

**Chicago Council of Lawyers  
Report on Judicial Candidates in the February 2, 2010 Primary  
For Vacancies on the Appellate Court, First District,  
Countywide Vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County, and  
Subcircuit Vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County**

January 2010

Primary elections for state-court judges will be held on February 2, 2010. To assist the public in evaluating the candidates for judicial office, the Chicago Council of Lawyers has evaluated candidates for vacancies in Cook County.

Attached is the Council's report of its evaluations of candidates for three vacancies on the Illinois Appellate Court, First District; for eight countywide vacancies; and for fourteen vacancies in the judicial subcircuits of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

*INTRODUCTION*

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."

*EVALUATION METHODOLOGY*

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

- fairness, including sensitivity to diversity and bias
- legal knowledge and skills (competence)
- integrity
- experience
- diligence
- impartiality

- judicial temperament
- respect for the rule of law
- independence from political and institutional influences
- professional conduct
- character
- community service

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

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

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

As part of the evaluation process, we require candidates to provide us with detailed information about their backgrounds, including any complaints filed against them with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”) or, where applicable, the Judicial Inquiry Board (“JIB”). If a candidate does not participate in our evaluation process, we are unable to obtain that information. Therefore, we assign those candidates a rating of “not recommended.”

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’s evaluation process includes:

- (1) a review of a written informational questionnaire provided to the Alliance by the candidate, including details of the candidate’s career and professional development and information on any complaints filed against the candidate with the JIB or the ARDC;

- (2) a review of the candidate's written responses to the Alliance's supplemental essay questionnaire;
- (3) interviews of judges, attorneys, and others with personal knowledge about the candidate, including those who have and those who have not been referred to the Alliance by the candidate, and not restricted to Council members;
- (4) a review of the candidate's professional written work, where available;
- (5) an interview of the candidate done jointly with the Alliance;
- (6) review of any information concerning the candidate provided by the ARDC;
- (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; and
- (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.

When the candidate is a sitting judge, 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 cases where the Alliance evaluated candidates within the past five years, the Alliance requested updated information, but did not investigate or interview candidates again for the February 2010 primary, instead relying on the earlier results.

In evaluating candidates, the Council expresses written reasons for its conclusions, while abiding by promises to protect the confidentiality of its non-public sources. Without knowing the reason for a recommendation concerning a candidate, the public cannot use the bar's evaluations intelligently to draw its own conclusions.

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. Similarly, a candidate may have an outstanding resume but lack the temperament or patience to perform well as an even-handed or respectful judge. Accordingly, it should be recognized and expected that we will rate some good lawyers "not qualified."

## **CANDIDATES FOR ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT**

### **Anthony Lynn Burrell – Not Recommended**

Anthony Lynn Burrell did not submit materials for evaluation. He is Not Recommended for the Appellate Court.

### **Hon. James Epstein – Well Qualified**

Hon. James R. Epstein was appointed to fill a vacancy March 1999 and elected in 2000. For most of this judicial career he sat in the Second Municipal District. He was assigned to the Chancery Division in 2006. From 1985 until his appointment, he was a partner with Epstein, Zaideman & Esrig, a practice that included a variety of civil and criminal trial work. Prior to that, he spent five years as an Assistant Public Defender. Judge Epstein is considered to have outstanding legal ability and to be well-skilled in courtroom management. Although some lawyers report that he can be short-tempered, he is generally considered to have an excellent temperament with litigants, jurors, and court personnel. Judge Epstein brought to the bench substantial experience with both civil and criminal litigation matters and he is always well-prepared. He is involved actively with community services. Judge Epstein is praised for preparing detailed written opinions and has taught at Northwestern University's Short Course for Prosecutors and Defense Lawyers since 2004. He is a member of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Committee on Education, where he was a member of the editorial board for the preparation of judicial bench books. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

### **Hon. Ellen L. Flannigan – Not Qualified**

Judge Ellen L. Flannigan was admitted to practice in 1988. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2006 where she presides over cases in Traffic Court. Before being appointed to the bench, she was in private practice including serving as a partner with Mora Baugh Waitzman & Unger between 1993 and 2006 doing commercial litigation and securities law. Judge Flannigan is considered by many to be doing a good job in Traffic Court. Most respondents praise her legal ability and say that she is knowledgeable about traffic law matters. All report that she has a good temperament. Judge Flannigan provides no written opinions as a judge and her recent published works are limited to co-authoring a Circuit Court Protocol for Driving on a Suspended License case and security law updates for clients when she was in private practice. The Council is concerned that she does not yet have the breadth or depth of experience, nor has she demonstrated her analytical writing ability. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

### **Frank Gardner – Not Recommended**

Frank Gardiner did not submit materials for evaluation. He is Not Recommended for the Appellate Court.

### **Hon. Thomas L. Hogan – Qualified**

Judge Thomas L. Hogan was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in August 1997, and was elected in 1998. He is currently serving in the Law Division. Judge Hogan was a well respected practitioner before becoming a judge. He had extensive experience as a litigator in complex matters. As a Circuit Judge, he is considered to have very good legal ability and is

praised for his diligence and fairness. Respondents praise his written opinions as being well-reasoned and thorough. He teaches a trial advocacy seminar at LSU law school. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Arnette R. Hubbard – Not Qualified**

Judge Arnette R. Hubbard was appointed to the bench in 1997 following a distinguished career in private practice. She currently sits in the Jury Section of the Law Division. Judge Hubbard began her career as a staff attorney for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under the Law, but left after a year to establish a sole practice, focusing initially on criminal matters and appeals, and later expanding to develop a more commercial practice. Between 1989 and her appointment to the bench, Judge Hubbard also served as a member of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, where she handled voting and administrative matters. In addition, she has been an active member of various bar associations.

Judge Hubbard is an esteemed member of the bar who always is proper in her demeanor on the bench. However, during her last Chicago Council of Lawyers evaluation and during the current evaluation, lawyers raised significant and wide-ranging questions about Judge Hubbard's inability to deal with the legal issues before her, as well as her apparent lack of diligence in resolving the matters being litigated. The Council is also concerned that although she is running for the Illinois Appellate Court, Judge Hubbard failed to provide published materials and did not demonstrate in some other way her analytical writing ability, which the Council views as essential for an Appellate Court candidate. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Kathleen Kennedy -- Qualified**

Hon. Kathleen Kennedy was admitted to the bar in 1982 and, prior to her election to the Circuit Court in 1996, she worked as a law clerk to Illinois Appellate Court Justice Rizzi and to (then) U.S. Magistrate Lefkow. She was a supervising attorney in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office for approximately 5 years where she had an appellate practice, and a Circuit Court hearing officer in child protection cases for approximately 2 years. Her initial assignment as a judge was to the expedited child support calendar, and in 2003 she was assigned to the Domestic Relations Division as an expedited hearing judge. In November 2008, she was assigned to an individual calendar in the Domestic Relations 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. Respondents say she understands all the issues and has the ability to deal with emotionally-charged issues. Judge Kennedy is well respected for her written opinions as a judge. Many respondents commented favorably on her written opinions, describing them as well-reasoned and demonstrating that she understood the issues. She has taught the trial practice course at the Loyola University School of Law. In general, she is praised for her reasoning and her ability to understand the issues. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**William D. O'Neal – Not Qualified**

Judge William D. O'Neal was admitted to practice in 1972 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. He has spent most of his judicial career in the Markham Courthouse. Although lawyers

who practice before him report that Judge O’Neal’s fairness and integrity are unquestioned, many state that he takes an unduly informal approach in handling the legal issues before him. A significant number of lawyers complain about his temperament and impatience on the bench. In addition, he has not demonstrated the writing ability necessary to be on the Appellate Court. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Sebastian T. Patti – Qualified (Judge Patti was evaluated to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in August 2009)**

Judge Sebastian T. Patti was appointed as a Circuit Judge in March 1995 and was elected to the bench in the following year. In 1998 he was transferred to the First Municipal District to assist in the reorganization of the Housing Court. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in August 2009. Before being appointed to the Appellate Court, Judge Patti served as Supervising Judge of the Housing Section of the First Municipal District. Judge Patti is considered to have excellent legal ability and judicial temperament. He is widely respected for his courtroom management skills and is exceptionally knowledgeable and hard-working. He is viewed as a leader among judges and a mentor to new judges. The Council finds Judge Patti Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Aurelia Marie Pucinski – Not Qualified**

Hon. Aurelia Pucinski became a judge in 2004. After serving in Traffic Court, she was assigned from 2005 to 2008 to Domestic Violence Court. She currently sits in the County Division where she hears cases involving tax deeds, tax objections, adoptions, mental health, and elections. Before becoming a judge she was the Chairman of the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Review Commission. She is the former Director of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, and the former Director of Administration and Marketing for Abacus Financial Group, an asset management firm. From 1988 to 2000, she served as the elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Before that, she served as an elected Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. After her admission to the bar in 1975, she began her career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, and was Regional Counsel for the U.S. Small Business Administration before beginning her career in elective office. She has been in private practice as a sole practitioner and as a partner in a small firm, concentrating her practice in real estate transactions. Judge Pucinski is well respected for her temperament. However, many respondents appearing before her in Domestic Violence court find her willingness to take on an advocacy role while on the bench to be inappropriate. On the other hand, respondents appearing before her on real estate tax matters praise her abilities as a judge. The Council is also concerned that Judge Pucinski does not have appellate court experience as a lawyer and has not demonstrated as a judge the depth of experience and scholarship necessary to be an Appellate Court judge. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Mary Rochford – Well Qualified**

Judge Rochford was admitted to practice in 1979. She became an Associate Judge in 2001 and was elected to the bench in 2006. Since July 2007 she has served in the Chancery Division. She has also been assigned to the Law Division in the Second Municipal District where she presided over bench and jury trials involving both civil and criminal law matters. Before becoming a judge, she was in private practice and then worked for the Chicago Department of Law in the Appeals Division, where in 1985 she rose to the position of Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel.

Since 2005 Judge Rochford has participated as an instructor in weekend trial practice classes at the University of Notre Dame Law School. She is the author or co-author of a series of published articles. While serving in the Law Division in the Second District she was responsible for coordinating the mandatory arbitration program and authored a handbook regarding that program. She was the Chair of the Second District Community Safety Initiatives Committee and was a member of the Second District Family Violence Coordinating Committee, which addresses issues relating to domestic violence cases.

Judge Rochford is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is praised as being exceptionally well-prepared, hard-working, and fair to all parties. She has demonstrated her ability to be an excellent appellate lawyer, to make the successful transition to being a highly respected trial judge in the Law Division, and to make the successful transition to being a Chancellor. She is involved in substantial community service efforts, and has demonstrated her writing ability. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Kevin Rogers – Not Recommended**

Kevin Rogers did not submit materials for evaluation. He is Not Recommended for the Appellate Court

**Hon. James J. Ryan – Not Qualified**

Judge James J. Ryan was admitted to practice in 1992 and was elected to the bench in 2004 after refusing to be evaluated by the Council. Before taking the bench, Judge Ryan was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1993 to 1995 and was the Director of Operations and General Counsel for the Cook County Sheriff's Office from 1995 to 2004. From 2004 to 2006 he sat in Traffic Court after which he was assigned to the courthouse in Bridgeview where he presided over traffic and domestic violence cases. He currently hears felony preliminary hearings. Many lawyers report that Judge Ryan on occasion will demonstrate a poor judicial temperament on the bench. While many praise his ability to manage his court call, his judicial career has mostly involved less complex matters. He has not provided written opinions and has not in any other way demonstrated the ability to write analytically – an ability that the Council requires of any Appellate Court candidate. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Don R. Sampen – Well Qualified**

Don R. Sampen was admitted to practice in 1975. He is a partner in the law firm of Clausen Miller. He has been an associate and partner with other law firms throughout his career. He is currently an adjunct professor at Loyola University School of Law and has served in the past as an adjunct professor at a variety of law schools in the Chicago area. He is a columnist for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and has authored several published works on antitrust law, Quo Warranto and Mandamus, and on insurance law. He has substantial experience in complex litigation and appellate court matters. Mr. Sampen is well respected as a trial litigator, an appellate practitioner, and as an author. He is considered to have very good legal ability and an excellent temperament. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

**Hon. Pamela E. Hill Veal – Not Qualified when evaluated for the Circuit Court (evaluation is found below). Judge Veal did not submit materials for evaluation as an Appellate Court candidate. She is Not Recommended for the Appellate Court.**

Judge Pamela E. Hill Veal was appointed as an associate judge to fill a vacancy in 2004. Her current caseload involves small claims, breach of contract, and insurance matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she had been in private practice since 1990 dealing mostly with domestic relations matters. She has been an administrative hearing officer with the Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings since 2000, and is a Civil Service Board member of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Ms. Veal served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender for one year early in her legal career. She has served as an Associate Professor at Chicago State University since 1975, but is currently on leave. In its 2003 evaluation, the Council noted its concerns about the lack of depth and breadth in Ms. Veal's practice and found her Not Qualified. She was appointed as an Associate Judge in 2004. In her current assignment, there have been reports that there have been problems in her courtroom management, although many reports say that she is improving with time. In light of the limits of her experience before becoming a judge, together with the current reports regarding her courtroom performance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

## **CANDIDATES FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE; COUNTYWIDE JUDICIAL ELECTIONS**

### **James M. Bailey, II – Qualified**

James M. Bailey, II has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since his admission to the bar in 1984. His practice currently involves appellate criminal and civil litigation. Mr. Bailey is a 1983 graduate of the John Marshall Law School. He has been a guest lecturer on Advanced Trial Practice at Chicago-Kent and on Drug Asset Forfeiture at the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Bailey is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised as a solid prosecutor with experience in both criminal and civil law matters. The Council finds Mr. Bailey Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

### **Deidre Baumann – Not Qualified**

Deidre Baumann was admitted to practice in 1992. She has spent her career in private practice with a small firm or as a sole practitioner. She handles civil litigation primarily, in both state and federal courts. She reports acting as lead counsel in 12 civil and 8 criminal cases. She also reports having significant appellate experience. While many respondents had a favorable impression of her litigation experience, a significant number questioned whether she had been knowledgeable enough in the cases they had opposed her. Ms. Baumann has been the subject of unfavorable written opinions by two judges. Most respondents say that she has a good temperament. While Ms. Baumann appears to be a respected attorney by many, there are attorneys who question her level of knowledge in some of her cases. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

### **Carl B. Boyd – Not Recommended**

Carl B. Boyd refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

### **John Callahan – Qualified**

John Callahan was admitted to practice in 1988. From 1996 to the present he has been in private practice doing general civil litigation and criminal defense. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between 1989 and 1996. He reports acting as lead counsel in 1 civil jury, 23 criminal jury trials, 4 civil bench trials, and more than 250 criminal bench trials. Mr. Callahan is considered to have good legal ability and trial experience. He has a reputation of being exceptionally fair while having a calm and professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

### **Joanne F. Fehn – Not Qualified**

Joanne F. Fehn was admitted to practice in 1993. She is currently General Counsel of Anchor Companies where she manages legal affairs and oversees outside counsel. Since 2003 she has served as the owner and founder of Mortgage Title Services. From 1998 to 2001, she worked at Chicago Title Insurance Company as an Attorney Technical Advisor. From 1994 to 1998, she was an Attorney Closing Officer with Urban Search Corporation. She has no jury trial experience and has never acted as lead counsel in bench trials. Ms. Fehn is praised as being smart and for having a good temperament. However, her practice has been limited to real estate

matters and the Council is also concerned that she has very little litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Thomas Flannigan – Qualified**

Thomas Flannigan has been a lawyer since 1983. He has a MA degree in International Relations. After clerking with Illinois Supreme Court Justice William Clark, he served as an attorney with the firms of Arvey Hodes and Freeborn & Peters, concentrating on international business transactions and litigation. He worked as an attorney in Japan in 1988 and between 1991 and 1992. Since 1990, he has been a sole practitioner focusing on civil litigation, intellectual property matters, and estate planning. He has had a limited number of cases go to trial but has been involved in other aspects of complex civil litigation matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Daniel James Gallagher – Qualified**

Daniel James Gallagher was admitted in 1994. He is currently an Assistant Public Defender (APD) in the Felony Trial Division, and has been in the office since 1996. He was in private practice before becoming an APD. As lead trial counsel he reports taking one civil case and 35 criminal cases to a jury verdict, as well as approximately 20 civil and 100 to criminal cases to a bench verdict. Mr. Gallagher is reported to be a diligent, fair, and zealous advocate. He is praised as being well prepared with a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Marvin W. Gray – Qualified**

Marvin W. Gray was admitted to practice in 1972. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career, doing mostly civil litigation. He worked as an employee of the law department of the Chicago Transit Authority doing civil litigation defense between 1987 and 1991. He reports acting as lead counsel in 10 criminal and 75 civil jury trials, and 250 civil and 25 criminal bench trials. Mr. Gray is considered to be a good attorney with extensive litigation experience. While much of this experience involves cases that are short in duration and lesser value personal injury matters, he has had litigation matters throughout his long career involving more complex matters. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Russell William Hartigan -- Qualified**

Russell William Hartigan was admitted to practice in 1976. He has been in private practice throughout his career with extensive personal injury litigation experience. He reports acting as lead counsel in 45 civil jury trials and in numerous arbitrations. He has personally handled fifteen cases as principal appellate counsel and argued orally eight of these in the U.S Court of Appeals, the Illinois Appellate Court, and the Illinois Supreme Court. He is active in bar association activities, and currently is on the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors. He has published articles on civil practice matters and is active in community affairs. Mr. Hartigan is reported to have good legal ability and a very good temperament. He is praised as a hard-working, conscientious, and knowledgeable practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. William H. Hooks – Well Qualified (Judge Hooks was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 to fill a judicial vacancy)**

William H. Hooks received his law degree from ITT Chicago-Kent in 1981 and was admitted to the Illinois bar in that year. An officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserves, he resumed active duty as a Judge Advocate, and in that capacity prosecuted and defended criminal cases. He left active duty in 1985 (though remained in the Reserves for an additional 10 years) and until 1991 practiced civil litigation (mainly insurance defense) with Pretzel & Stouffer, Hinshaw & Culbertson, and Garland W. Watt and Associates. Since 1995, he has practiced on his own and in partnership with others, concentrating on criminal defense and a wide range of civil litigation. He has extensive jury and bench trial experience in both federal and state courts, and since 1992 has served as a hearing officer and hearing board chair for the ARDC. He has taught at the DePaul University College of Law and the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago Law School. He lectures frequently in continuing legal education and public information seminars, and has published practice-related articles. Mr. Hooks is regarded as a knowledgeable, skillful, and aggressive advocate. His professional conduct and personal integrity are above reproach. He convincingly expresses his desire to take the bench as a wish to devote himself to public service. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

**Hon. Thomas V. Lyons II – Qualified (He was evaluated to fill a judicial vacancy in 2008. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in August 2008)**

Judge Thomas V. Lyons II was admitted to practice in 1987. He serves as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial experience in both bench and jury trials involving criminal law matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Terry MacCarthy – Well Qualified**

Terry MacCarthy has been a lawyer since 1990. Since 2003 he has been a Supervisor in the felony trial division of the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. He is a career Assistant Public Defender. Mr. MacCarthy is reported to have good legal ability and is praised for being thoughtful and respectful while being a zealous advocate. He reports substantial community involvement. He teaches in the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School and has taught advanced trial advocacy at the DePaul law school since 2002. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Diann K. Marsalek – Not Qualified**

Diann Marsalek was admitted to practice in 1989. She spent 16 years in the Illinois Attorney General's office doing litigation primarily for the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC). Her initial 13 years in practice were primarily spent defending Section 1983 cases against the DOC in federal court, though she did also have some limited litigation experience in state court during this period. Her final 3 years in the AG's office were spent as a "facilitator" for litigation involving the DOC and as a policy advisor concerning litigation and legislation. Ms. Marsalek is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that most of her litigation experience was earlier in her career and was in federal court. The Council finds her Not Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

**Bonnie McGrath – Not Qualified**

Bonnie McGrath was admitted to practice in 1993. She has been a sole practitioner since 1996 and served as a prosecutor with the Chicago Department of Law between 1992 and 1996. She has no jury trial experience, but reports acting as lead counsel in hundreds of civil bench trials. Ms. McGrath is a former journalist who now teaches at Columbia College. Her litigation experience does not include involvement with more complex matters. Ms. McGrath is praised for her temperament and is a prolific writer in legal journals. The Council, however, believes that Ms. McGrath has not demonstrated the ability to handle complex legal matters in the courtroom. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Edmund Paul Michalowski – Not Recommended**

Edmund Paul Michalowski refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Raymond William Mitchell – Qualified**

Judge Raymond William Mitchell was admitted to practice in 1993. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in October 2008. From 1998 to 2008 he was an associate and then partner with the law firm of Winston & Strawn where he was involved in all aspects of more complex litigation matters. He served as an associate lawyer with Gardner, Carton & Douglas. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he reports being involved in numerous pro bono efforts. Judge Mitchell is considered to have good legal ability and was well-respected as an attorney in private practice. Lawyers appearing before him in Traffic Court, where he now sits, report that he has a very good temperament and demonstrates good legal ability. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Kevin J. Murphy – Not Qualified**

Kevin J. Murphy was admitted to practice in 1981. He is currently a sole practitioner focusing on real estate, probate, and personal injury matters. Before becoming a sole practitioner, he worked for two years at Parillo Weiss & O’Halloran defending against auto cases for insurance companies. He is considered to be a diligent lawyer. He reports acting as lead counsel in 35 jury trials, 60 civil bench trials and 150 criminal law bench trials. However, many of these actions involve less complex matters such as traffic tickets or other types of misdemeanors. On balance the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**John Patrick Nyhan – Not Recommended**

John Patrick Nyhan refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Ubi O’Neal – Not Qualified**

Ubi O’Neal was admitted to practice in 1993. He is a sole practitioner focusing on personal injury and criminal defense matters. Mr. O’Neal has litigation experience, but the Council is concerned he has little experience in more complex matters. The Council is also concerned that Mr. O’Neal was censured by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission in 1999. The Council finds Mr. O’Neal Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Sharon Finegan Patterson – Qualified**

Sharon Finegan Patterson was admitted to the bar in 1980. She has been a solo practitioner handling employment and personal injury litigation since 1995. From 1982 to 1995, she was an associate at Lord, Bissell & Brook. From 1980 to 1982, she was law clerk to Hon. Daniel J. McNamara of the Illinois Appellate Court. Ms. Patterson is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised as being particularly hard-working with good analytical skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Linda Pael – Qualified**

Linda Pael was admitted to practice in 1991. She has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the Chicago Department of Law since 1994; she has served as a Senior Counsel since 1998. She started her career as a litigation associate with what was Sachnoff & Weaver. She reports acting as lead counsel in 4 civil jury trials and over 300 civil bench trials. She is active in community activities. Ms. Pael is considered to be a very good lawyer with good legal ability and a professional demeanor. She has substantial trial and supervisory experience in more complex matters, having worked in municipal prosecutions, the torts division, and most recently as senior counsel responsible for the day to day supervision of attorneys handling administrative cases before the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Maureen H. Masterson Pulia – Not Qualified**

Maureen Pulia was admitted to practice in 1984. From 2003 to present, she has been an Arbitrator with the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission. From 1997 to 2003 she was Senior Public Service Administrator and Staff Attorney for the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission. Ms. Pulia is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that her practice has been narrow and that she lacks sufficient litigation experience as a practitioner in complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

**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.

**Sandra Ramos – Not Qualified**

Sandra Ramos was admitted to practice in 1986. She has been a sole practitioner since 1993 doing mostly criminal defense work, and served for nine years as an Assistant Cook County

State's Attorney (1986 to 1995). She reports acting as lead counsel on about 30 criminal jury trials and numerous bench trials. The investigation of Ms. Ramos yielded decidedly mixed results. Some lawyers and judges say she has good legal ability and temperament. But many others question her diligence and temperament. In light of these criticisms and the narrowness of her practice, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Michaela Nolan Ryan – Not Recommended**

Michaela Nolan Ryan refused to be evaluated. She is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Tracey Stokes – Qualified**

Tracey Stokes was admitted to practice in 1985. She has been in private practice doing insurance defense work throughout her career. She reports acting as lead counsel in 22 civil juries and 8 civil bench trials. Ms. Stokes has substantial litigation and trial experience over the course of her career. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is respected by her peers as a good attorney who is knowledgeable and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Susan Kennedy Sullivan -- Qualified**

Susan Kennedy Sullivan was admitted to practice in 1994. She is a sole practitioner focusing on probate and estate planning, She has been a registered nurse since 1974. She reports serving as lead counsel in two civil jury trials and more than 100 civil bench trials. Many of her litigation matters involve lengthy trials. She has published articles and is active in pro bono matters. Ms. Sullivan is reported to have good legal ability and she is praised as being hard-working. She is respected as a zealous advocate with a professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

## **CANDIDATES FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE: SUBCIRCUIT JUDICIAL ELECTIONS**

### **Scott Bagnall – Not Qualified**

Scott Bagnall was admitted to practice in 1986. He is a sole practitioner focusing on personal injury, workers' compensation, and real estate matters. He has been in private practice throughout his career. He reports acting as lead counsel in more than 12 jury trials and more than 20 civil bench trials and five bench trials in criminal cases. Mr. Bagnall, according to his investigation, is considered to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor. He has litigation experience but much of it is in less complex matters. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

### **Barbara Anne Bailey – Qualified**

Barbara Anne Bailey has been an Assistant State's Attorney since her admission to practice in 1991. She is currently assigned to the Felony Trial Division in the 5th Municipal District, Bridgeview. She previously prosecuted misdemeanors in Maywood and was assigned to Traffic Court and the Criminal Appeals Division. While in college and law school, she worked in the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the State's Attorney, and the Attorney General. All reports indicate that she has conducted herself with professionalism and fairness, and that she is hard working, intelligent and capable. The Council finds Ms. Bailey Qualified for Circuit Court.

### **Michael Barrett – Qualified**

Michael Barrett was admitted to practice in 1991. He has spent most of his career with his current firm, Barrett & Sramek doing civil litigation. He reports acting as lead counsel in 9 civil juries, 11 civil bench trials, and 6 criminal bench trials. Mr. Barrett is regarded as an experienced trial practitioner involved in a variety of matters. He is considered to be bright and knowledgeable and received high marks for his temperament. He has a reputation for being a good lawyer who is both fair and a zealous advocate. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

### **Hon. Michael I. Bender – Qualified**

Judge Michael I. Bender was admitted to practice in 1991. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008. Before being appointed, he was with a firm concentrating in family law. He has served as an assistant corporation counsel for the village of Skokie and was a sole practitioner for 10 years. He clerked for Illinois Appellate Court Justice Allen Hartman after graduating law school. As a lawyer, Mr. Bender was reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council, in 2007, was concerned, however, that he lacked sufficient experience in complex litigation matters. Since being appointed to the bench, he has been assigned to Traffic Court, but has also presided over misdemeanor criminal bench trials and motions, misdemeanor criminal jury trials, and civil trials and motions in the First Municipal District. Respondents in general praise his judicial abilities, saying that he has done a good job grasping new concepts, understanding the issues, managing the courtroom, and having a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Eugene Joseph Berkes – Not Qualified**

Eugene Joseph Berkes was admitted to practice in 1983. He is a sole practitioner with a general practice of law. As part of his practice, he serves as an administrative law judge for the City of Berwyn, and is the elected City Clerk for the City of Berwyn. He reports acting as lead counsel in one jury trial, 60 civil bench trials, and 5 criminal bench trials. Respondents consider Mr. Berkes to have good legal ability and to possess a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that much of his practice has been involved in less complex litigation matters or in the real estate area. The Council believes a judge must have experience in complex litigation matters before taking the bench. In addition, his practice lacks sufficient breadth. The Council finds Mr. Berkes Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Steven James Bernstein – Not Qualified**

Steven James Bernstein was admitted to practice in 1971. He is currently the Acting General Counsel for the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority where he drafts inter-agency agreements, drafts legislation, and prepares and delivers training programs. He is very active in community affairs, including as an elected official. He reports acting as lead counsel in 1 criminal and 1 jury trial, as well as in 90 civil bench trials and 150 criminal bench trials. However, most of Mr. Bernstein’s recent legal work involves real estate matters, and trial work cited in his evaluation materials were from as many as 30 years ago. He is very active in community affairs. Mr. Bernstein is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned that he has little litigation experience in more complex matters and has little recent litigation experience at all. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Thomas Bilyk -- Qualified**

Thomas Bilyk was admitted to practice in 1983. He is currently the Chief of the Juvenile Justice Division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. He is a career prosecutor. From 1998 to 2007 he served in the Special Prosecutions Bureau. He has also served as the Supervisor of the Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit. He was assigned to the felony trial division between 1987 and 1998. He has extensive litigation experience in both jury and bench criminal law trials. Mr Bilyk is considered to be a very knowledgeable and able prosecutor with a wide variety of experiences in more complex criminal law matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Linnae Bryant – Not Recommended**

Linnae Bryant refused to be evaluated. She is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Joseph Chico – Not Recommended**

Joseph Chico refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**John W. Chwarzynski – Not Recommended**

Mr. Chwarzynski refused to be evaluated. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Bonita Coleman-John – Not Qualified**

Bonita Coleman-John was admitted to practice in 1992. She has been in private practice for most of her career doing family law, criminal defense, and probate work. She reports acting as

lead counsel in 2 criminal jury trials, and more than 100 bench trials. She serves on the ARDC Hearing Board. She is considered to have merely adequate legal ability and many respondents commented unfavorably on her demeanor. Some respondents indicate that she is sometimes late to court. Overall, she is not considered to possess the necessary skills. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**David Joseph Coleman – Well Qualified**

David Joseph Coleman was admitted to practice in 1993. He has served throughout his career as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He is currently assigned to the Special Prosecutions Unit where he prosecutes public corruption cases and cold case homicides. He reports serving as lead counsel in 24 jury trials and 500 bench trials. Lawyers report that Mr. Coleman has good legal ability and he is respected for his temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in exceptionally complex matters, and has been on the forefront of using new legal strategies and statutes to prosecute his cases. He is praised for his integrity. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Ann Finley Collins – Well Qualified**

Ann Collins was admitted in 1985. She is currently an Assistant Public Defender dealing with homicide cases. As lead trial counsel she has brought 75 criminal cases to a jury verdict and 60 to a bench verdict. Ann Collins is reported to have excellent legal ability and is praised as a fair but zealous advocate for her clients. She has a professional demeanor and is widely respected as a lawyer. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Pamela Cotten – Not Qualified**

Pamela Cotten was admitted to practice in 1995. She is currently employed by the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) as Assistant General Counsel II for Housing Policy and Legislation. She represents the CHA in complaints and petitions for certiorari in state and federal courts and in inquiries before various state and federal agencies. She represents the CHA in state and federal court. From 2000 to 2009, she represented the CHA at trial and arbitrations. From 1998 to 2000 she reviewed contracts as an attorney for the CHA. She was a law clerk to Justice Charles Freeman of the Illinois Supreme Court. She reports having no jury trial experience and has acted as lead counsel in two personal injury bench trials. She is also president of Urban Comforts Company, which is a family business. Ms. Cotten is reported to be smart and diligent. However, the Council is concerned that she has little significant trial experience, including litigation of more complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**James Doran -- Qualified**

James Doran was admitted to practice in 1992. He serves as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General, handling litigation matters. He reports serving as lead counsel in 13 jury trials and in one bench trial. His practice includes both state and federal court litigation. Mr. Doran is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in more complex litigation matters. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Mary Beth Duffy – Qualified**

Mary Beth Duffy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1992 and has been a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney since 1996. She is currently prosecuting felonies as a “First Chair” prosecutor in the Markham courthouse. She has extensive bench and jury trial experience. Ms. Duffy has good legal ability and a good temperament. She is considered to be hard working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Carl Evans, Jr. – Qualified**

Carl Evans, Jr. has been a lawyer since 1993. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career, concentrating in criminal defense and personal injury work. He has been an adjunct professor of law at John Marshall Law School since 2001, teaching legal writing, research, and oral advocacy for first-year students. He is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent demeanor. He is praised for being exceptionally hard working and well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Peter A. Fera – Not Qualified**

Peter A. Fera has been a lawyer since 1968. Mr. Fera is considered to be a highly experienced attorney in will and estates, trusts, banking regulations and compliance, mortgage law, and real estate work. He is considered to have good legal ability in transactional work. While his litigation work is limited, he has done some insurance defense litigation and eviction work during his career. Mr. Fera is a highly respected transactional lawyer who has demonstrated solid ability. The Council believes, however, that judges need to have substantial litigation experience before going on the bench. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified.

**Karla Marie Fiaoni -- Qualified**

Karla Marie Fiaoni was admitted to practice in 1989. She has been a sole practitioner doing criminal defense work since 2001. She served as Chief of Police for the City of Chicago Heights between 1994 and 1996 and was Superintendent of Police for Chicago Heights between 1996 and 1997. From 1997 to 2001, she served as the Project Director for the Domestic Violence Unit in the City of Chicago Heights. She served as a Cook County Commissioner in 2002. She reports acting as lead counsel in five jury trials and 15 bench trials. Before her current work, Ms. Fiaoni served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney between 1989 and 1994. Ms. Fiaoni is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her knowledge of criminal law and procedure and for being hard-working and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Charles Francis Fitzgerald – Not Qualified**

Charles Francis Fitzgerald was admitted to practice in 1981. He has been a part-time administrative law officer for the City of Chicago since 1999. In 1987, after serving as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, Mr. Fitzgerald entered private practice, where he handles mainly criminal defense matters. Mr. Fitzgerald is reported to have good legal ability and a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he lacks sufficient experience in more complex litigation. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Michelle Flagg – Not Qualified**

Michelle Flagg was admitted to practice in Wisconsin in 2000 and in Illinois in 2003. She is currently a sole practitioner focusing on real estate matters. She served as an associate in a firm between 2000 and 2002. She is praised for her public service. She reports having no jury trial experience but she reports acting as lead counsel in two bench trials. Ms. Flagg is considered a knowledgeable lawyer who is public-minded. The Council is concerned that she has little litigation experience. The Council finds Ms. Flagg Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Patrick Dean Flanagan – Not Qualified**

Patrick Dean Flanagan was admitted to practice in 1999 after a 22-year career in the U.S. Army. He is currently an associate in a small firm doing civil litigation, more than half of which is insurance defense work. He reports acting as lead counsel in seven jury trials and over 20 civil bench trials. While in the military he was an infantry officer. He has also served as a Professor of Military Science in the Chicago area ROTC program. Most respondents report that Mr. Flanagan is an intelligent and diligent lawyer who has a good temperament. The Council is concerned that he has only ten years of experience as a lawyer and his practice does not yet have sufficient depth and breadth. On balance the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Dennis M. Fleming – Qualified**

Dennis M. Fleming was admitted to practice in 1976. He currently has a sole practice litigating criminal, civil, and administrative matters. From 1987 until 2001, he was a partner at Wahler, Pecyna & Fleming. From 1978 to 1987, Mr. Fleming was a sole practitioner. He spent the first year of his legal career as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Mr. Fleming has been a hearing officer for the City of Chicago Department of Personnel since 1997; he has also been an administrative law officer with the Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings since 1996. He has been a hearing officer for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (1993-1994) and a trial judge for the Commissioner of the State Board of Claims (1982-1983). Mr. Fleming is a 1976 graduate of DePaul University College of Law.

Mr. Fleming is praised for his extensive litigation experience in both criminal and civil matters. He litigates complex cases with great competence and fairness. He is considered to have overall good legal ability. Adversaries describe him as a good practitioner who is honest, courteous, even-tempered and highly professional. The Council finds Mr. Fleming Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

**Hon. Steven J. Fruth – Qualified (Judge Fruth was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in August 2009 to fill a judicial vacancy)**

Steven J. Fruth graduated from the John Marshall Law School in 1976 and received his license to practice in November of that year. He has been in private practice concentrating in personal injury litigation since 1977.

Mr. Fruth is regarded as a well-prepared and hard-working trial lawyer. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds Mr. Fruth Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

**Jeffrey Dov Greenspan – Not Qualified**

Jeffrey Dov Greenspan was admitted to practice in 1979. He is currently an attorney with Pomper & Goodman doing plaintiffs' personal injury work and workers' compensation cases. From 2003 to 2008 he was the senior project manager for The Trust for Public Land, where among other duties he negotiated and acquired land for use by local and state governments as parks. From 2001 to 2003 he was General Counsel and Director of Land Organization for Corlands, where among other duties, he negotiated land purchases for parks and open space preservation. From 1999 to 2001, he was a partner with Fioretti and Des Jardins, Ltd where he had a general practice with a concentration in local government law. From 1991 to 1999 he was a senior associate with Ancel Glink, Diamond & Cope where he advised and represented local governments, including state and federal litigation matters. From 1981 to 1991, he served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the Village of Skokie. From 1980 to 1981, he served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. He reports acting as lead counsel in one criminal law jury matter, four civil jury trials, and four bench trials in civil matters. He has a significant history of community service. Mr. Greenspan is considered to be a smart and hard-working lawyer with a variety of experiences, but he lacks significant recent litigation experience. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. John C. Griffin -- Qualified**

Judge John C. Griffin was admitted to practice in 1976. For 31 years he was in private practice primarily handling real estate, zoning and development-related matters. In March 2008, he was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to a judicial vacancy. He has served in Traffic Court and currently presides over mortgage foreclosure matters in the Foreclosure/Mechanic's Lien Section. Judge Griffin is reported to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He had a good reputation as a hard-working and knowledgeable attorney and is praised for his courtroom management skills and for being well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Edward S. Harmening – Qualified**

Edward Harmening was admitted to the bar in 1994. From 1994 to 1997, and since 2003, he has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He spent 1997 to 2003 in private practice handling insurance defense matters. Mr. Harmening is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has had sufficient litigation experience in complex matters to overcome the relatively few number of years that he has been in practice. The Council finds him Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

**Michael T. Huguelet – Not Qualified**

Michael T. Huguelet was admitted to practice in 1979. He has been a sole practitioner since 1991. He is the Village Prosecutor for the Village of Orland Park. From 1983 to 1991, he served as a partner in a Florida law firm. He reports having no jury trial experience but reports acting as lead counsel in numerous bench trials, although many of these are in less complex matters, such as ordinance violations. Respondents consider Mr. Huguelet to have good legal ability and to possess a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that much of his practice has been involved in less complex litigation matters. The Council believes a judge must have

experience in complex litigation matters before taking the bench. The Council finds Mr. Huguelet Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Ronald Joseph Hurley – Not Recommended**

Ronald Joseph Hurley refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Linzey D. Jones, Jr. -- Qualified**

Linzey D. Jones, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1982. He is currently a partner with the law firm of Pugh Jones Johnson & Quandt, and has a labor and employment practice. He was an associate and partner with Sidley & Austin. He is past chairperson and a founding member of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms. Mr. Jones has substantial litigation experience, although many of his trials settle before verdict. He has also acted as principal counsel in 15 arbitrations and 13 appellate matters. Mr. Jones is praised for his legal ability and temperament. He is reported to be always well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Nicholas W. Karas – Not Recommended**

Nicholas W. Karas refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Kim R. Kardas – Well Qualified**

Kim R. Kardas has been a lawyer since 1980. He has been a sole practitioner since 2004, specializing in both criminal and civil litigation. From 1992 to 2004, he was a partner in the firm of Belgrade & O'Donnell, litigating construction defense, maritime, admiralty and product liability cases. He was a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney between 1981 and 1992 doing juvenile and adult criminal prosecutions. He was an adjunct professor at John Marshall law school between 1991 and 2000, teaching trial advocacy. He has extensive civil and criminal trial experience. Lawyers report that he has very good legal ability and temperament. He is widely praised for being well-prepared and hard-working. He has experience in both the civil and criminal law areas. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Richard G. Karwaczka – Not Qualified**

Richard G. Karwaczka was admitted to practice in Illinois in 2001 and in Wisconsin in 2005. Mr. Karwaczka is currently in a small practice where he does criminal defense work. From 2002 to 2007, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where he spent much of his professional time doing child support enforcement. He served as an instructor with the Northwestern Business College between 2004 and 2005. From 2001 to 2002 he was an Assistant Lake County State's Attorney. He reports serving as lead counsel in five jury trials and 100 bench trials. Much of Mr. Karwaczka's litigation experience, however, has been in less complex matters such as in high volume misdemeanor courts. Mr. Karwaczka is praised for his legal knowledge in his areas of practice and he is considered to have a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he does not yet have litigation experience in more complex matters and thus, has not demonstrated his ability to master new, sophisticated cases that he may be asked to consider as a judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Peter M. Kramer – Not Recommended**

Peter M. Kramer refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Joan Kubalanza – Qualified**

Joan Kubalanza was admitted to practice in 1984. She is currently in private practice. From 1984 to 1986, Ms. Kubalanza served as a law clerk to Justice William Clark and then served as an Associate with what was Wilson & McIlvaine. She was an Associate and then a partner with Foley and Lardner from 1990 to 1998. For one year she served as an Associate Judge before going back to private practice. She reports acting as lead counsel in 1 civil jury trial and about 8 civil bench trials. She has been involved in extensive motion practice in complex matters. Ms. Kubalanza is considered to have good legal ability with solid litigation experience in more complex matters. She is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Geary Kull – Well Qualified (Evaluated for Associate Judge in 2004. Judge Kull was appointed to the bench in 2009 by the Illinois Supreme Court)**

After being admitted to practice in 1974, Geary Kull served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender until 1981, when he left to establish a private criminal defense practice as a sole practitioner. Mr. Kull is considered to have very good legal ability, an excellent temperament, and unquestioned integrity. He has extensive litigation experience in complex matters. Mr. Kull is a solid practitioner who has earned the respect of his colleagues, lawyers and judges alike, who uniformly praise him highly. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**John Lagattuta – Qualified**

John Lagattuta was admitted to practice in 1985. He spent his initial three years in practice as an Assistant States' Attorney in Cook County, followed by eleven years of general practice as an associate or sole practitioner handling a variety of civil and criminal litigation as well as real estate and domestic relations matters. Since 1999 he has held a variety of positions with the State Department of Financial and Profession Regulation, working his way up from a staff attorney prosecuting wayward doctors to the Acting Deputy Director of Statewide Enforcement, supervising approximately 20 attorneys and staff members, as well as handling legislative and policy matters. He has had extensive criminal and some civil litigation experience in his various positions. He is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Yehuda Lebovitz – Not Qualified (Evaluated to fill a vacancy in 2006 and reviewed in 2009)**

Yehuda Lebovitz was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 to fill a judicial vacancy. He has heard traffic court matters since his appointment. He was admitted to practice in 1983. Before his judicial appointment, he had since 2000 been the Director of the Expedited Child Support Program for the Circuit Court of Cook County. From 1992 to 2000, he was Director of Statewide Judicial Enforcement and Legal Counsel to the Division of Child Support Enforcement for the Illinois Department of Public Aid. From 1985 to 1992, he was a trial attorney at the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. Before that, he spent two years as a sole general practitioner. Mr. Lebovitz was considered to be an excellent and dedicated administrator. Lawyers appearing before him in traffic court matters find him a capable jurist. He is praised for his temperament and for his willingness to work for systemic reform. The

Council in 2006 found then Mr. Lebovitz Not Qualified because of his lack of substantial experience in litigation matters. While Judge Lebovitz receives good marks for handling a high volume court call, he has had little experience as a judge and has not yet been given a challenging judicial assignment. The Council believes that judges must have substantial litigation experience before going onto the bench or demonstrate an ability to handle a variety of challenging judicial assignments. On balance, the Council finds Judge Lebovitz Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

**Hon. Pamela M. Leeming – Not Qualified (Evaluated for Associate Judge in 2004 and reviewed in 2009. She was appointed to fill a judicial vacancy by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009)**

Pamela M. Leeming was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in October 2009. Before becoming a judge, she served an Assistant Cook County Public Defender since her admission to practice in 1990. She concentrated her practice in the areas of paternity, criminal misdemeanor, preliminary hearings, a variety of other pre-and post-trial matters, and appeals. Ms. Leeming is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, about the lack of breadth and depth in her legal experience, as well as an absence of sufficient experience in more complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

**Theodore “Ted” London – Not Recommended**

Theodore “Ted” London refused to be evaluated. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**William Luby – Qualified**

William Luby was admitted in 1994. He has always served as a sole practitioner practicing primarily criminal trial law. He reports that he has taken 2 criminal trials to a jury verdict as well as 15 civil and 35 criminal trials to a bench verdict. He has litigated 7 appellate cases. His practice includes a variety of cases, including murder trials and other more complex matters. Mr. Luby is reported to have good legal ability and is praised as a good practitioner who is fair and zealous. He has a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Lisa Ann Marino – Qualified**

Lisa Ann Marino was admitted to practice in 1988. She is currently a sole practitioner focusing on real estate and zoning issues. From 1993 to 1997, she was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney in the civil division, real estate tax unit. From 1988 to 1993 she was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney where she conducted more than 200 misdemeanor bench trials and traffic offenses, and handled felony financial crime cases. Ms. Marino is considered to be very knowledgeable about her area of practice and she is reported to be a good lawyer with a good temperament. She has experience in more complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Mary McNamara – Not Recommended**

Mary McNamara refused to be evaluated. She is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Daniel B. Malone – Qualified**

Judge Daniel B. Malone was admitted to practice in 1986. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in February 2009 and currently sits in Traffic Court hearing minor and

misdemeanor traffic cases. Before taking the bench, Judge Malone had been in private practice throughout his career with a focus on personal injury and workers' compensation litigation. He has both jury and bench trial experience in more complex matters. Judge Malone is considered to have good legal ability and as a judge, is praised for his temperament and courtroom management. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Maritza Martinez -- Qualified**

Maritza Martinez was admitted to practice in 1989. Since 2005 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 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 reports that she has litigation experience in both state and federal courts, acting as lead counsel in two jury trials in criminal law matters, three juries in civil matters, and numerous prosecutions involving bench trials in municipal ordinance violations. 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.

**Bernadette McNicholas -- Qualified**

Bernadette McNicholas was admitted to practice in 1986. She is a sole practitioner focusing on domestic relations. She reports acting as lead counsel in four jury trials and more than 45 bench trials. Ms. McNicholas has substantial experience in more complex litigation matters. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability and a good temperament. She is praised for being hard-working and for her courtroom skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Pamela McLean Meyerson -- Qualified**

Pamela McLean Meyerson was admitted to practice in 1983. Since 1989, she has been a sole practitioner, handling civil and commercial litigation in the Circuit Court of Cook County. She also organizes and advises 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. She teaches trial practice at the University of Chicago Law School. Ms. Meyerson reports no jury trial experience but has acted as lead counsel in 17 civil law bench trials. Ms. Meyerson is reported to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor. She is respected as a hard-working, knowledgeable, and highly ethical practitioner. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. Allen Francis Murphy—Qualified (evaluated to fill a judicial vacancy in 2008. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court bench in September 2008)**

Allen Francis Murphy was admitted to practice in 1991. He served as an Assistant Cook County Public Guardian before becoming an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in 1995. Mr.

Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised by opposing counsel as being knowledgeable and trustworthy. His temperament is described as low key and professional. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Thomas J. Murphy – Qualified**

Thomas J. Murphy was admitted to practice in 1981. He is a sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Thomas J. Murphy (since 1989) and before that was an associate at Andich & Belgrade (1987-89) and an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County (1981-87). He reports being lead counsel in 30 trials that have gone to a jury verdict and 200 that have gone to a bench verdict. Mr. Murphy is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and is described as well prepared and thorough. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Thomas G. O'Brien – Not Recommended**

**Thomas G. O'Brien did not participate in the 2010 judicial evaluation process. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.**

**Sharon Dolores Oden-Johnson – Not Qualified**

Sharon Dolores Oden-Johnson was admitted in 1996. She is a sole practitioner focusing on real estate, family law, probate, and small business matters. She reports having no jury trial experience and acting as lead counsel in 4 civil bench trials. She is very active in community activities and pro bono work. Ms. Oden-Johnson is praised as a smart lawyer with a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that she has little litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council believes that a judicial candidate must have substantial litigation experience before becoming a judge. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Radusa Ostojic – Qualified (Ballot objection appeal pending as of January 8, 2010)**

Radusa Ostojic was admitted to practice in 1986. She has been in private practice throughout her career doing tort litigation. She reports litigating 19 civil jury cases to verdict and an unspecified number of bench trials to verdict. She is praised for her pro bono activities. Ms. Ostojic is reported to have good legal ability and is praised for her management and litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Jesse Outlaw -- Qualified**

Jesse Outlaw was admitted to practice in 1980. He is a sole practitioner concentrating in commercial and residential real estate, bankruptcy, family law, and probate. He serves as a guardian ad litem in the Probate Division. Much of his current practice involves bankruptcy in Chapter 7 and 13 proceedings. He reports acting as lead counsel in two jury trials and ten civil bench trials. While he has had relatively few trials, he reports that much of his work as a lawyer involves motion practice. He has been an arbitrator with the Cook County arbitration program for many years. Mr. Outlaw is praised for his temperament and for his diligence. He is considered an intelligent lawyer who is a zealous advocate for his clients. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Nicole Patton – Not Qualified**

Nicole Patton was admitted to practice in 1997. She is currently a sole practitioner and was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney having practiced in the areas of real estate taxation, delinquency, child protection, traffic, and appeals. She reports acting as lead counsel in 1 civil jury, 5 criminal juries, 200 criminal bench trials, and 100 civil trials. She has handled 25 cases on appeal. Ms. Patton is considered to have good legal ability and temperament and has the reputation of being a good attorney. The Council is concerned, however, because while Ms. Patton has litigation experience, little of it is in more complex matters. She has the potential for being a good judge but the Council believes she is not yet ready for the bench. The Council finds her Not Qualified at this time.

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

Judge Daniel J. Pierce was admitted to practice in 1972 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in April 2008. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice doing civil and criminal law litigation and real estate tax cases. His practice involved complex legal issues. He also served for five years as a Chief Deputy in the Cook County Assessor’s Office and for five years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. As a judge, he served for a time in Traffic Court and then was assigned to preside over aging Law Division cases with the goal of getting them to trial. Lawyers praise him for his court management skills and for his temperament. He is considered to have very good legal ability. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Mary Therese Quinn – Qualified**

Mary Therese Quinn has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since her admission to the bar in 1988. She is currently assigned to a felony trial courtroom after having served in the Financial Crimes Unit. Ms. Quinn is considered to be a solid prosecutor with good legal ability and temperament. She is praised as being well-prepared and hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Abbey Romanek – Qualified**

Abbey Romanek has practiced law since 1987. From 2004 to 2009, she was 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 then 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.

**Frank James Ryan -- Qualified**

Frank James Ryan was admitted to practice in 1981. He is currently a sole practitioner focusing on domestic relations and criminal defense work. He reports serving as lead counsel in one jury matter, more than 50 bench trials in civil law matters, and more than 50 criminal law bench trials. Mr. Ryan is reported to have good legal ability and a good temperament. He is praised for being knowledgeable, and for knowing when to litigate and when to settle a case. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Hon. George Francis Scully -- Qualified**

Hon. George Francis Scully was admitted to practice in 1981 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in March 2009. He is currently assigned to the First Municipal District hearing traffic matters. Before taking the bench, Judge Scully was in private practice and served as general counsel to two banks and as an Illinois state legislator. He has substantial litigation experience in commercial litigation matters. He was well respected as a lawyer with good legal ability and temperament. Those appearing before him as a judge praise his court management skills and his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Daniela Silaides – Not Recommended**

Daniela Silaides refused to be evaluated. She is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

**Thomas Joseph “TJ” Somer – Not Qualified**

Thomas Joseph “TJ” Somer was admitted to practice in 1991, following 14 years as a police officer in Chicago Heights. After one year working on insurance defense cases for a large firm, he set up his own general practice firm in the south suburbs. Since 1997 he has served as a Supervisor for Bloom Township and, since 2006, he has also served as corporation counsel for the city of Chicago Heights. He was also an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Chicago Heights and for Congress. Mr. Somer is reported to have good legal ability and temperament, although his practice is narrow. In addition to the narrowness of his practice, the Council is also concerned that Somer was a defendant in a law suit alleging illegal practices with respect to tax delinquent properties during the time he was the Bloom Township Supervisor. Although the trial court absolved Somer of wrongdoing, the Appellate Court reversed the trial court’s decision. Mr. Somer denies any culpability and insists that this program was appropriate and successful. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**Mary S. Trew – Qualified**

Mary S. Trew was admitted to practice law in Michigan in 1981 and in Illinois in 1991. Since 1991, she has been with Pro Bono Advocates first as a supervising attorney and currently as the Executive Director. Before 1991, Ms. Trew practiced in Detroit. For one year, she was the supervising staff attorney at the Women’s Justice Center. From 1982 to 1989, she was in private practice doing primarily criminal defense work. From 1980 to 1981, she was at the Misdemeanor Defender Office, first as a student and later as a lawyer. Ms. Trew is a 1981 graduate of the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University.

Ms. Trew is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has a variety of litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. She is dedicated to public service and has a reputation as a hard-working and extremely well-prepared lawyer. The Council finds Ms. Trew Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

**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.

**Hon. Thaddeus L. Wilson – Qualified (Evaluated to fill a judicial vacancy. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2007 to fill a judicial vacancy.)**

Thaddeus L. Wilson was admitted to practice law in 1994. He has been in private, small firm practice throughout his legal career. He currently serves as a hearing examiner for the Chicago Board of Elections. Mr. Wilson is reported to have good legal ability and is praised for his professional demeanor by both lawyers and judges. He has substantial trial experience in both civil and criminal law matters and practices in both the state and federal courts. He is also praised for his community service. The Chicago Council of Lawyers finds Mr. Wilson to be Qualified for the Circuit Court.