demeanor on the bench. He is respectful of all parties. He is praised for his decisiveness and is well-regarded as a jurist. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Marjorie Laws—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Marjorie Laws worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She did criminal litigation in the Public Interest Bureau doing Child Support Enforcement and Consumer Fraud cases; she worked as a trial assistant in the First Municipal District, followed by six years in the Felony Trial Division. Earlier in her career Judge Laws was a title examiner for the Chicago Title and Trust Company and was a partner at Cunningham and Cunningham where her practice primarily engaged in civil litigation with an emphasis on corporate, real estate, and domestic relations law.

Judge Laws is currently the Presiding Judge of the Sixth Municipal District. Her previous judicial duties include eight years assigned to the Criminal Division at 26th and California handling a felony caseload. Before becoming a presiding judge she spent several years assigned to the First Municipal District and to the Juvenile Justice Division. Judge Laws is considered to have very good legal ability and is respected as both a trial judge and as an administrator. As a judge, she is reported to be well prepared and to treat all parties fairly and respectfully. She is praised for her courtroom management skills. As an administrator, she has worked to improve the Sixth Municipal District, including working to improve the quality of the judiciary. She has worked to establish programs designed to improve access to justice. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Cassandra Lewis—Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Cassandra Lewis spent nine years in private practice and two years as an Assistant Kane County State's Attorney. She was elected to the bench in 2002. She was recently assigned to the Law Division, but spent most of her current judicial term assigned to the First Municipal District hearing jury trials. Many lawyers report that Judge Lewis is doing a good job in her assignment in the First Municipal District. She is praised for her temperament and fairness. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Thomas Lipscomb--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Thomas Lipscomb spent five years as a Cook County Public Defender before entering private practice. Since December 2013, Judge Lipscomb has been assigned to room 2105 hearing jury trials and contested motions. He previously served in the Law Division Trial section following his assignment to the First Municipal District, Civil Trial Section. From March 2003 to 2007 he was assigned to the Forcible Entry and Detainer Section of the First Municipal District. Judge Lipscomb is considered to have good legal ability, and he is praised for well-reasoned opinions. He is reported to have good temperament and is praised for being hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Pamela Loza—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Pamela Loza was a partner at Loza & Associates, Ltd., where handled mostly divorce and criminal cases in numerous counties in Illinois. She also spent time as partner at Cameron, Loza & Associates and Cameron, Loza and Walsh, P.C. from 1987-2002 and 1984-1987 respectively. As an associate at Marder & Seidler Ltd. she practiced in divorce and criminal court after four years working as a Cook County assistant state's attorney.

Currently Judge Loza is supervising judge in the Parentage/Child Support Enforcement Department of the Domestic Relations Division. She is responsible for day to day operation of the department and its

numerous personnel, and has her own daily status and trial calls. Previous judicial service includes a year as a judge in traffic court and four years as a trial judge in the domestic relations division from 2009 - 2012. Judge Loza is considered to have very good legal ability and is described as being very knowledgeable about the law. Most lawyers say she has good temperament – exhibiting patience that respondents tell us is necessary in her current assignment. She is praised for being able to manage a high volume courtroom. She is considered to be well-prepared and is respectful of the parties before her. She has participated in major efforts to bring about systemic reform of the Domestic Relations Division. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge Patricia Martin—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Patricia Martin was a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She was elected to the bench in 1996. She served in the Child Protection Division through July 1998, when she was transferred to the Law Division. She returned to the Child Protection Division as Presiding Judge in January 2000. She has been instrumental in creating new approaches to juvenile justice. She teaches and lectures extensively on representation of minorities in foster care, educational outcomes for children in foster care, and mediation in child protection cases. Respondents with experience with Judge Martin as a trial judge reported that she has a very good grasp of the law and that she controlled the courtroom well. Respondents with knowledge of her abilities as a presiding judge praised her administrative abilities and many praised her innovations and her training of judges. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Mary Ann Mason—Well Qualified

Justice Mary Anne Mason was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in July 2013. She was appointed to the Circuit by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000, and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2002. After serving in the Traffic Division, she served for two years in the Juvenile Justice Section. From July 2003 to July 2013 she was assigned to the Chancery Division presiding over cases involving injunctive relief, declaratory judgments, administrative reviews, partnership and corporate disputes, trust construction, and restrictive covenants. Before taking the bench, she worked in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office and worked for Kevin M. Forde, Ltd (now the Forde Law Offices) doing commercial litigation and appeals. Before going on the bench, she had extensive experience in complex litigation and appellate matters.

Justice Mason has been hearing cases as an Appellate Justice for about a year. Lawyers report generally that she is well-prepared and is active during oral argument. Respondents who have received written opinions say her opinions are well-reasoned and well-written. As a judge in the Chancery Division, she was reported to have very good legal ability and temperament. Many respondents commented on their impression that she understood even complex issues. Off the bench, Justice Mason has lectured widely on issues considered in the Chancery Division. She reports that she prepares materials for the Judicial Conference. She also reports that as chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Discovery Procedures, she participated in preparing a report to the Illinois Supreme Court “regarding the status of e-discovery rules nationwide.” The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Veronica Mathein--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Veronica Mathein was in private practice focusing on residential and commercial real estate and domestic relations. She has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division since her election to the bench in 1996. Judge Mathein is reported to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is considered to be well-prepared and decisive in her rulings. She is reported to have good temperament and is praised for her courtroom management. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Sheila McGinnis--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Sheila McGinnis was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and before then, she had been employed as a victim/witness specialist with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Judge McGinnis is currently dually assigned to the Fifth Municipal District and the Domestic Violence Division. Judge McGinnis' previous judicial assignments included civil cases, administrative duties, traffic/misdemeanor cases, jury misdemeanors and domestic violence cases at the First Municipal District from Dec. 2002 until July 2010. Lawyers report that Judge McGinnis is a solid jurist, with good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for being fair and respectful to all parties appearing before her, and for her courtroom management skills generally. She was arrested in a highly publicized DUI in 2008, but despite being given a reprimand by the Judicial Inquiry Board, there are no indications that there is a continuing problem. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Dennis McGuire--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Dennis McGuire worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, initially in the Hospitals and Special Litigation Unit representing Cook County Hospital in the Circuit Court in the areas of collection, probate and building zoning. In 1992 McGuire pivoted to real estate tax litigation and represented Cook County along with the Treasurer, Assessor and Collector in the Circuit Court of Cook County and Appellate Court. Currently Judge McGuire serves in the First Municipal Division on Torts and Contract non-jury cases. His assignment there began in 2006 after five years working in Traffic court in the First Municipal Division. Judge McGuire is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to have good temperament and to be respectful of all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Kathleen Marie McGury--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kathleen McGury served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, working in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1995 and was elected to the bench in 1996. Currently, Judge McGury is assigned to the Probate Division where she has presided over guardianships of the person and estate of adults with disabilities. Between 2011 and 2013 she was handling Minor Guardianships and Estates. Her previous judicial duties include the Child Protection Division and the Fourth Municipal District. The Council in its 2008 evaluation of Judge McGury found that she had significant difficulties on the bench in the Probate Division where she had just been assigned. The current evaluation concluded that lawyers consider her to be doing a good job on the bench. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has successfully transitioned to a more difficult judicial assignment, and she is praised for being well prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Lewis Nixon--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Lewis Nixon was regional counsel for the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development from 1983 until 2002. Before that, Judge Nixon was a trial attorney for the Burlington Northern Railroad Council Law Department until 1983, after which he was an associate at Conklin & Adler from 1979-1980. Judge Nixon began his professional career as an assistant to the Northern District of Illinois State's Attorney from 1975 to 1979. He became an Associate Judge in 2001 and was elected to the bench in 2002. Judge Nixon is currently the Supervising Judge of the Mortgage Foreclosure/ Mechanics Lien Section of the Chancery Division. Judge Nixon's previous judicial assignments included sitting at the Chancery division hearing Mechanics Lien cases until 2008, when he was appointed Supervising Judge. Judge Nixon is considered to have very good legal ability. He is praised for his courtroom management. Many lawyers praise him for giving pro se litigants information about the process and gives them an opportunity to be heard. Some respondents claim that he can be slow to rule, but most lawyers say that he is a solid jurist who is balancing the duties of an administrator and a trial judge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge William O'Brien--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, William O'Brien served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since May 1985. He was elected to the bench in 2002. Judge O'Brien is currently dually assigned to the Criminal Division and the Second Municipal District where he conducts bench and jury trials, motions, post-conviction proceedings, bond hearings and guilty pleas. Judge O'Brien's previous judicial assignments included bond hearings, ordinance violations, preliminary hearings, traffic citations, and misdemeanors and domestic violence calls in the 2nd Municipal District. Judge O'Brien is considered to be a very experienced and knowledgeable judge. He is considered to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor on the bench. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Ann O'Donnell—Not Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ann Louise O'Donnell served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender between 1987 and 1995. She was a solo practitioner focusing on criminal defense matters between 1995 and 2008. She was elected to the bench in 2008. She currently presides over the Preliminary Hearing Call. Her past assignments include serving as a floating judge in misdemeanor and felony branch courts. Lawyers report that she has the legal ability and knowledge necessary for her current assignment. Many lawyers, however criticize her judicial temperament as being unduly flip, sarcastic and rude. Judge O'Donnell was criticized by some lawyers for a recent practice (within the past year) of refusing to appoint an Assistant Public Defender to a number of indigent defendants in the belief that family members should have been paying for a private lawyer. She was doing this while failing to conduct a required indigency hearing – defendants were not being asked to complete the asset and liability form provided by the Circuit Court. More egregiously, she required certain of those defendants to return to her courtroom the next day with a private attorney, and continued to order these defendants to return each and every day until they were represented by private counsel. This sometimes went on for weeks, and was described by many as an abusive practice. Chief Judge Evans has now issued a General Order requiring an indigency determination before an Assistant Public Defender can be appointed or denied.

Judge O'Donnell apparently now often requires defendants to complete an affidavit of assets and liabilities before she decides whether an Assistant Public Defender is to be assigned. It is now much more common for an Assistant Public Defender to be appointed in her courtroom. The Council must weigh the positive comments we heard against the negative comments regarding her temperament and her recent actions regarding the appointment of counsel. The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Judge James O'Hara--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James O'Hara was a solo practitioner in Chicago and also served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Judge O'Hara is currently sitting at the Law Division hearing motions cases. Judge O'Hara's previous judicial assignments included traffic court cases from June 2008 to August 2010. Judge O'Hara is considered by lawyers to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his legal knowledge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Eileen O'Neill Burke was a solo practitioner for seven years. Before that, Judge Burke was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for Cook County for 10 years. Judge Burke is currently assigned to the Law Division presiding over commercial calendar cases. Judge Burke's previous judicial assignments included motion calls and tax and miscellaneous remedies cases. Judge Burke is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to have a good temperament and to be well-prepared. She has a professional demeanor and is praised for being fair to all parties while moving her court call sufficiently. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Sebastian Patti—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Sebastian Thomas Patti was Assistant Regional Counsel at the US Environmental Protection Agency and practiced federal civil environmental enforcement litigation from 1979-1995. Judge Patti is currently the presiding judge of the Domestic Violence Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Patti previously sat at the Chancery Division from 2010 to 2011, and then as appointed to the First Division Appellate Court from 2009 to 2010. He served as the supervising judge of the Housing Court between 1999 and 2009. Judge Patti was first appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1995. Judge Patti is considered to have very good legal ability and a dedication to improving the administration of justice. He is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law and has an excellent temperament. He serves as a mentor to other judges. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Edmond Ponce de Leon--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Edmund Ponce de Leon had a private practice and litigated criminal, family law, probate and real estate cases. Judge Ponce de Leon is currently the Presiding Judge of the County Division. His previous judicial assignments included the 4th Municipal District Presiding Judge from 2002 to 2010, the commercial section of the Law Division from January 2001 to March 2001 and the Domestic Relations Division from 1996 to 2001. Throughout these divisions he heard a variety of civil cases, municipal violations, misdemeanor and felony matters, commercial cases, pre-trial motions, bench trials, jury trials and divorce and paternity matters. Judge Ponce de Leon is considered to have good legal

ability and temperament. He has sought to improve the administration of justice as the presiding judge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Jackie Marie Portman--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Jackie Marie Portman was general counsel at the Independent Police Review Authority from 2005 to 2008. From 1998 to 2005, Judge Portman served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Portman is currently the Presiding Judge of Adult Redeploy Illinois for the First Municipal District as well as the Presiding Judge of the State's Attorney Office Deferred Prosecution Program. From November 2008 to March 2009, Judge Portman's previous judicial assignments included First Municipal District traffic court hearings, motions and bench trials and domestic violence cases in the First Municipal District. Judge Portman is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being a hard-working jurist who cares about well-being of defendants in her courtroom. She is praised for her ability to manage her court call. A few defense counsel complain that she can get inappropriately "animated" in the courtroom, but most respondents praised her temperament. She is reportedly always well-prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention in her current assignment.

Judge Joan Powell—Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Joan Powell was an Assistant State's Attorney for the Civil Division of Cook County from 2000 to 2006. Between 1996 and 2000 she served as judicial law clerk for two Circuit Court judges. Judge Powell began her professional legal career in 1992 as a solo practitioner of contract cases and family law. Judge Powell was elected to the bench in 2008. She is currently sitting at the Law Division hearing jury trials. Judge Powell's previous judicial assignments included the Commercial Calendar in the Law Division. Before the Law Division, she heard Forcible Entry and Detainer jury cases. Judge Powell is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to be hard-working and to have a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge James L. Rhodes--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James L. Rhodes was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1975 until 1996. There, he worked on appeals, the homicide task force, and the Multiple Defendant Division. Judge Rhodes is currently sitting as a back-up judge in the 6th Municipal District, covering criminal and traffic cases. Judge Rhodes' previous judicial assignments included service in the Sixth Municipal District hearing misdemeanor, traffic and felony cases from 1999 to 2013. Judge Rhodes is considered to have good legal ability. However, some lawyers report that Judge Rhodes is thought to be biased in favor of defendants. In 2008, the Council noted this observation but found that after a review of appellate court decisions and extensive interviews that was no clear evidence of this bias. There is no evidence of any change during the current evaluation. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge James G. Riley--Qualified

Judge James G. Riley was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and currently sits in the Probate Division. He has been in this Division for most of his judicial career. He was in private practice before being elected to the bench. He teaches at the John Marshall Law School.

He is regarded as being knowledgeable about the law and a good problem-solver. He listens to all parties before him and is praised for his even-temperament, integrity and decisiveness. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Anita Rivkin-Carothers--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Anita Rivkin-Carothers was in private practice between 1987 and 2007 doing complex criminal defense litigation.. She also for several years as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender in the felony trial division. Judge Rivkin-Carothers is currently sitting at the First Municipal District where she presides over bodily injury and property damage jury trials. Judge Rivkin-Carothers is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and for being respectful of all parties appearing before her. She is reportedly fair to parties and is knowledgeable about the law. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Patrick T. Rogers--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Patrick T. Rogers was in private practice. He was appointed as a Hearing Officer for parking citations and traffic offenses. He also served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Rogers is currently sitting in the Fifth Municipal District. He was elected to the bench in 2008. Judge Rogers is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is reported to be knowledgeable and he is praised for the quality of his opinions. He is often asked to mentor other judges. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Dominique Ross—Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Dominique Ross was a solo practitioner. She was elected to the bench in 2008. She currently serves as a trial judge in the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Ross is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for being respectful of unrepresented litigants. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Kristyna C. Ryan--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kristyna C. Ryan was in private practice. Judge Ryan is currently sitting at the Fourth Municipal District. Additionally, she is assigned to Drug Treatment Court. Judge Ryan was elected to the bench in 2008. She was assigned to the Fourth Municipal District in 2010. Judge Ryan had little litigation experience when she was elected to the bench and faced a substantial learning curve. But lawyers now report that she has become a hard-working jurist with good legal knowledge and ability to manage her courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Patrick J. Sherlock--Qualified

Judge Patrick J. Sherlock was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007. From 1994 to 2007, Judge Sherlock worked as a sole practitioner specializing in commercial litigation. From 1990 to 1994, he worked for two private law firms doing commercial litigation. He is assigned currently to the Commercial Calendar Section of the Law Division. His past assignment includes the First Municipal District where he heard post-judgment enforcement matters. He is reported to have a good temperament with good courtroom

management skills. He is praised for his ability to handle pro se litigants with respect and professionalism. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Laura Marie Sullivan—Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Laura Sullivan served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney as both a trial attorney and as a supervisor. Judge Sullivan is currently sitting at the First Municipal District, where she presides over bond hearings. She was first elected to the bench in 2002. Judge Sullivan’s previous judicial assignments included the Traffic Court, Felony Preliminary Hearing Section, and Misdemeanor Section in the First Municipal District, and the Domestic Violence Division. Judge Sullivan is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is reported to be well prepared and hard working. Judge Sullivan has been criticized in the press on two separate occasions. While these incidents give the Council pause, on balance the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Donald Joseph Suriano--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Donald Suriano was senior counsel for the Chicago Park District, and was in private practice. Judge Suriano is currently sitting at the Law Division. His previous judicial assignments included the First Municipal District, where he presided over civil jury trials, domestic violence bond court and traffic court. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. Judge Suriano is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his court management skills. He is reported to be a solid jurist with a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Shelley Sutker-Dermer—Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Shelley Sutker-Dermer served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Judge Sutker-Dermer is currently the Presiding Judge of the Second Municipal District. Judge Sutker-Dermer was appointed to the bench in 1995 and was elected in 1996. Judge Sutker-Dermer is considered to have very good legal ability and is well respected by respondents as doing an excellent job as Presiding Judge. She is part of the new judges training program, as well as other court reform initiatives. Lawyers report that it is their perception that the Skokie Courthouse (Second Municipal District) runs efficiently. She also has a court call and is praised for her temperament and her courtroom management. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Judge Michael Philip Toomin—Highly Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Michael Toomin was in private practice. He also served as an Assistant Public Defender for Cook County. Judge Toomin is currently sitting at the Juvenile Justice Division as a Presiding Judge. He was elected to the First Municipal District in 1980. His previous judicial assignments included the Appellate Court of Illinois, the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and the Second Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Toomin authored “Second Degree Murder and Attempted Murder: CLEAR’s Efforts to Maneuver the Slippery Slope” for the *John Marshall Law Review*. Judge Toomin is widely respected as an excellent judge and administrator. He has very good legal ability and temperament – both on the bench and as an administrator off the bench. He is praised for being exceptionally hard-working. As a judge, his rulings are considered well-reasoned and decisive. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

Judge Sandra Tristano-Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Sandra Tristano served as counsel for various governmental agencies, including the Pace Suburban Bus Service, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and Illinois Department of Public Aid. She was also a board member on the Illinois Labor Relations Board. Additionally, she took private cases. Judge Tristano is currently sitting at the Third Municipal District. She was first elected to the bench in 2002. Judge Tristano's previous judicial assignments included the Traffic Court and the Housing Section in the First Municipal District. Judge Tristano is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to be exceptionally hard-working. She is praised for her temperament, and is often reported to be exceptionally patient – particularly in light of the substantial number of unrepresented individuals appearing before her. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Valerie E. Turner--Qualified

Before taking the bench, Valerie E. Turner served as an Associate with Kirkland & Ellis between 1991 and 1997. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney between 1997 and 2000, and was a business consultant to a private company between 2000 and 2002. She was elected to the bench in 2002. She is currently assigned to the Sixth Municipal District, presiding over traffic and ordinance cases. She serves as a backup-judge for misdemeanor cases. In the past, she has presided in Domestic Violence Court in the Sixth Municipal District. The Council in the 2008 retention evaluation, said that Judge Turner was having difficulty with temperament and diligence. Since that evaluation, Judge Turner requested and received a transfer to her current assignment. Lawyers in the current evaluation report that she has a good temperament and there have been no reports of issues relating to problems with diligence. She is considered to be a solid jurist doing a good job in her current assignment. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Kenneth John Wadas--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kenneth Wadas served as the Director of Court Services for the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was also in private practice doing criminal defense work, and has served as an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Judge Wadas is currently sitting at the Criminal Division, where he has been a Supervising Judge since 2009. Judge Wadas has served in the Criminal Division since his election to the bench in 1996. Judge Wadas is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for being fair to all parties appearing before him. He is considered to be very knowledgeable about the law and is decisive in his rulings. He is praised for always being well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Raul Vega--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Raul Vega was in private practice. He was also a staff attorney for Alderman Luis V. Gutierrez of the 26th Ward. Judge Vega has been sitting at the Domestic Relations Division since 2003. He was elected to the bench in 2002. His previous judicial assignments included the First Municipal District, to which he was first assigned in 2002. Judge Vega authored materials and outlines for participants of the Judicial Education Conference in 2012 and 2014. Judge Vega is generally well respected as a hard-working, knowledgeable jurist. He is praised for his impartiality and courtroom

management. The Council is concerned that some lawyers report that Judge Vega can become short-tempered on the bench, but, on balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Debra B. Walker--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Debra B. Walker was a partner at the firm Clausen Miller PC, litigating professional liability cases from 1996 until 2008. After working as an associate at Williams & Montgomery for 6 years, Judge Walker was a Senior Associate at Brydges, Riseborough, Peterson, Franke and Morris from 1993 to 1996. Judge Walker began her professional career as a staff accountant at McGladrey, Hendrickson& Pullen and left in 1984. Judge Walker is currently hearing domestic relations expedited hearings cases at the Daley Center. Judge Walker's previous judicial assignments include parentage court trials and hearings from 2009 to 2011 as well as traffic court trials & hearings during the year prior. Judge Walker has authored "Mentoring Matters," published in April 2012 in the ISBA Bench & Bar newsletter. Judge Walker is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament, particularly in light of the challenging emotional environment of the cases over which she presides. She is reported to have good courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Ursula Walowski--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ursula Walowski was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1994 to 2008, at which time she was elected to the bench. Before serving as a prosecutor, she worked at the Legal Department in the First National Bank of Chicago from the summer of 1993 to December of that year. Judge Walowski is currently sitting at the Domestic Violence Division presiding over misdemeanor and felony domestic violence criminal calls. Judge Walowski's previous judicial assignments included the Traffic Division in the First Municipal District for a year until she switched to the Domestic Violence Division in 2009. Judge Walowski is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law and impartiality. She is reported to have a good temperament and good courtroom management of a very busy court call. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Judge Gregory Wojkowski--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Gregory Wojkowski worked at the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office in litigation for 16 years. In 1979 Judge Wojkowski began as an Assistant Counsel, then in 1985 became a Senior Attorney Supervisor and in 1989 until 1997 he was a Chief Assistant. Judge Wojkowski is currently sitting at the Law Division Trial Section, presiding over civil jury trials which have a value of over \$50,000. Judge Wojkowski's previous judicial assignments included civil jury trials in the First Municipal District from 1998 until 2011. Judge Wojkowski's first assignment was to preside over the Housing Ordinance Violation Trial Call in the First Municipal District for several months before being assigned to hear civil jury trials. Judge Wojkowski is considered to have good legal ability. He is widely respected as a hard-working, diligent jurist who is always well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judge Frank G. Zelezinski--Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Frank G. Zelezinski served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Zelezinski is currently a felony trial Judge in the Sixth Municipal District. Judge Zelezinski's

previous judicial assignments were all in the Sixth Municipal District. From 2005 to 2007 he served as a supervising misdemeanor Judge. Prior to that he served as the supervising felony Judge from 2001 to 2005. From 1999, he presided over misdemeanor calls and was the supervising misdemeanor judge handling the jury room from 1998 to 1999. Judge Zelezinski began his career handling traffic and then misdemeanor cases beginning in December 1996. Judge Zelezinski is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his courtroom management skills. He is widely respected as solid jurist who shows respect toward those appearing before him and whose rulings are well-reasoned and decisive. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

**Judicial Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies
in the November 2014 General Election**

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, 1st District (Vacancy of Gordon)

Hon. Sheldon (Shelly) A. Harris -- Qualified

Judge Sheldon A. Harris since 2010 has been the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Court, First District, Second Division. Before going to the Appellate Court, he served as a trial judge assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section, where he presided over jury and non-jury trials. He was appointed to the bench in 2000, but lost in the 2002 primary election. He was reappointed to the bench in 2005 and served in the Municipal Department until January 2008. He served in Law Division between 2008 and 2010.

Judge Harris enjoyed a good reputation as a lawyer. Since returning to the bench in 2005, practitioners reported that Judge Harris demonstrated a patient and professional demeanor. He was considered to be knowledgeable and hard-working. Those with experience in the Appellate Court say that he is attentive during oral arguments and that his opinions are well-reasoned and well-written. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, 1st District (Vacancy of Murphy)

David Wayne Ellis -- Qualified

David Wayne Ellis was admitted to practice in 1993. He is the Chief Counsel to the Illinois Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. He represents the Speaker in litigation matters, advises the Speaker on legislative issues such as legislative redistricting cases and the recent lawsuit against Governor Quinn over his line-item veto of legislative salaries. He also negotiates various legislative provisions. He served as House Prosecutor in the Blagojevich Senate Impeachment trial and served as a Special Assistant Attorney General defending the 2011 Illinois redistricting map in federal court against alleged violations of the federal Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause. From 1996 to 1998 he was an associate with Cahill, Christian & Kunkle doing civil litigation. From 1993 to 1996 he was an associate with Phelan Pope & John doing civil litigation. Mr. Ellis is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has extensive legislative experience as Chief Council to Speaker Michael Madigan and has significant experience in litigation-related matters. He has experience in substantial number of

community activities, including pro bono representation in litigation matters. Mr. Ellis reports handling four appellate matters as principal counsel and many respondents noted the high quality of his written work. The Council finds him Qualified for the Illinois Appellate Court.

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, 1st District (Vacancy of Steele)

Hon. John B. Simon – Well Qualified

Hon. John B. Simon was admitted to practice in 1967 and was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in November 2012. From 1967 to 1974 he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney where he rose to the position of Chief of the Civil Division. From 1975 to 1985 he was a partner with Friedman & Koven doing civil, criminal, and appellate litigation. He then served as a partner with the law firm of Jenner & Block, principally engaged in commercial litigation, until his appointment to the bench. As a lawyer, Judge Simon is described as a knowledgeable and respected litigator with very good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his litigation skills and was often described as a “superb litigator.” Judge Simon also receives high praise in his role as an appellate court judge. He is an active participant in oral argument – lawyers report that he asks the right questions – and he receives praise for his written opinions. He has been active in court reform activities. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Arnold)

Bridget Anne Mitchell -- Qualified

Bridget Anne Mitchell was admitted to practice in 1981. She has spent her career in private practice, with an extensive record of civil litigation in more complex matters with experience with both bench and jury trials. Much of her practice involves tort defense, medical malpractice, and wrongful death cases. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Burke)

Maritza Martinez – Qualified

Maritza Martinez was admitted to practice in 1989. She is an Associate in the Law Offices of Victor J. Cacciatore where she has a litigation practice in criminal defense, civil law, and administrative matters. She is a Commissioner for the Illinois Court of Claims. She has been an associate at the Law Offices of Robert Fisher doing criminal defense work. In 2004, she was at a small firm doing insurance defense and catastrophic loss work, and from 1991 until 2004, she was with the City of Chicago Department of Law doing prosecution and civil rights defense. Prior to 1991, she spent two years at a small firm doing real estate work. Since November 2007, she has also served part-time as a hearing officer and Commissioner with the Illinois Court of Claims, conducting trials and making recommendations to the Court of Claims judges regarding the disposition of various claims against the State of Illinois. She also currently serves on the Inquiry Board of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Ms. Martinez has litigation experience in both state and federal courts. In 2009 the Council stated in its evaluation: “Ms. Martinez is reported to have good legal ability and is considered knowledgeable about her areas of practice. She has had litigation experience in a variety of

areas and she is reported to possess a good temperament. She is active in community activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.” The results from the current evaluation show that Ms. Martinez has had additional litigation experience in complex areas and she continues to be praised for her temperament, her fairness as a Commissioner, and for her skills as a lawyer. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Connors)

Kristal Rivers – Not Qualified

Kristal Rivers was admitted to practice in Texas in 1996 and in Illinois in 1997. She is an Assistant Illinois Attorney General where she practices in the Sexually Violent Persons Bureau. She served as a Dallas County, Texas Assistant District Attorney from 1996 to 2000. In 2000 she returned to Illinois and from 2001 to 2010 practiced law as a solo practitioner and then as a member of a small firm before joining the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. Her work in private practice did not involve more complex litigation matters. Most respondents say that she has good legal ability and temperament. But the Council is concerned that her litigation experience lacks sufficient depth and breadth. Additionally, some lawyers in recent cases have questioned her litigation skills and diligence. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Egan)

Hon. Daniel J. Kubasiak -- Qualified

Hon. Daniel J. Kubasiak was admitted to practice in 1981. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2012 and is currently assigned to Traffic Court. Before becoming a judge, he had been in private practice for most of his career with the exception of serving as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Chicago between 1983 and 1987. He had substantial experience in more complex litigation matters. As a lawyer, he is considered as having good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his litigation skills. As a judge, he is praised as being diligent and respectful to all those before him. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Phelps Felton)

Patricia O’Brien Sheahan -- Qualified

Patricia O’Brien Sheahan was admitted to practice in 1996. She is currently the Associate General Counsel of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, where she oversees all litigation and claims made against her employer and its employees. She handles case investigations, pretrial discovery, and settlement negotiation. She handles and defends all employment/labor matters and claims before the EEOC, Illinois Department of Human Rights, and other administrative tribunals, including preparation and questioning of witnesses. She has prepared appellate briefs filed in both the Illinois Supreme Court and in the Illinois Appellate Court. From 1996 to 1999 she was a litigation associate with Baker & McKenzie in Chicago, working in the litigation and employment litigation practice groups. She reports that during her time at Baker, she first chaired a jury trial, represented clients in evidentiary proceedings, defended and took more than 50 depositions, and had an active motion practice. She is active in community affairs. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability and is praised for the quality of her

work product. She is considered to be knowledgeable, and always prepared. In general, Ms. Sheahan is considered to be a very good lawyer and case manager with experience in a variety of state and federal litigation matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Howse, Jr.)

Hon. Caroline Kate Moreland – Qualified

Hon. Caroline Moreland was admitted to practice in Illinois in November 1995 . From 1996-2010 she worked as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. She was appointed to the bench to fill a judicial vacancy in September 2010. As a prosecutor, Judge Moreland was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She prosecuted felony matters as a First Chair prosecutor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Lowrance)

Hon. Thomas Joseph Carroll – Qualified

Hon. Thomas Joseph Carroll was admitted in 1988. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011. He was an Assistant Public Defender for four years, moving from juvenile to misdemeanor to felony work. He had been a sole practitioner specializing in criminal defense. Mr. Carroll is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. Before becoming a judge he had substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He is praised as being hard-working and well prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of McDonald)

Hon. Cynthia Cobbs -- Qualified

Cynthia Cobbs was admitted to practice in 1988. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011. From 2002 to 2011, she served as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, where she drafted proposed amendments to Supreme Court rules, administered Supreme Court rules, was responsible for enforcing standards governing filing protocols for the offices of the circuit court clerks, and participated and facilitated Supreme Court committees. From 1997 to 2002, she was an attorney and then the Chief Legal Counsel for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. From 1990 to 1997 she was the senior judicial law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman. Since January 2013 she has been assigned to a civil trial call in the First Municipal District. From 2011 to 2013 she was assigned to the Traffic Division. Judge Cobbs is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to have a good judicial temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills in her current assignment. She explains her rulings to the parties and is considered to be knowledgeable, as well as patient with pro se litigants. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Neville, Jr.)

William B. Raines– Qualified

William B. Raines was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993 after a number of years in law enforcement. The candidate worked as a Cook County State’s Attorney for a little over one year, from January 1994

through June 1995, in the Narcotics Division. He was Special Counsel to the Freemont Corporation Insurance Company from May 1995 through May 2001. He then became Special Counsel to the National Insurance Crime Bureau's criminal and civil fraud prosecution department. He remained in this last position until November 2001 when he opened his law practice. During the last few years, Mr. Raines has acquired substantial trial experience to go along with his substantial non-litigation experience. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Reyes)

Diana Rosario – Not Qualified

Diana Rosario was admitted to practice in 1989. She currently is in-house Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, advising the Department on legal issues. She has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and from 1992 to 1995 she worked as an Administrative Hearing Officer for federal aviation violations. Ms. Rosario is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her knowledge of intergovernmental agreements and other issues related to her current position. The Council is concerned, however, that while she is respected in her current position, she does not have recent litigation experience in more complex matters. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

Judge, Cook County Judicial Circuit (Vacancy of Hill-Veal)

Hon. Andrea Michele Buford – Qualified

Hon. Andrea Michele Buford was admitted to practice in 1986. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011. Before becoming a judge, she had been a sole practitioner since 2001. She served as a Hearing Officer with the Illinois State Board of Education, a Commissioner with the Illinois Court of Claims, and a Hearing Officer with the Illinois Department of Human Services. From 1998 to 2001 she was a Partner with Buford Peters Ware & Zanzitis, and was an Associate and then a Partner with Jones Ware & Grenard from 1986 to 1998. She is exceptionally active in pro bono service and community activities. Judge Buford is reported to have good legal ability, a good temperament and a breadth of experience. She is considered to be hard-working and always well prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 2nd Subcircuit (Vacancy of O'Neal)

Steven G. Watkins – Qualified

Steven G. Watkins was admitted to practice in 1991. Since 2001, he has been a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense, civil litigation, and real estate work. Between 1991 and 2000, he was the founding partner of a three-lawyer firm. Mr. Watkins reports that he has acted as lead counsel in 10 jury trials in criminal matters, one civil jury trial, "at least" 43 bench trials in criminal matters and four civil bench trials. Mr. Watkins is considered to have a low-key, professional demeanor and is considered a diligent attorney. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 3rd Subcircuit (Vacancy of Donnelly)

Terrence J. McGuire – Not Qualified

Terrence J. McGuire was admitted to practice in 1991. He is a solo practitioner focusing on estate planning, probate, and real estate transactions. He is also an administrative law judge in ordinance enforcement proceedings. Mr. McGuire is praised for the work that he does. He is reported to have a good temperament as an administrative law judge and manages the calls well. He handles a variety of cases involving county ordinances and his opinions are praised as being well-founded. The Council is concerned, however, that Mr. McGuire has little litigation experience as a lawyer in more complex matters. He has the potential to be a good Circuit Judge, but the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

Judge, 4th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Billik)

John J. Mahoney – Well Qualified

John J. Mahoney was admitted to practice in 1984. He serves as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and currently is the Supervisor of the Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit in the Special Prosecutions Bureau. He also supervises the Money Laundering Unit, the Intellectual Crimes Unit, the Mortgage Fraud Unit, and the soon to be formed Insurance Fraud Unit. His former positions include being a lead prosecutor in the Felony Trial Division. Between 1991 and 1997 he was a lawyer with the Peoples Energy Corporation, Office of the General Counsel, practicing before the Illinois Commerce Commission as well as in a variety of divisions of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Mr. Mahoney has had a wide variety of litigation experience in highly complex matters. He has also handled 20 appellate cases as principal counsel. His answers to the judicial evaluation matters were thoughtful. Mr. Mahoney is considered to have very good legal ability with a professional demeanor. He is especially praised for both his litigation skills and his skill at supervising complex litigation. He is the co-author of the Illinois statute known as the Illinois Financial Crime Law. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Ian Brenson – Not Evaluated

Ian Brenson did not participate in the March 2014 Primary Election, but will appear on the ballot in the November 2014 general election. The Council did not evaluate him for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 4th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Mulhern)

John Allegretti – Qualified

John Allegretti has been a lawyer since 1995. He is currently General Counsel to the Office of the Cook County Assessor's Office. After graduating from law school, he did domestic relations and bankruptcy work in a private firm for two years. He then served as a hearing officer for the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. From 2001 to 2005 he served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney doing civil rights and tort litigation defense work. Mr. Allegretti is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being hard-working. He is considered to have a professional, even-tempered demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 7th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Hardy-Campbell)

Robert Dean Kuzas -- Qualified

Robert Kuzas was admitted to practice in 1989. He is currently a solo practitioner where he focuses on criminal defense, personal injury, and labor relations cases. He has been in private practice throughout his career. Mr. Kuzas has substantial experience in a variety of more complex litigation matters. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his litigation skills. He is reported to be exceptionally hard-working and knowledgeable. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 7th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Taylor)

Judith (Judy) Rice – Qualified

Judith Rice was admitted to practice law in 1988. She is currently senior vice president of Community Affairs and Economic Development at BMO Harris Bank and from 2007 to 2010 she was Vice President and Director of Government Relations for BMO Harris Bank. For six years prior to becoming a lawyer she worked at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in the Community Services Unit handling citizen inquiries and assisting crime victims with obtaining counseling, medical care, and judicial process. After law school she worked for one year as an Assistant State's Attorney and for one year as an Assistant Chicago Corporation Counsel. She did preliminary hearings, appeals, and trials in the juvenile division. She handled criminal housing division cases for the City of Chicago. From 2006 to 2007 she was Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Chicago, and served as the Chicago City Treasurer from 2000 to 2006. From 1996 to 1999 she served as the Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Water, and from 1992 to 1995 she directed daily operations of up to 450 employees at the Chicago Department of Revenue. While at the Department of Revenue from 1990 to 1992, she implemented administrative adjudication programs – helping design the process for the adjudication of parking violations and to train staff. She is exceptionally active in community affairs.

Judith Rice is considered to be very smart and has extensive experience as a government official and in the banking sector. She is reported to have a very good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that she has little litigation experience – normally a requirement for a judicial candidate. However, she has served as an administrator in exceptionally responsible government positions and seems to have transitioned well into the private business sector. She is reported to be an excellent administrator, an important judicial characteristic. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 9th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Goldberg)

Megan Goldish – Qualified

Megan Goldish was admitted to practice in 1997. She is currently an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, working as a First Chair prosecutor in a felony trial courtroom. She serves as the First Chair in the WINGSS Felony Prostitution Call, a well-respected diversion program. Ms. Goldish has substantial experience in complex litigation, and is involved in substantial pro bono and civic matters. She is

considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and she is praised for being hard-working and knowledgeable. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 9th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Meyer)

Anjana Hansen – Qualified

Anjana Hansen was admitted to practice in 1998. She is a contract attorney with the City of Evanston, conducting administrative hearings in the areas of police, property standards, health, and fire. She has served as the Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Evanston. She is a former Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. She was in part responsible for establishing an administrative hearings unit within the State’s Attorney’s Office, which included educating potential witnesses about the legal requirements. Ms. Hansen is considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and is very active in community activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 9th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Preston)

Abbey Romanek – Qualified

Abbey Romanek has practiced law since 1987. She has served as a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Division. From 1987 until 2004, she was in private practice first handling criminal defense matters and focusing for the next eleven years on medical malpractice cases. Ms. Romanek is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She has had substantial trial and appellate experience in complex civil and criminal law matters. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Judge, 10th Subcircuit (Additional Judgeship A)

Hon. Anthony C. Kryiakopoulos – Qualified

Hon. Anthony C Kyriakopoulos was admitted in 1990. Judge Kyriakopoulos was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. Before becoming a judge, he had served as an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Money Laundering Unit of the Narcotics Bureau. Mr. Kriakopoulos is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters and was praised for being a honest and zealous prosecutor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 11th Subcircuit (Additional Judgeship A)

Hon. Pamela McLean Meyerson -- Qualified

Hon. Pamela McLean Meyerson was admitted to practice in 1983. Judge Meyerson was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2013, and currently sits in the Chancery Division, hearing mortgage foreclosure cases. Before becoming a judge, she had been a sole practitioner, handling civil and commercial litigation in the Circuit Court of Cook County. She also organized and advised small businesses. Between 1983 and 1985 she was in private practice at Antonow & Fink and was an associate with Goldberg Kohn Bell Black Rosenbloom & Moritz between 1985 and 1989. Ms. Meyerson is

reported to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor. She was respected as a hard-working, knowledgeable, and highly ethical practitioner. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 12th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Jordan)

Democrat

Judge James L. Kaplan – Qualified

Judge James L. Kaplan was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010. He was admitted to practice in 1971. Before becoming a Circuit Judge, he was senior partner with the law firm of Kaplan & Sorosky Ltd., and served as a judge on the Illinois Court of Claims. His practice primarily involved workers' compensation matters. Judge Kaplan was considered to be a good lawyer with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he is reported to demonstrate a good temperament and ability to manage a courtroom. The Council finds Mr. Kaplan Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Republican

James Paul Pieczonka – Not Qualified

James Paul Pieczonka was admitted to practice in 1983. He has spent most of his career as a sole practitioner doing both transactional work and litigation. In addition to his legal practice, he has been involved in real estate development matters. From 1985 to 1996, he also worked as an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Department of Revenue in the Hearings Division. Mr. Pieczonka has limited litigation experience. Some question his litigation skills. Much of his career has been related to transactional work and real estate development. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 13th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Iosco)

Republican

John Curry -- Qualified

John Curry was admitted to practice in 1978. He is currently a shareholder and attorney with a small firm where he focuses on business litigation matters. From 1983 to 1986 he served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1981 to 1983 he was an Illinois Assistant Attorney General where he was assigned to the Special Litigation Section. From 1995 to 1998, he was an Illinois Special Assistant Attorney General assigned to prosecute eminent domain cases. Mr. Curry is reported to have good legal ability with a lengthy and diverse legal practice. He is a zealous advocate but is praised for his temperament and fairness. His evaluation materials were notably thoughtful. He is considered to be a good lawyer with extensive litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 15th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Doody, Jr.)

Patrick Kevin Coughlin – Qualified

Patrick Kevin Coughlin was admitted in 1996. Since 2002 he has been an Assistant State's Attorney in the Complex Narcotics Unit, an especially demanding assignment. He has been working in the office since 1997. As lead trial counsel he reports taking 15 criminal cases to a jury verdict and around 100 to a bench verdict. Mr. Coughlin is a career prosecutor who receives praise as having good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Judge, 15th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Sterba)

Hon. Christopher Edward Lawler – Qualified

Hon. Christopher Lawler was admitted to practice in Illinois in November 1988. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2013. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice focusing on insurance defense work. From 1991-1995 he was an Associate Attorney for Coleman & O'Halloran, and from 1988-1991 he was an Associate Attorney for Law Offices of Clifford P. Mallon. He was with the firm of Hilbert, Lawler & Power, Ltd from 1995 to 2013. He is active in community affairs. Judge Lawler is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. As a lawyer, he had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He was praised as being a hard-working and well-prepared advocate for his clients. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

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