

The Chicago Council of Lawyers

**A DIRECTORY OF
STATE JUDGES IN
CHICAGO**



*Judicial evaluations
Conducted through December 2020
By the Chicago Council of Lawyers
reviewing:*

Circuit Judges in Cook County
Associate Judges in Cook County
Illinois Supreme Court and Appellate Court Justices, First District

Tenth Edition

INTRODUCTION

The Chicago Council of Lawyers is the public interest bar association that promotes a fair, efficient and effective legal system, using judicial evaluations, *amicus curiae* briefs, publications, seminars and investigations of agencies and courts. The Council offers all lawyers an opportunity to work with other dedicated lawyers in promoting the highest standards of the legal profession and in serving the public interest.

The Council began evaluating state court and federal district court judges in 1970. We evaluate state court candidates seeking to fill judicial vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County. We also evaluate sitting Cook County Circuit Court judges seeking retention. In addition, the Council evaluates First District candidates for the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois Appellate Court.

In this *Directory of State Judges in Chicago*, we have utilized Council judicial evaluations from 1986 through December 2020. We have included information about the Circuit Judges in Cook County, the Associate Judges in Cook County, as well as Supreme Court and Appellate Court Justices from the First District.

METHODOLOGY USED BY THE CHICAGO COUNCIL OF LAWYERS IN EVALUATING STATE COURT JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND JUDGES SEEKING RETENTION

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 are 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 all of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of “well 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.”

The Council does not evaluate candidates based on their substantive views of political or social issues. We apply a uniform standard for associate judges and countywide and subcircuit elections because judges elected through any of these methods 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 since 1998 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: Arab American Bar Association of Illinois, Asian American Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, 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;
- (8) an evaluation of all the above materials by the Council’s Judicial Evaluation Committee; and

(g) 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.

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, a practice history that principally involves only routine motions practice, limited in-court adversarial experience, or both, or because the candidate has had limited experience conducting 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."

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**For more information, please see
www.chicagocouncil.org, and please email
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**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT AND ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT JUSTICES:
FIRST DISTRICT
CIRCUIT JUDGES AND ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF COOK COUNTY**

Martin S. Agran

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1994.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Martin S. Agran was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1972. Prior to becoming a judge, Martin S. Agran served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in private practice. He was also a panel attorney with the Federal Defender's Office for 14 years. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1994 and elected to the bench the same year. Since 2011, he has been assigned to the Third Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, where he is on civil call. His previous judicial assignments were at the Chancery Division (2004 to 2011); the Law Division (2001 to 2004); Juvenile Court, Juvenile Justice Division (1996-2001); Juvenile Court, Child Protection Division (1994-1996); and the First Municipal Division (1994). Judge Agran is well respected and is seen as a thoughtful jurist who comes to the right conclusion. He is praised for his temperament as well as his courtroom management skills. He keeps the call moving but gives the litigants ample time to make their case. Judge Agran is reported to be fair and is especially praised for his handling of pro se litigants. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Martin S. Agran served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in private practice. He was also a panel attorney with the Federal Defender's Office for 14 years. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1994 and elected to the bench the same year. Judge Agran was initially assigned to the First Municipal District, then to the Child Protection Division. He served in the Juvenile Justice Division and the Trial Section

of the Law Division. Since 2004, Judge Agran has been in the Chancery Division.

Attorneys surveyed and interviewed indicated Judge Agran is well-respected. He is seen as a "thoughtful" jurist who takes time to do his own research and come to the right conclusion. He has the ability to "move his cases" and he does this while still taking time to ensure everyone's cases are litigated thoroughly. Respondents noted his "judicial and cordial" demeanor and describe him as "very fair." He is known for giving "well-reasoned decisions based on the law." Consistently, interviewees stated that Judge Agran was "very knowledgeable" and "bright."

This judge was also consistently praised for courtroom management skills. While he "keeps his call moving" and is "very organized," Judge Agran is also said to be "very accommodating" and grants continuances when necessary. One interviewee pointed out that Judge Agran "always made sure everyone knew the status." The attorneys interviewed uniformly stated that he "reads everything," and is always "very prepared" for court proceedings. Many respondents also mentioned that he had an excellent memory and could often recall many details of the matters before him.

Judge Agran's temperament also received praise from the attorneys surveyed. Many of the interviewees stated that he was "not excitable" and "even keeled." A number of respondents also stated that while Judge Agran could be firm at times, he always remained "professional" and "respectful." Judge Agran is also highly regarded for his integrity and fairness. Many of the attorneys interviewed stated that his integrity was "beyond reproach." Attorneys also uniformly felt they "got a fair shake" from Judge Agran. This was even said by attorneys who received unfavorable decisions from the judge. Many interviewees also made special note of Judge Agran's treatment of pro se litigants, stating that he always treated pro se litigants fairly and listened to their arguments. One attorney stated that "you're always on a level playing field in his courtroom whether or not you're represented by a lawyer."

The Council finds Judge Agran Well Qualified for

retention.

November 2006 Retention, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Martin S. Agran, 54, has been a judge since 1994. He is a supervising judge in the Juvenile Court, Juvenile Justice Division. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in private practice. He was a panel attorney with the Federal Defender's Office for 14 years. He is considered to have excellent legal knowledge and ability, particularly having brought to the bench extensive state and federal litigation experience. He has an excellent judicial demeanor. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Carmen Aguilar

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified (Evaluated for the 2008 Primary)

Carmen Aguilar has been a lawyer since 1990 and has been a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney throughout her career. She has extensive courtroom experience and served as a trial

supervisor. She is considered to be an able prosecutor with good legal ability. She is praised by judges, prosecutors and defense counsel as fair with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Gregory Emmet Ahern Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 32

Appointed as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

March 2012 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Gregory E. Ahern Jr. was admitted into practice in 1995, and has been an Assistant State's Attorney his entire career. He became a first chair in 2004, handling felony trials. As lead trial counsel, he reports that he has brought 15 cases to a jury verdict. In addition, he has litigated 26 appellate cases. Mr Ahern is described as having good legal ability and is hardworking with an even-keeled temperament. He is considered ethical and is praised by opposing counsel as being honest and well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Julie B. Aimen

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Julie Bess Aimen was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. She has had a solo private practice since 1986, specializing in criminal, family, municipal, and civil rights law. From 1984 to 1986, Ms. Aimen was an Assistant Appellate Defender with the Office of the State Appellate Defender (OSAD). She

has also been a Hearing Officer for the City of Chicago Department of Revenue (1992-1997). She has taught Trial Advocacy and, since 1999, has been a judge for the National Trial Advocacy Competition. Ms. Aimen has been a chair-qualified Cook County Arbitrator since 1990 and is a past president of Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

Ms. Aimen is considered to have very good legal ability and a good temperament. She has extensive complex litigation experience in the areas of criminal law, family law, civil rights, and appellate law. She is considered to be a zealous advocate for her clients. Her integrity is unquestioned. Ms. Aimen is highly regarded as an excellent practitioner and she is praised for her work in improving the administration of justice through her pro bono efforts. The Council considers Ms. Aimen to be Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

James L. Allegretti

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

John M. Allegretti

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Non-Jury Civil Section

Elected to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Allegretti was elected to the bench in 2014, and now sits in the First Municipal District, Non-Jury Civil Section. Before becoming a judge, Hon. John Allegretti served as General Counsel to the Office of the Cook County Assessor's Office, as a hearing officer for the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney doing civil rights and tort litigation defense work, and in private practice doing domestic relations and bankruptcy work.

Judge Allegretti is generally praised for his substantive knowledge of the law and patience in managing a call that includes a substantial number of litigants unrepresented by legal counsel. He is considered to have a calm demeanor and is reported to treat litigants fairly and with respect. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Amee E. Alonso

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal

Department
District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed to Circuit Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Amee Elizabeth Alonso was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. She is a solo practitioner who handles criminal cases, as well as administrative hearings before the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, where she was a formal hearing officer between 2001 and 2006. She was also an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office (1994-2000), where she worked in the Civil Division, the Child Protection Division, the Juvenile Justice Division, and the Felony Trial Division. She is a volunteer evaluator at the National Criminal Justice Trial Competition, and also volunteered as a trial team advisor at the University of Chicago Moot Court Competition.

Ms. Alonso's recent legal experience is divided between criminal defense work and administrative hearings in the Secretary of State's Office. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience. She is praised for her trial skills and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Amee Elizabeth Alonso was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. She is a solo practitioner who handles criminal cases, as well as administrative hearings before the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, where she was a formal hearing officer between 2001 and 2006. She was also an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office (1994-2000), where she worked in the Civil Division, the Child Protection Division, the Juvenile Justice Division, and the Felony Trial Division. She is a volunteer evaluator at the National Criminal Justice Trial Competition, and also volunteered as a trial team advisor at the University of Chicago Moot Court Competition.

Ms. Alonso's recent legal experience is divided between criminal defense work and administrative

hearings in the Secretary of State's Office. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience. She is praised for her trial skills and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Marina E. Ammendola

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Judge Marina E. Ammendola was admitted to practice in 1989 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. She has been a sole practitioner since 2001, focusing on tort litigation matters. She also serves as a Guardian ad Litem.

Judge Ammendola is considered to have good legal ability and is widely praised for her litigation skills and for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Marina E. Ammendola was admitted to practice in 1989 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. She has been a sole practitioner since 2001, focusing on tort litigation matters. She also serves as a Guardian ad Litem.

Judge Ammendola is considered to have good legal ability and is widely praised for her litigation skills and for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Judge Marina E. Ammendola was admitted to

practice in 1989 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. She has been a sole practitioner since 2001, focusing on tort litigation matters. She also serves as a Guardian ad Litem.

Judge Ammendola is considered to have good legal ability and is widely praised for her litigation skills and for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Frank J. Andreou

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department
District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Frank John Andreou was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995. Since 2002, he has been the managing principal of Andreou & Casson, Ltd., working as a litigation attorney, both plaintiff and defense, on personal injury, employment, and commercial litigation matters. From 1999-2002, Mr. Andreou was an associate at Pretzel & Stouffer, specializing in civil litigation and medical malpractice, general liability, and auto defense. From 1995-1999, he was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County.

Mr. Andreou is considered to be a competent trial attorney with experience in a variety of civil legal actions. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Frank John Andreou was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995. Since 2002, he has been the managing principal of Andreou & Casson, Ltd., working as a litigation attorney, both plaintiff and defense, on personal injury, employment, and

commercial litigation matters. From 1999-2002, Mr. Andreou was an associate at Pretzel & Stouffer, specializing in civil litigation and medical malpractice, general liability, and auto defense. From 1995-1999, he was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County.

Mr. Andreou is considered to be a competent trial attorney with experience in a variety of civil legal actions. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Frank John Andreou was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995. Since 2002, he has been the managing principal of Andreou & Casson, Ltd., working as a litigation attorney, both plaintiff and defense, on personal injury, employment, and commercial litigation matters. From 1999-2002, Mr. Andreou was an associate at Pretzel & Stouffer, specializing in civil litigation and medical malpractice, general liability, and auto defense. From 1995-1999, he was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County.

Mr. Andreou is considered to be a competent trial attorney with experience in a variety of civil legal actions. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Erin Haggerty Antonietti

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 6

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Erin Haggerty Antonietti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in June 2019. Prior to taking the bench, she worked as an

Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she was assigned to Central Bond Court, a position she held for more than 17 years. Between 1991 and 1994, she was an associate at Bresnahan & Garvey, an insurance defense firm. Since June 2019 she has been assigned to the First Municipal District assigned to traffic, civil non-jury, eviction, and pro se courtrooms. She has presided over bench trials, motions to dismiss, motions for sanctions, and motions to quash arrest and suppress evidence.

As a lawyer, Judge Antonietti has spent most of her professional career in Central Bond Court, where she was praised as professional, knowledgeable, and organized. She had litigation experience in more complex matters earlier in her career. As a Judge, she is reported to demonstrating good legal ability, temperament, and the ability to manage high volume courtrooms. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Not Qualified

Erin Haggerty Antonietti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1991. She works as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she is assigned to Central Bond Court, a position she has held for 17 years. Between 1991 and 1994, she was an associate at Bresnahan & Garvey, an insurance defense firm.

Ms. Antonietti has spent most of her professional career in Central Bond Court. While that Court has been criticized in the way it operates, she is praised as professional, knowledgeable, and organized. She has had litigation experience in more complex matters earlier in her career. The Council is concerned, however, about the depth and breadth of her practice, and finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Not Qualified

Erin Haggerty Antonietti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1991. She works as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she is assigned to Central Bond Court, a position she has

held for 17 years. Between 1991 and 1994, she was an associate at Bresnahan & Garvey, an insurance defense firm.

Ms. Antonietti has spent most of her professional career in Central Bond Court. While that Court has been criticized in the way it operates, she is praised as professional, knowledgeable, and organized. She has had litigation experience in more complex matters earlier in her career. The Council is concerned, however, about the depth and breadth of her practice, and finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Edward A. Arce

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar D

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Edward A. Arce had been a partner at the general civil litigation firm Whitcup & Arce since 1986. Judge Arce was elected to the bench in 2008, and sits in the Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Arce is praised for his strong command of family law. He is considered to have good legal ability and is diligent about staying knowledgeable about the law. He is considered to be exceptionally patient and treats everyone with respect and dignity. He is reported to have a good temperament. He is widely respected as a jurist. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Evaluated to fill Judicial Vacancy: Not Qualified

Edward A. Arce was admitted to practice in 1985. He has been a partner in the general civil litigation firm of Whitcup & Arce since 1986. Lawyers report that Mr. Arce has an adequate temperament. However, the Council has concerns about his other qualifications. His evaluation uncovered questions about whether he has the ability and experience necessary to be a judge. His legal practice is not comprised of complex matters that would demonstrate his ability to be a judge. In addition, he has had little jury trial experience. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Sophia Atcherson

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Pretrial Division

Appointed as Associate Judge for the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

2015 Associate Judge Evaluation Report: Qualified

Sophia Jane Atcherson was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1997. Ms. Atcherson has been working in the Cook County Public Defender's Office since 1998. In 2012, she became an attorney supervisor in the felony trial division. Ms. Atcherson has experience in defending misdemeanors and felonies. She has also handled post-conviction petitions and appeals. Ms. Atcherson has been on two Illinois Supreme Court Committees: the Committee on Character and Fitness (since 2013) and the Committee on Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases (since 2014). She also volunteered her time as a teacher at the Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers from 1998-2007.

Ms. Atcherson is considered to have good legal ability and is a well-respected criminal defense practitioner. She is praised for her integrity and for her knowledge of the law. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

David B. Atkins

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Chancery Judge, Calendar 16
General Chancery Division

Appointed to fill a Circuit Court vacancy in 2003; recalled in 2004.

Evaluation

October 2003 Evaluation to fill a vacancy to Circuit Court: Qualified

David B. Atkins has been practicing since 1972. Since 1998 he has served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender, supervising 16 lawyers in the Maywood office. During his career he has been in private practice concentrating in both state and federal civil matters, has served as a supervisor in the Chicago Department of Law, has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and has served as an Assistant United States Attorney. He has extensive litigation experience in complex civil and criminal law matters. Mr. Atkins is considered to have very good legal ability and has a reputation for always being well prepared. He has a good temperament and his integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez

Present Judicial Duties:
Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department,
District 1

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. For the past 14 years, she has worked

as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office. Currently she is a first chair in the Felony Trial Division.

Ms. Ayala-Gonzalez is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her trial skills. She has substantial trial experience in complex matters. She is reported to have a very good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Callie Lynn Baird

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Callie Baird was admitted to practice in 1988. She spent her initial nine years practicing as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She served as chief administrative officer for the Chicago Police Department's Office of Professional Standards from 1998 to 2002. She then spent a little over a year in private practice handling a mix of civil and criminal litigation, before being appointed as director for the Cook County Jail. In 2004, she became a special assistant in the Sheriff's Office. She became director of the landlord accountability-Section 8 housing project for the CHA in October 2005. Most attorneys respect Ms. Baird's abilities as a litigator, reporting that she has good legal ability and temperament. She has sufficient litigation experience. The Council finds Ms. Baird Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Robert Balanoff

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 12L

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Robert Balanoff graduated from DePaul Law School in and was admitted to practice in 1982.

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

Judge Balanoff drew praise from the respondents for his demeanor and courtesy. His compassion was well-noted. Respondents further characterized Judge Balanoff as both very efficient and quite diligent. Some attorneys with experience in Judge Balanoff's courtroom felt he sometimes becomes impatient with parents appearing before him. On balance, however, Judge Balanoff is a judge with a good temperament who listens carefully and takes the time to explain his decisions. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2004 General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Patrice Ball-Reed

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Housing Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2008.

Evaluation

2008 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Qualified

Patrice Ball-Reed was licensed to practice in 1985 and currently serves as the Deputy Illinois Attorney General for Child Support Enforcement. She has served as the Deputy Supervisor in the Real Estate Property Tax Division of the State’s Attorney’s Office. Before that, she was in the Child Support Enforcement Division from 1989 through 1996. She spent four months as an independent contractor in 1988. From 1985 to 1988, she was an associate at Washington, Kenner, Hunter & Samuels, a general practice firm. Ms. Ball-Reed has been the President of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago and is involved in many other legal and non-legal associations.

Ms. Ball-Reed is considered to be diligent and hard working. She has good temperament and her integrity is unquestioned. Her community service work is laudable, and she is widely praised for her work on behalf of legal reform. The Council finds Ms. Ball-Reed Qualified to serve in Circuit Court

Michael B. Barrett

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Michael Brendan Barrett was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1991. Since 1992, he has worked for Barrett & Sramek , where is a partner focusing on personal injury, probate and estate planning, and worker’s compensation cases. He previously worked

as an associate at Moss & Hillison (1991-1992). Mr. Barrett provides pro bono legal services to not-for-profit youth sports organizations, including Vikings Youth Hockey, Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, Illinois Hockey Officials’ Association, and Chicago Fury Youth Hockey. He has held bar association offices and committee memberships including president of the Southwest Bar Association; judicial evaluations investigator and member of the Tort Law Section Council for the Illinois Bar Association; judicial evaluations investigator for the Chicago Bar Association; and vice chairman of the Judicial Screening Committee for the Coalition of Suburban Bar Associations.

Mr. Barrett is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is knowledgeable and is reported to have good trial skills. He has substantial litigation experience is well-respected as a practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Ronald F. Bartkowicz

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court

Law Division, Calendar J, Individual General Calendar Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1985; elected to the Circuit Court in 1994

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Ronald F. Bartkowicz was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1965. Prior to becoming a judge, Ronald Bartkowicz was an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority for 20 years. Judge Bartkowicz was appointed in 1985 as an Associate Judge and appointed as a Circuit Court judge in 1997. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Since September 2017, he has been assigned to the General Calendar J of the Law Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His previous judicial assignments were in the Trial Section, Law Division, Courtroom 2609 (2014-2017), Commercial Calendar Y, Courtroom 2101 (2001-2014), Trial Section, Law Division, Courtroom 2101 (1998-2001), and First Municipal District,

various assignments (1985-1998).

Respondents indicated that Judge Bartkowicz has excellent courtroom management skills. His courtroom was consistently described as a “level playing field” with few exceptions. He is described as “effective” in his use of pretrial time. He is considered hard-working and very diligent, with more than one respondent commenting on his long hours in a typical day. Judge Bartkowicz is knowledgeable about substantive and procedural law on his cases. Overall, Judge Bartkowicz is well-respected as a diligent and capable judge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ronald Bartkowicz was an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority for 20 years. Judge Bartkowicz was appointed in 1985 as an Associate Judge and appointed as a Circuit Court judge in 1997. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Judge Bartkowicz presently sits in the Law Division, Individual Commercial Calendar Section. Previously, he was in the Law Division, jury trial section, and the First Municipal District trial section.

Respondents indicated that Judge Bartkowicz has excellent courtroom management skills, with the praise extending to his courtroom staff. Generally, interviewees noted that it is a very busy courtroom with a crowded docket, but most noted that he is “punctual” and moves cases. Interviewees say that he is professional, attentive, and has always behaved appropriately even when his patience was clearly tested. Judge Bartkowicz appears particularly good at communicating displeasure while remaining calm and courteous.

His courtroom was consistently described as a “level playing field” with few exceptions. He is described as “effective” in his use of pretrial time. Nonetheless, a minority of respondents felt he could be more persuasive in encouraging settlements. He is considered hard-working and very diligent, with more than one respondent commenting on his long hours in a typical day.

Judge Bartkowicz is knowledgeable about substantive and procedural law on more routine

cases, although some respondents commented on his occasional indecisiveness in more complex matters.

Overall, Judge Bartkowicz is well-respected as a diligent and capable judge. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court, Qualified

Ronald F. Bartkowicz, 60, has been a judge since 1985. He sits in the Law Division. He has also been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, he was an attorney with the Chicago Transit Authority. Lawyers report that Judge Bartkowicz has very good legal ability and judicial temperament. He is widely praised as being an impartial, hardworking judge who maintains good control of his courtroom. The Council finds him Qualified.

Fredrick H. Bates

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Frederick Bates was admitted to practice in 1983. Judge Bates was appointed to the Circuit

Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015. He was a sole practitioner between 2000 and 2013 and served as an Administrative Law Judge between 2000 and 2015. He was also a Partner at Wildman, Harrold between 1997 and 1999, President of Albert, Bates Whitehead & McGaugh between 1992 and 1997, was a partner with Bell, Boyd and Lloyd between 1988 and 1992. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in a variety of matters. He is praised for both his litigation skills and for his skills as an Administrative Law Judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Frederick Bates was admitted to practice in 1983. Judge Bates was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015. He was a sole practitioner between 2000 and 12 2013 and served as an Administrative Law Judge between 2000 and 2015. He was also a Partner at Wildman, Harrold between 1997 and 1999, President of Albert, Bates Whitehead & McGaugh between 1992 and 1997, was a partner with Bell, Boyd and Lloyd between 1988 and 1992. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in a variety of matters. He is praised for both his litigation skills and for his skills as an Administrative Law Judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Charles S. Beach II

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Charles S. Beach was admitted to practice in 1996. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois

Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, he was a sole practitioner doing primarily criminal defense work in felony and misdemeanor cases. The bulk of his practice was DUI defense. In addition to the criminal defense aspect of his practice, he did the civil law portion of DUI defense known as the Statutory Summary Suspension actions where the rules of civil procedure apply except for the right to depose a witness. In addition to being a sole practitioner he was an associate in a small private practice firm doing criminal defense, was a Law Clerk to Illinois Appellate Justice Judith Koehler, and served for one year as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. He is the author of an IICLE chapter, “The Chicago Traffic Court: Procedures and Practices,” published in 2011. Mr. Beach was considered to very knowledgeable in the areas of law he practiced. He is considered by many to be an expert in DUI law and had experience in more complex litigation. The Council is concerned about the narrowness of his practice before taking the bench, but notes that he had broader experience as a criminal defense practitioner, and had substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

2017 Associate Judge Evaluation Report: Qualified

Charles S. Beach was admitted to practice in 1996. He is a sole practitioner doing primarily criminal defense work in felony and misdemeanor cases. The bulk of his practice is DUI defense. He report that he typically litigates two cases per week. In addition to the criminal defense aspect of his practice, he does the civil law portion of DUI defense known as the Statutory Summary Suspension actions where the rules of civil procedure apply except for the right to depose a witness. In addition to being a sole practitioner he was an associate in a small private practice firm doing criminal defense, was a Law Clerk to Illinois Appellate Justice Judith Koehler, and served for one year as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. He is the author of an IICLE chapter, “The Chicago Traffic Court: Procedures and Practices,” published in 2011. Mr. Beach is considered to very knowledgeable in the areas of law he practices. He is considered by many to be an expert in DUI law and has experience in more complex litigation. The Council is concerned about the narrowness of his current practice, but notes that he has broader experience as a criminal

defense practitioner and has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jeanne Cleveland Bernstein

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 64

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

From 1971 until 1976, Judge Bernstein served as a General Attorney for the Office of Regional Counsel, before going on to work as an independent general practitioner. She was elected to the bench in 2004. She currently is assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Cleveland Bernstein is reported to be knowledgeable and diligent as a judge in the Domestic Relations Division. She is praised for being well-prepared and for the accuracy and decisiveness of her rulings. There were respondents who complained that she can be intemperate on the bench. Some of these respondents noted that 6 these incidents are sometimes part of a case where the lawyer has, in her opinion, needlessly delayed a case or filed a frivolous motion. Other respondents complained that she can be unduly quick to make up her mind about a particular issue. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, Judge Bernstein sat in the First Municipal District. She was admitted to practice in 1971. Prior to her election, Judge Bernstein was in private practice and served as a mediator at the Center for Conflict Resolution.

Judge Cleveland Bernstein is considered to have good legal ability and his praised for her courtroom management. Most respondents find her to be a conscientious judge who moves cases along with due diligence. The Council finds her Qualified for

retention.

November 2004 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein received her license to practice law in 1971. She has been a partner in a private general practice firm since 1976 and handles mostly Domestic Relations cases. From 1971 until 1976 she was a General Attorney with the Office of the Regional Counsel of the General Services Administration. Ms. Bernstein has substantial experience as a family law practitioner. She has good legal ability and a good temperament. She is widely praised as being an effective advocate for her clients and for her involvement in community activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Steven James Bernstein

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division, Calendar 72 and Calendar 73

Elected to the bench in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Bernstein was elected to the bench in 2010. Before taking the bench he was in private practice and served as the Acting General Counsel for the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority where he drafted inter-agency agreements, drafts legislation, and prepares and delivers training programs. Upon becoming a judge, he heard traffic, state conservation cases, misdemeanor criminal cases, DUI cases and drug related cases. In 2014, he was moved to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Division with the Second and Third municipal districts. Judge Bernstein is well respected for his knowledge and diligence. He is praised for his rapport with juries and for showing respect of all persons appearing before him. He is also praised for his courtroom management. He is reported to be handling well his job as a "swing judge" through which he must substitute for another judge – taking cases to trial if the parties are ready. The

Council finds him Qualified for retention in his present position.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Laura Bertucci Smith

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007

Evaluation

2002 Evaluation for Primary Election: Qualified

Laura Bertucci Smith was admitted to practice in 1991 and has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney her entire legal career. She is currently a First Chair in the Felony Trial Division of that office. She has tried over 300 bench trials to verdict and approximately 20 jury trials in her career. The candidate served as first chair in 11 of the 20 felony jury trials. Lawyers comment positively on her performance. While she has been an attorney for little more than ten years, her experience and the information gathered during the Alliance investigation confirm that Ms. Smith is Qualified to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

Robert W. Bertucci

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 8

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Bertucci was elected to the bench in 1992. In 1983, Judge Bertucci began work as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He was also in private practice. He was assigned to the County Division in 2001 where he has remained. 5 Judge Bertucci is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the issues coming before him, and he is praised for his courtroom management. In his mental health commitment call, he is considered to be fair, sensitive, prepared, and decisive. He is reported to be well-prepared and hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Robert Bertucci was admitted to practice in 1983. He was elected to the bench in 1997 and presently serves in the County Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, Judge Bertucci was in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court at 26th and California. He was admitted to practice in 1983. Prior to his election, Judge Bertucci was an assistant State's Attorney and a defense attorney in private practice.

Judge Bertucci is considered to have good legal ability and always takes the bench well-prepared for the call with knowledge of the cases to be heard. He is praised for showing respect of all persons appearing before him and is praised for his courtroom management. He is also praised for his ability to deal well with a wide variety of issues coming into his courtroom in cases ranging from involuntary admissions to election law issues. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit

Court: Qualified

Robert W. Bertucci, 41, became a judge in 1992 and currently sits in the County Division. He has served in the Criminal Division and in the First Municipal District. For most of his career prior to becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Judge Bertucci is considered to have good legal ability and unquestioned integrity. He is diligent and punctual. Lawyers reported in the past that Judge Bertucci had difficulties with his temperament, but we have not heard this recently. The Council believes that he is qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Robert W. Bertucci, 41, became a judge in 1992 and currently sits in the Criminal Division at 26th and California. He has served in the Evening Narcotics Division and in the First Municipal District. For most of his career prior to becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Judge Bertucci is considered to have good legal ability and unquestioned integrity. He is considered to be fair to both prosecutors and defense counsel. He is diligent and punctual. However, some lawyers report that Judge Bertucci has difficulties with his temperament. According to these lawyers, he can be short-tempered and unpredictable. However, most of these lawyers also report that Judge Bertucci is growing in the job and that while temperament is still a problem, it is improving. On balance, the Council believes that he is qualified for retention.

November 1992 Fourteenth Subcircuit – Judgeship B: Qualified

Robert W. Bertucci, 35, was admitted to practice in 1983. He is currently in private practice doing criminal defense work. For most of his career he, was an Assistant State's Attorney, prosecuting cases in a felony courtroom at 26th and California. While Mr. Bertucci is a relatively young attorney, the Council feels that is offset by the type of practice that he has had and the high praise that he receives as an attorney. The Council finds him Qualified.

Samuel J. Betar III

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District and Domestic Violence Division

Appointed as Judge to Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Samuel J. Betar, III was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1983. Since 2012, he has served as an Associate Judge assigned to the Third Municipal District, where he handles traffic, criminal, 39 domestic violence, housing, civil and parentage matters. He was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. His previous assignments include Domestic Relations, Third Municipal District (2003-2012), Post Judgment Collections, First Municipal District (1999- 2003), and First Municipal District, Housing Court (1999). He was also an Associate at Arnold and Kadjan, where he handled labor law and litigation (1991-1998); an Associate at Kamensky and Rubinstein, where he handled commercial litigation (1986-1991), and an Associate at the Botti Law Firm (1983-1986). He is a member of several bar associations, including the Northwest Suburban bar association, where he has Co-Chaired the Matrimonial Law Committee.

Lawyers appearing before Judge Betar consider him to have good legal ability and to have good temperament. He is praised for his ability to manage a large call and for his patience and communication skills with litigants and lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Tiana Ellis Blakely

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Tiana Ellis Blakely – Qualified Tiana Ellis Blakely was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2004. Since 2005, she has worked as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender’s Office, where she is currently a Grade 3 Attorney. In that capacity, she represents clients in cases ranging from battery to first degree murder. Her pro bono work includes participating in the 34th Ward/15th Legislative District Expungement Fair and serving in the Polished Pebbles program, where she speaks to participants about understanding their legal rights.

Ms. Blakely is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is praised for her trial skills. She assists with the defense in murder trials although she is not the lead attorney. Ms. Blakely has only 13 years of experience as an attorney but she has had a variety of legal experiences and is considered a solid defense attorney. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Shauna L. Boliker

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Probate Division, Calendar 15
Adult Guardianship Estates

Appointed as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

Darron Edward Bowden

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation to fill a Circuit Court

Vacancy: Qualified

Darron Bowden was admitted to the bar in 1987. He has spent most of his career in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, where he has been Chief of the Civil Division since 2004, having previously held that position from 1997 to 2000. From 2002 until 2004, he was the Executive Director of First Defense Legal Aid. Mr. Bowden is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He has substantial trial experience as well as being involved in legal reform efforts. The Council finds him Qualified to fill a vacancy.

Karen J. Bowes

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 21

Appointed as Associate Judge for the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

Carl B. Boyd

Present Judicial Duties

Circuit Judge, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Judge, Circuit Court, 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Carl B. Boyd was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. Prior to taking the bench, he was in private practice. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since March 2017, he has been assigned to the Felony Division, Room 108, Sixth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Markham, Illinois. He presides over all assigned felony matters from arraignments 6 through jury trials. His previous judicial assignments were in the Civil and Criminal Divisions in the Sixth Municipal District (2014-2017); the Civil Division, First Municipal District (2013-2014), and Traffic, First Municipal District

(2012-2013).

Judge Boyd is considered to have good knowledge of the law, and to have a good judicial temperament. He is reported to be respectful to litigants and lawyers. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election: Not Qualified

Carl B. Boyd was admitted to practice in Illinois in October 1991. Mr. Boyd has been a general practitioner with the same firm for 19 years doing bankruptcy and torts litigation. He has participated with the Rainbow Push Legal Clinic and the Chicago South Community Development Organization. Mr. Boyd is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that his actual trial work is limited. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

William Stewart Boyd

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar C

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1998

Evaluation

March 2012, Primary Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge William Boyd became an Associate Judge in 1998. He was in private practice from 1983 to 1998 doing family law, probate, and general litigation. Judge Boyd taught as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Chicago-Kent College of Law from 2003 to 2007, and was also a Guest Lecturer at the University of Chicago Law school from 2006 to 2010. He was the recipient of the Lincoln Award presented by the West Suburban Bar Association on April 30, 2010, the recipient of the Samuel Berger Award presented by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Illinois Chapter on April 17, 2010, recipient of the Charles Freeman Award presented by the Illinois Judicial Council on September 26, 2006, and recipient of a Service Award from the Union Baptist Church on November 21, 2000.

Judge Boyd receives uniformly high praise for his legal knowledge and ability. He is considered to have an excellent temperament and is praised for his ability to manage a high volume courtroom where he presides over often complex matters. He is reportedly exceptionally hard-working. Although Judge Boyd has not published legal articles, he has served as adjunct faculty/guest lecturer at area law schools. He is praised for the quality of his written opinions. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Maura Slattery Boyle

Present Judicial Duties

Circuit Judge, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2000

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election: Not Qualified

Judge Maura Slattery Boyle was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. Prior to becoming a judge, Maura Slattery Boyle spent six years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and also worked at the City of Chicago's Department of Law. Judge Slattery Boyle was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Since 2009, she has been assigned to the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. She conducts bench trials, jury trials and motions for felony cases and also presides over pleas and post-convictions matter. Her previous judicial assignments were at the First Municipal District (2005-2009), Branch 38 (2003-2005), and Traffic Court (2000-2003).

Judge Slattery Boyle is considered by most lawyers interviewed to have good knowledge of the law, and many lawyers praise her temperament. However, the Council is concerned by multiple reports that she can be insensitive to defendants in her courtroom. In addition, sentencing information the Council has reviewed suggests that she issues very harsh sentences compared to other criminal division judges.

The Council is also concerned about what the Illinois Appellate Court has said about Judge Slattery Boyle. In *People v. Serrano*, the Appellate

Court reversed her with orders that the case be reassigned to a different judge on remand. According to the Appellate Court, Judge Slattery Boyle did not consider certain evidence, and also refused to admit probative, admissible evidence that, when evaluated under the proper standard, is damning.

“Petitioner would be prejudiced were we not to assign the case to a new judge on remand. Therefore, pursuant to the discretion conferred on this court by the supreme court rules, we find that the interests of justice would be best and most efficiently served by the case being assigned to a different judge on remand.”

Similarly, in *People v. Rosado*, 2017 IL App (1st) 143741, ¶ 42-47, the Appellate Court reversed Judge Slattery Boyle for a number of evidentiary errors, and ordered the case (on remand) to the chief judge for reassignment to a different judge. In its original opinion, the Appellate Court did not explain the reassignment, and the State filed a petition for rehearing arguing the court did not have the power to order the case reassigned to a different judge. In a second order, Justice Hyman, speaking for the Appellate Court, stated:

“The State has now petitioned for rehearing, arguing that we do not have that power under Rule 366 and that we failed to explain our reasoning for those instructions. Indeed, we did not explain—out of a desire to spare the trial court some embarrassment. But since the State asks for an explanation, we will provide one... In ruling on the other-crimes issue, the trial court made specific comments regarding the jury's verdict in acquitting Rosado on the March 29 transaction. The judge stated that the evidence against Rosado was “quite clear.” It attributed the acquittal to the prosecutors not asking the right questions and leaving issues “up in the air,” which allowed Rosado's attorneys to argue reasonable doubt... 7

“Here, the trial court reversed its own evidentiary rulings between cases (for no discernible reason) and then made a lengthy statement indicating its belief in Rosado's guilt. We have not ordered the case reassigned due to trial court error in its evidentiary rulings... Outward appearances would suggest that the trial court changed its evidentiary rulings in the second case to ensure that Rosado was not acquitted again.”

The Council must balance concerns over these issues with positive reports from some lawyers. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Maura Slattery Boyle spent six years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and also worked at the City of Chicago's Department of Law. Judge Boyle was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. She was assigned to the First Municipal District until she was transferred to the Criminal Division in 2009.

Attorneys praise Judge Boyle for her improved knowledge of the law, preparedness and diligence, integrity and fairness on the bench. Many practitioners noted that Judge Boyle “has progressed” as a judge over the last few years – she is good at recognizing issues, explaining her rulings, and has gotten up to speed on the case law. She received high marks for her preparedness and judicial diligence, with many interviewees noting that she is “always prepared” and “works hard.” She is considered “cognizant of ethical issues” and “has a reputation of someone beyond reproach, and honorable.” Attorneys on both sides of the aisle appear to think that she is fair. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

2000 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Maura Slattery Boyle did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of her candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge

her qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds her Not Recommended.

Daniel Patrick Brennan

Present Judicial Duties

Circuit Court Judge
Chancery Division, Calendar 54
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Daniel Patrick Brennan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. Prior to becoming a judge, Daniel Patrick Brennan was counsel to the Cook County Sheriff. Judge Brennan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. In 2012, the Chicago Council of Lawyers rated him as qualified. Since 2012, he has been assigned to the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His previous judicial assignments were at the Sixth Municipal District in Markham, Illinois (2008- 2011) and the First Municipal District (2006-2008).

Judge Brennan is praised in particular his handling of pro se litigants and the overall fairness of his courtroom. He is called fair, rational, thorough and calm. Attorneys report that Judge Brennan will often telegraph his inclination prior to argument, but does not cut off argument and appears to consider what is presented to him. He is described as not inclined to rush cases through his courtroom.

Overall, Judge Brennan received good ratings from the respondents. Most attorneys interviewed stated they believed he was diligent. One attorney mentioned that Judge Brennan always had notes on the cases before trial and that he “gives a preview that allows you to better manage your case.” Judge Brennan was also highly praised for his judicial temperament.

This judge was also praised for his fairness and integrity; his reputation among attorneys is excellent. He was consistently praised for his

fairness and integrity and seen as a well-informed judge who has the ability to keep an even temper even when dealing with a high-volume courtroom. He is described as being well prepared and is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Daniel Patrick Brennan was counsel to the Cook County Sheriff. Judge Brennan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. He was initially assigned to the First Page 7 of 45 Municipal District and then to the Sixth Municipal District. He is presently assigned to the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien call at the Daley Center.

Judge Brennan has been on the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien call in the Chancery Division for less than a year. Respondents were generally positive, giving particular praise to his handling of pro se litigants and the overall fairness of his courtroom. He is called fair, rational, thorough and calm. Attorneys report that Judge Brennan will often telegraph his inclination prior to argument, but does not cut off argument and appears to consider what is presented to him. He is described as not inclined to rush cases through his courtroom.

Overall, Judge Brennan received good ratings from the respondents. Most attorneys interviewed stated that they believed he was diligent. One attorney mentioned that Judge Brennan always had notes on the cases before trial and that he “gives a preview that allows you to better manage your case.” Judge Brennan was also highly praised for his judicial temperament.

This judge was also praised for his fairness and integrity. One attorney stated that “lawyers hear a lot of scuttlebutt, but I’ve never heard a negative word about Brennan.” Repeatedly, the interviewees stated they felt that they were always on a “level playing field” and that he “ruled on the matters before him.” He was consistently praised for his fairness and integrity and seen as a well-informed judge who has the ability to keep an even temper even when dealing with a high-volume courtroom. The Council finds Judge Brennan Qualified for

retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Margaret A. Brennan

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar N
Commercial Calendar Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Margaret A. Brennan was Assistant General Counsel for Exelon Business Services. She has also served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago.

Judge Brennan is generally considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and she is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is described as being prepared and having full understanding of the issues before her. Respondents say she expects lawyer before her to also be prepared and knowledgeable. She is also reported to issue legal issues which are well-reasoned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Margaret Ann Brennan has worked as an assistant general counsel for Exelon Corporation (formerly Commonwealth Edison) since 1994. She previously worked for the City of Chicago's Law Department, where she prosecuted traffic cases; in private practice, handling personal injury matters; and for the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Prepaid Legal Services and the American Prepaid Legal Institute. She obtained her license in 1987. She has tried a total of ten jury cases to verdict and has tried hundreds of bench trials, the bulk of those when she was prosecuting traffic cases. Her peers regard her as bright, with good legal knowledge and understanding of the legal process. Her temperament, impartiality, and integrity are all described as good, and her professional conduct excellent. Adversaries remark that she is a good advocate for her client but also fair and balanced. Yet the candidate at this time has not established a track record sufficient to warrant our confidence that she can run a courtroom. Specifically, the Council does not believe that she has yet obtained the depth and breadth of experience that the office requires. At this time, the Council finds Ms. Brennan Not Qualified.

Tommy Brewer

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Tommy Hoskins Brewer was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. He is assigned to the Sixth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Markham, Illinois, where is Presiding Judge (March 2018-present) and previously was Acting Presiding Judge (January 2017-March 2018). His previous judicial assignment was as “Floating Judge”, where he presided over Felony, Child Support, Domestic Violence, Traffic and Misdemeanor courtrooms.

As a sitting judge, Judge Brewer is considered to be knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair as a judge. He is praised for his temperament. As a Presiding Judge, he is also praised for his focus on reducing the backlog in the Markham courthouse, and for his willingness to utilize new approaches to improve the administration of justice. One example is Judge Brewer’s embrace of the use of administrative hearing officers to improve the adjudication of family law cases where 8 neither party is represented by legal counsel. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Lloyd James Brooks

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lloyd James Brooks was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2013, he has been a partner at the Consumer Legal Group, P.C., where he focuses on insurance coverage, consumer protection, and real estate and mortgage foreclosure defense. Previously, he was owner of The Brooks Law Firm (2004-2013); an associate at Lord, Bissell & Brook (2002-2004); and an associate at Zevnik Horton

(2000-2002). Since 2008, he has taken on pro bono cases for the Access to Justice Program at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Mr. Brooks is considered to have good legal ability. He is considered to be well-prepared with a good grasp of the law and procedure. He is reported to have an excellent temperament – a zealous advocate but showing respect for opposing counsel and judges. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lloyd James Brooks was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2013, he has been a partner at the Consumer Legal Group, P.C., where he focuses on insurance coverage, consumer protection, and real estate and mortgage foreclosure defense. Previously, he was owner of The Brooks Law Firm (2004-2013); an associate at Lord, Bissell & Brook (2002-2004); and an associate at Zevnik Horton (2000-2002). Since 2008, he has taken on pro bono cases for the Access to Justice Program at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Mr. Brooks is considered to have good legal ability. He is considered to be well-prepared with a good grasp of the law and procedure. He is reported to have an excellent temperament – a zealous advocate but showing respect for opposing counsel and judges. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Janet Adams Brosnahan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Brosnahan currently is assigned to the Law Division. She was retained in 2014. Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 generally described as having excellent legal knowledge and praised for being fair and extremely hardworking. She is reported to have a good temperament and is praised for the management of her courtroom. She is reported to be adept at handling complex trials with patience and competence. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Janet Adams Brosnahan was admitted to practice in 1990. Since that time, she has been an associate at several small law firms. She is primarily a civil litigator, focusing on matters involving labor relations, employment, fraud, and truth in lending matters in both state and federal court. She has also had some experience with transactional and appellate matters. She has tried no jury cases, and

has tried only two non-jury civil cases to judgment. While she was in law school, she participated in the trial of five non-jury criminal cases. Those familiar with her work are largely complimentary of her skills, describing her as experienced, knowledgeable, professional, and a competent advocate in the courtroom. She is praised for her temperament and integrity. However, particularly in view of her very limited trial experience, the Council does not believe Ms. Brosnahan has yet achieved the breadth or depth of experience in her career to qualify her for a position on the bench. At this time, we find the candidate Not Qualified for the position of Circuit Judge.

Mary Margaret Brosnahan

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2000

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Mary Margaret Brosnahan was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. Prior to becoming a judge, Mary Margaret Brosnahan was a career prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. From 1997, Judge Brosnahan was a Supervisor in the Felony Trial Division where she supervised eighteen Assistant State's Attorneys in the Felony Trial Courts. Judge Brosnahan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Since 2017, she has been a Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Since 2006, she has been assigned to Felony Trial Court in the Criminal Division, where she handles approximately 300 felony cases that range from class 4 felonies to first degree murder, as well as probation matters and post judgment matters. Her previous judicial assignments were at the Central Bond Court, First Municipal District (2001-2005) and Traffic Court, First Municipal District (2001).

Judge Brosnahan received consistently high marks in all areas surveyed. Interviewees described her as having "outstanding ability", saying it was always "clear she read the law and used logic to arrive at her decisions." She was also highly praised for her

courtroom management. Respondents stated that Judge Brosnahan was well prepared, prompt, and efficient. While she keeps her call moving, Respondents gave Judge Brosnahan high marks for diligence and attention to detail. Overall, Judge Brosnahan was consistently praised for her knowledge and application of the law and her courtroom management skills. She is also seen as a very diligent and well-informed judge who has the ability to keep her call moving while giving appropriate attention to all matters before her. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2028 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Mary Margaret Brosnahan was a career prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. From 1997, Judge Brosnahan was a Supervisor in the Felony Trial Division where she supervised eighteen Assistant State's Attorneys in the Felony Trial Courts. Judge Brosnahan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Judge Brosnahan was initially assigned to Traffic Court and later served in the First Municipal District in central bond court, narcotics preliminary hearing court, and the homicide – sex preliminary hearing court. Since 2005, Judge Brosnahan has been assigned to the Criminal Division.

Judge Brosnahan received consistently high marks in all areas surveyed. Interviewees described her as having “outstanding ability”, saying it was always “clear she read the law and used logic to arrive at her decisions.” She was also highly praised for her courtroom management. Several respondents stated that Judge Brosnahan was “extremely well prepared,” “prompt,” and efficient. One respondent commented that she “always explained to the courtroom why private lawyers’ cases were called first.” While she keeps her call moving, Judge Brosnahan was also praised for her ability to allow “parties to complete what they need to do” and “give extra court dates when needed.”

Respondents gave Judge Brosnahan high marks for diligence and attention to detail. She was frequently referred to as “extremely prepared” and “very well organized.” One respondent stated that Judge Brosnahan “has a handle on all of the cases that come before her.”

Overall, Judge Brosnahan received high marks from the respondents interviewed in all areas. She was consistently praised for her knowledge and application of the law and her courtroom management skills. She is also seen as a very diligent and well-informed judge who has the Page 9 of 45 ability to keep her call moving while giving appropriate attention to all matters before her. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2006 Retention, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

2000 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Mary Margaret Brosnahan, 39, is a 1986 graduate of DePaul University College of Law. She has spent her entire legal career in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Since 1997, she has been a Supervisor in the Felony Trial Division. She supervises eighteen Assistant State's Attorneys in the Felony Trial Courts. Lawyers report that Ms. Brosnahan is a competent prosecutor who has good legal ability.

James R. Brown

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Qualified

James R. Brown was admitted to practice in 1990. He served as an Assistant State's Attorney from 1990 to 1994, and has since practiced in Chicago (as an associate and then solo) in both civil and criminal matters. While the investigation showed that Mr. Brown is a capable lawyer with good character and integrity, at this stage in his career we do not believe his career has sufficient length or breadth to warrant his promotion to the bench. We find the candidate at this time Not Qualified.

Elizabeth M. Budzinski

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Elizabeth Mary Budzinski was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989. She has been with Wilson, Elder, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker since 1989 and has been a partner there since 1996. Prior to that, she spent one year at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Ms. Budzinski is a 1988 graduate of IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has been an officer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

Ms. Budzinski is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised as a solid

practitioner who is always well prepared. Her integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds Ms. Budzinski Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Andrea M. Buford

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 4D

Elected

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Andrea Michele Buford is assigned to the Child Protection Division. She 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.

Judge Buford is considered to have a good knowledge of the law and is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is reported to be fair and respectful to all parties. She is punctual and demands that all parties be the same. She is a well-respected jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Joel D. Buikema

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as an Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Report: Qualified

Joel David Buikema was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997. Since 2013, he has worked as an attorney at the Sandrick Law Firm, where he represents commercial, industrial, and residential property owners appealing their tax assessments. He also assists mosques, churches, and other not-for-profit organizations in obtaining tax exemptions for their properties. His previous positions include Assistant State’s Attorney in the Civil Division (2007-2013) and the Criminal Division (1997-2007) of the Cook County State’s Attorney Office, and associate at Buikema, Hiskes, Dillner, O’Donnell & Maravich (1997).

Mr. Buikema is considered to have good legal ability and he is praised for his temperament and professionalism. He had substantial experience in more complex criminal law matters and has successfully made the change to civil litigation matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Report: Qualified

Joel David Buikema was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1997. He serves as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney. For the past four years he has been in the Real Estate Tax Division.

Previously, he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony criminal matters. Mr. Buikema is considered to have good legal ability and he is praised for his temperament and professionalism. He had substantial experience in more complex criminal law matters and has successfully made the change to a civil law tribunal. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Clarence L. Burch

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District - Branch 46
Misdemeanor Jury; Chicago Prostitution and Trafficking Intervention Court

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009.

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Clarence Burch was admitted to practice in 1978. He has been in private practice, Burch & Associates, for his entire legal career. A majority of his practice involves felony trial defense, including capital cases. He also serves as president of the board of Near North Health Service Corporation, a nonprofit helping to deliver health care services to those who might otherwise be unable to afford it. He has substantial bench and jury trial experience, as well as some appellate experience. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and a very good temperament. He is said to be exceptionally hard working. The Council finds him qualified for the Circuit Court.

Anne Marie Burke

Present Judicial Duties:

Justice, Illinois Supreme Court, First District

Appointed to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court in 1995; appointed to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Supreme Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Illinois Supreme Court: Well-Qualified

Justice Anne M. Burke was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. In 2006, was appointed to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois, and she elected to a full term in 2008. Her previous judicial assignments were as Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District (1995-2006) and Judge on the Illinois Court of Claims (1987-1994).

Justice Burke is considered to have good legal knowledge, and is exceptionally hard working. She is praised for being well prepared at oral arguments and for the quality of her written opinions. Justice Burke is also active in the area of criminal justice reform and is praised by advocates for her efforts. She is an active participant and leader of the Justice Advisory Council and is currently devoted to bail reform. Her efforts at reform often demonstrate her commitment to eliminating bias in the judicial system. Justice Burke is consistently praised for her temperament, and respondents often reference her extensive community involvement. In light of her extensive involvement in community activities and court reform efforts, the Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court.

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Burke began legal work at Johnson & Bell in 1989 and moved to work with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in 1993. She was elected to the bench in 2004. She currently is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District, Judge Burke has served as a part-time Adjunct Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law since 2000. Judge Burke is considered to be knowledgeable about the issues before her and she is praised as being fair and respectful to the parties before her. She is reported to be well prepared and to have an excellent demeanor. Some lawyers complain about the relatively slow pace of her call, but lawyers generally think she is doing a good job. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2008 Primary and General Elections: Qualified

Anne M. Burke became a lawyer in 1983. She was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate

Court in 1995. She was elected to the Appellate Court in 1996. She was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2006. Prior to her initial appointment to the bench, Justice Burke had a solo general practice. From 1987 to 1994, she sat as an appointed judge of the Illinois Court of Claims. From 1994 to 1995, she was special counsel to then Governor Jim Edgar, where she had a mandate to improve coordination between the Department of Children and Family Services and the Juvenile Court. Her work in that assignment received considerable praise. Her list of civic activities is impressive. Justice Burke is widely praised as having a professional demeanor on the bench and for being a person committed to the public interest. As a Supreme Court Justice, she is considered to have good legal ability and is well-prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

1996 Primary and General Elections – (Hon. Carl McCormick Vacancy): Not Qualified

Anne Marie Burke, 52, was admitted to practice law in 1983. She was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court in December 1995. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she had a solo general practice, handling probate, employment matters, divorce, real estate, and criminal defense. From 1987 to 1994, she sat as an appointed judge of the Illinois Court of Claims. From 1994 to 1995, she was special counsel to Governor Jim Edgar, where she had a mandate to improve coordination between DCFS and the Juvenile Court. Her work in that assignment has received considerable praise. Her list of civic activities is impressive. She is the founder of the Special Olympics and has been a leader on children’s issues. Justice Burke is widely praised as having excellent temperament and as being a person committed to the public interest. She has not, however, had sufficient experience in complex or nonroutine litigation matters to demonstrate that she is ready to be an Appellate Court Justice. The Council finds her Not Qualified.

Eileen O’Neill Burke

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Fourth Division

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2008; elected as Judge to Appellate Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

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

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2008 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Eileen Mary O'Neill Burke has been a lawyer since 1990. Since 2001 she has been a sole practitioner doing misdemeanor and felony criminal defense work. From 1991 to 2000 she served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, where she had both trial and appellate experience. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability. She is diligent and-

hard working and is praised for her professional demeanor. She is considered to be a zealous and fair advocate for her clients. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kathleen Marie Burke

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Burke began legal work at Johnson & Bell in 1989 and moved to work with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 1993. She was elected to the bench in 2004. She currently is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District, Judge Burke has served as a part-time Adjunct Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law since 2000. Judge Burke is considered to be knowledgeable about the issues before her and she is praised as being fair and respectful to the parties before her. She is reported to be well prepared and to have an excellent demeanor. Some lawyers complain about the relatively slow pace of her call, but lawyers generally think she is doing a good job. The Council finds her Qualified for retention

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kathleen Burke was admitted to practice in 1989 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. She presently serves in the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court. Previously, Judge Burke served in the First Municipal District and in the Child Protection Division. Prior to her election, Judge Burke was first in private practice with a large firm and then an assistant State's Attorney in the Civil Actions Bureau.

Judge Burke is considered to have good temperament and treats those in her courtroom with respect. The Council, however, is concerned that many lawyers report that she has had difficulty handling her call as a “floating” judge. However, she has been assigned a more permanent judicial assignment, and the Council has received reports that she is handling this new assignment well. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kathleen Marie Burke was admitted to practice in 1989. Following her admission, she became an associate at Johnson & Bell, where she concentrated in medical malpractice defense. From 1993 to the present, she has been employed by the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office, Civil Division, where she has continued to practice medical litigation defense at both the trial and appellate levels. Ms. Burke is also an adjunct professor of law at Loyola University where she teaches medical malpractice law and trial advocacy.

Ms. Burke is highly regarded by her colleagues, her adversaries, and by the judges before whom she has practiced. She is described as conscientious, intelligent, well prepared, exceptionally ethical, and admirably sensitive to diversity issues and bias in the legal system. She is consistently praised for her temperament, character and legal ability. The Council finds Ms. Burke Qualified for the Circuit Court.

o be a zealous and fair advocate for her clients. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Charles P. Burns

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1998.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election – Well-Qualified

Judge Burns was elected to the bench in 1998. He

was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney before taking the bench. As of May 2007, Judge Burns has presided over a felony trial call as well as the R.A.P. Drug Court since July 2010. Judge Burns has taught Graduate and Undergraduate classes at Lewis University on Justice, Law, and Public Safety studies, and has authored a number of published works, including as a Topic Writer with the Illinois Judicial Benchbook, as well as articles in the Illinois Bar Journal, the Duke University Journal of Law and Technology, and the Loyola University Chicago Law Journal. Judge Burns is praised widely for his excellent grasp and application of the law. He is reported to handle both his regular felony call and the R.A.P. call with efficiency and he is praised for his devotion to the lives and rehabilitation of the defendants who come before him. The success of the RAP program is said by many to be the result of Judge Burns’ initiative and dedication. He has numerous published works dealing with his judicial role and he is praised for his work ethic as well as his courtroom management. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Charles Burns was elected to the bench in 1998 and presently serves in the Criminal Division hearing felony cases at 26th and California. He was admitted to practice in 1981. Prior to his election, Judge Burns was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney.

Judge Burns is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to provide a fair and efficient trial. He is praised for being willing to consider creative sentencing for appropriate criminal defendants. Judge Burns is a respected jurist, but the Council is concerned that his temperament is problematic. He becomes visibly angry in the courtroom and can be verbally abusive to staff, attorneys, and defendants. However, he admits having this issue and is taking steps to address the problem. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Charles Patrick Burns sits in the Fourth Municipal District. He was elected to the bench in 1998. Before becoming a judge, he spent 16 years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He has

good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified.

November 1998 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Qualified

Charles Patrick Burns was admitted to practice in 1981. He has spent 16 years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He has very good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He is praised by his colleagues and adversaries as a very good prosecutor who is fair in his dealings with defense counsel. The Council finds him Qualified.

Krista D. Butler

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended.

Did not participate in the evaluation.

Thomas J. Byrne

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Thomas Byrne is assigned to the Criminal Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he 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

and is praised for his knowledge of the law. He is praised for his courtroom management, and for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

March 2006 Evaluation for Primary Election: Qualified

Thomas J. Byrne has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since his admission to practice in 1989. He is currently Supervisor of the Third Municipal District in Rolling Meadows. Mr. Byrne is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is known to be knowledgeable about the criminal law and conducts trial advocacy training for assistant state’s attorneys. He is reported to be hard working and well prepared. There were a few responses during the evaluation questioning whether he could be fair to defendants in light of his prosecutorial career. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Anthony John Calabrese

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Misdemeanor/Ordinance

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2004 Evaluations for Associate Judge,

Circuit Court: Qualified

Anthony J. Calabrese was admitted to practice in 1980. From 1980 to 1993, Mr. Calabrese served with the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney, where he rose to the rank of Chief Deputy. Since 1993, he has been a solo practitioner handling criminal defense matters. Between 1996 and 1998, Mr. Calabrese was an administrative law officer with the Department of Administrative Hearings, and since 1998, he also served as the Chairman of the City of Chicago License Appeal Commission. Mr. Calabrese has taught trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at DePaul since 1993. Mr. Calabrese is considered to have very good legal ability and an excellent temperament, and has extensive litigation experience and has a reputation as a solid practitioner. But for several instances of questionable prosecutorial conduct as an Assistant State's Attorney that led to reversals on appeal, the Council would have considered a higher rating. On balance, however, the Council finds him Qualified.

John P. Callahan, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the bench in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Callahan began his work as a tax consultant for the Price Waterhouse & Company before he became an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in 1989. He also was in private practice before being appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009. He was elected to the bench in 2010. He currently is assigned to the Law Division Motion Call handling pretrial motions. Judge Callahan works as a lecturer at DePaul College of Law for the course Trial Advocacy I. Judge Callahan is praised for his grasp of the law and for being well-prepared. He is reported to be able to handle even complex cases and many attribute his substantial litigation experience as a lawyer for his ability to handle litigation efficiently and effectively as a judge. He is reported to show respect to all parties before him, and is praised for

the patience and understanding he shows pro se litigants. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election – 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.

George L. Canellis Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation: Qualified

George Louis Canellis, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1996. He is a Deputy Supervisor of the Felony Review Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He has served as the Supervisor in Preliminary Hearings and as a Capital Litigation Specialist in the Grand Jury. He is a career prosecutor. Mr. Canellis is considered to have good legal ability and substantial experience both as a prosecutor in complex cases and as a supervisor. He is reported to have good temperament and his integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Matthew J. Carmody

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

John Thomas Carr

Present Judicial Duties:
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 24

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

John T. Carr was admitted to practice in 1972. He has practiced as a solo practitioner or with one other partner for the entire 33 years he has been licensed. He has a general practice but spends a majority of his time on family law and probate matters, including frequently acting as an appointed guardian ad litem for minors in family law cases. He has substantial litigation and trial experience, in a variety of civil and criminal cases. Other practitioners and judges before whom he has regularly appeared comment positively on his knowledge and temperament. The Council finds Mr. Carr Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

James R. Carroll

Present Judicial Duties
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 6

Appointed as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

Thomas J. Carroll

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Thomas Joseph Carroll is a Supervising Judge in the Sixth Municipal District. He 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.

Judge Carroll is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and his fairness. His rulings are reported to be well-reasoned and thoughtful. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Joseph Michael Cataldo

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District – Preliminary Hearings and Bond Call

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

2004 Evaluation for for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Joseph M. Cataldo has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since his admission to practice in 1992. He currently serves in the Criminal Division, Felony Trials, but also spent two years in the State’s Attorney’s civil litigation division. Mr. Cataldo is considered to have good legal ability and is widely praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

Timothy J. Chambers

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1997.

Evaluation

None

Peggy Chiampas

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Peggy Chiampas has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since her admission to practice in 1990. She currently serves in the Complex Drug Prosecutions Unit. She is a Trial Advocacy Instructor at the John Marshall Law School. Ms. Chiampas is well respected as a fair and highly competent prosecutor who possesses good legal ability and temperament. She is praised widely for her integrity. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Vicenzo Chimera

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Vincenzo Chimera was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1984. Since 2004, he has been the Deputy Division Chief of the Criminal Enforcement Division of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, specializing in criminal prosecution. From 1995 to 2004, Mr. Chimera worked in private practice, specializing in civil, transactional, litigation, and corporate Law. During this time, he also worked as a criminal prosecutor for the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.

Mr. Chimera is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the law. He reports an impressive record of teaching, lecturing, and writing. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jeffery G. Chrones

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Jeffrey George Chrones was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. He is an equity shareholder at Johnson & Bell Ltd., where he represents national and international corporations in defense of civil lawsuits in product liability matters, asbestos

litigation, and catastrophic injury and wrongful death claims. His practice also includes commercial litigation and criminal law. He has also worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1995-2003), and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Illinois Attorney General's Office (1993-1995). He serves on the board of directors of the Hellenic Bar Association, and was a lead instructor for the Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers Cook County Jail Project.

Mr. Chrones is considered to have good legal ability and thorough knowledge of the procedural and evidentiary rules. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to have a professional temperament and is reported to be always well prepared. The Council finds him qualified for the Circuit Court.

Joel Chupack

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge, 2018

November 2018 Election: Qualified

Joel Chupack was admitted to practice in 1982. He is a partner in the private practice firm of Heinrich & Kramer P.C, with an emphasis in real estate related litigation, including foreclosure, tax deed, eviction, building court, mechanics' liens, chancery actions, and probate. He has presided over 200 arbitrations as a member of the Commercial Panel of the American Arbitration Association. He reports having an active litigation practice. From 1986 to 1990 he was a litigation associate with McBride Baker & Coles. Mr. Chupack is active in Bar Association activities and has worked on real estate related legislation as a member of the ISBA Real Estate Section Council. He is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to be very knowledgeable about his areas of practice. He has a good temperament and is hard-working. He is praised for his work as an arbitrator. He has litigation experience. In general, Mr. Chupack is considered to be a good lawyer. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court

Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge, 2018

November 2018 Election: Qualified

Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. She is an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where since 2012 she has served as a prosecutor in the Sex Crimes Unit. Previously she served in the Felony Domestic Violence Unit (2009-2012), the Felony Trial Courtroom (2009), the Preliminary Hearings Unit (2008-2009), the Felony Review Unit (2006-2008), the Juvenile Justice Bureau-Delinquency Division (2003- 2006), the Juvenile Justice Bureau-Child Protection Division (2002-2003) and the Child Support Enforcement Divisions (2001-2002). Ms. Ciaccia-Lezza is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for having a strong grasp of the evidentiary and procedural rules. She has substantial litigation experience and is reported to have excellent knowledge of her area of law. She is considered to have a good temperament with good working relationships with victims, witnesses, court personnel, and opposing counsel. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael R. Clancy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal and Pretrial Divisions

Elected Circuit Judge, 2010

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Michael Robert Clancy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1990 to 2002 where he was a well-respected first chair felony prosecutor. He then went into private practice doing 9 criminal defense work. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since

September 2017, he has been assigned to the Pretrial Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His call includes conducting initial bail hearings on felony and misdemeanor criminal cases, as well as preliminary hearings in felony traffic cases, presiding in a preliminary hearing courtroom involving murder and sexual assault cases, and presiding over extradition cases involving fugitives from another state. His previous judicial assignments were in the Domestic Violence Division (2013-2017) and the First Municipal District (2011- 2013).

Judge Clancy is considered to have good legal ability. Since his last evaluation in 2012, Judge Clancy spent most of judicial assignments was in the Domestic Violence Division. There he was praised for his legal knowlege and his ability to apply facts to the law. He was praised for being thorough in his legal analysis, and for being fair and respectful to all parties. In 2017, he was assigned to the Pretrial Division where his work in Central Bond Court has been scrutinized. He was among the judges assigned to this position by Chief Judge Evans as part of a substantial overhaul of the money bond system in Cook County. In a report issued by the Coalition to End Money Bond, a group comprised of of legal and community organizations, Judge Clancy was singled out as a jurist who was ordering money bond be imposed more often and in amounts substantially higher than most of the other Central Bond Court judges. The Council is concerned about this differential, but recognizes that Chief Judge's changes in the Bond Court have been in place for less than one year. The Council urges Judge Clancy to reconsider his actions, but we also recognize that he has received good marks as a judge in his previous assignments. On balance, the Council finds Judge Clancy Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Michael R. Clancy was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011. He was admitted to practice in 1989. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1990 to 2002 where he was a well-respected first chair felony prosecutor. From 2002 to the present he has been in private practice doing criminal defense work. He is reported to have good legal ability and

temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is praised for his fairness and for being hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Michael R. Clancy was admitted to practice in 1989. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1990 to 2002 where he was a well-respected first chair felony prosecutor. From 2002 to the present he has been in private practice doing criminal defense work. He is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is praised for his fairness and for being hard-working. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Joseph Mitchell Claps

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal and Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Divisions

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1997.

Evaluation

None

LaGuina Clay-Herron

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 9

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007.

Evaluation

2004 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

2000 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

LaGuina Clay Clark did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of her candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge her qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds her Not Recommended.

Gerald Vernon Patrick Cleary III

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Chancery Division, Calendar 63 & 69
Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section

Appointed as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Gerald Patrick Cleary III has been a lawyer since 1989. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench he was a partner at SmithAmundsun, doing a variety of civil litigation. He led the firm's aerospace practice and also represents municipalities and corporations in civil rights matters. From 1990 to 1997 he was an associate attorney at Query & Harrow doing civil litigation. Judge Cleary is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He was praised for being exceptionally knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Gerald Patrick Cleary III has been a lawyer since 1989. He is currently a partner at SmithAmundsun, doing a variety of civil litigation. He leads the firm's aerospace practice and also represents municipalities and corporations in civil rights matters. From 1990 to 1997 he was an associate attorney at Query & Harrow doing civil litigation. Mr. Cleary is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He is praised for being exceptionally knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Gerald Vernon Patrick Cleary was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1989. Since 2010, Mr. Cleary has been partner at Pappas Davidson O'Coner & Fildes practicing civil litigation, specifically with mid to large-sized corporations. From 1997-2010, he was partner at SmithAmundsen, also specializing in civil litigation. Mr. Cleary has extensive experience in all aspects of civil litigation, including jury trials, bench trials, arbitrations, and mediations.

Mr. Cleary is a well-respected practitioner who is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience and is praised for his knowledge of the law and for his litigation skills. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Gerald Patrick Cleary III has been a lawyer since 1989. He is currently a partner at SmithAmundsun, doing a variety of civil litigation. He leads the firm's aerospace practice and also represents municipalities and corporations in civil rights matters. From 1990 to 1997 he was an associate attorney at Query & Harrow doing civil litigation. Mr. Cleary is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He is praised for being exceptionally knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2012 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Gerald Patrick Cleary III has been a lawyer since 1989. He is currently a partner at SmithAmundsen, doing a variety of civil litigation. He leads the firm's aerospace practice and also represents municipalities and corporations in civil rights matters. From 1990 to 1997 he was an associate attorney at Querrey & Harrow doing civil litigation. Mr. Cleary is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. He is praised for being exceptionally knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Cynthia Y. Cobbs

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Third Division

Appointed as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2011, elected to the Circuit Court in 2014, assigned to the Appellate Court in 2015

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Cynthia Y. Cobbs was admitted to practice in 1988. In 2014, she was appointed to the First District Appellate Court, and she remains in that position. Originally, appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in 2011 and then elected in 2014. Her previous judicial duties included Forcible Entry and Detainer (2012-2015), Civil Jury Trials (2014), Pro Se Court (2012-2013), Small Claims/Debt Collector/Breach of Contract (2012), and Traffic Court (2011). Prior to becoming a judge, she served in a variety of positions at the Supreme Court of Illinois's Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, including Director of (2002-2011), Chief Legal Counsel (1999- 2002), and Secretary to the Supreme Court Rules Committee (1997-1999). She is a member of a number of bar associations, including the Illinois State Bar Association, the Black Women Lawyer Association, and the Illinois Judicial Council, where she has served as Chair (2018- 2019).

Judge Cobbs lacked litigation experience when she took the trial court bench, but has since established herself as both a solid trial court jurist and as an appellate court judge. She is praised for her legal ability and for always being prepared. She is reported to have good temperament. She is also praised for the quality of her written decisions. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Jean M. Coccozza

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 95

Appointed as Associate Judge to Circuit Court in 2013

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Before being appointed to the Circuit Court in February 2013 by the Illinois Supreme Court, Judge Coccozza served as a law clerk to a variety of Illinois Appellate Court judges and then served for seventeen years as the law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman. She currently presides in the Parentage Division of the Circuit Court. Judge Coccozza had little litigation experience as a lawyer before becoming a judge. She is considered to have good legal ability and attorneys appearing before her praise her independence and her courtroom management skills. The Council is concerned about her lack of

litigation experience but in light of the positive responses from lawyers appearing before her, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary Ellen Coghlan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Second Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1995; elected to the Circuit Court in 1996; assigned to the Appellate Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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. In 2010, Judge Coghlan became Presiding Judge of the Probate Division. She was first assigned to the Criminal Division in 1995 and transferred to the Probate Division in 2003. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019 to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court.

On the Appellate Court, Judge Coughlin is reported as having a good temperament as always being prepared. As a trial judge, she was reportedly knowledgeable about the law, was well-prepared, and ruled promptly. She was praised for her temperament. She is very involved in systemic reform efforts. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in March 1995 and was elected to a full term in 1996. She has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 1995. She was initially in the Evening Narcotics Section, where she rose to the position of Supervising Judge in 1997. In late 1997, she was transferred to the Day Division. Upon being appointed, her initial assignment was to the First Municipal District. She is regarded as a good jurist who possesses the requisite legal knowledge and ability, integrity and judicial temperament. In addition, Judge Coghlan is known as a hard worker who strives to improve her performance. We find Judge Coghlan Qualified.

March 1994 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Mary Ellen Coghlan, 37, graduated from law school in 1981. She then worked for five years as an assistant public defender, handling felony trials, was in private practice for one year, and since 1987 has worked at the Illinois Attorney General's office, primarily handling prisoner, Section 1983, and disciplinary actions.

Ms. Coghlan is reported to be an outstanding trial attorney, with good knowledge of the law. She is reported to write well. Lawyers who have worked with and against her report that she has high integrity, is patient, personable, and functions well under stress. The Council notes that she has only been in practice since 1981, but finds her Qualified for election to the Circuit Court based on her good performance as a lawyer.

Neil H. Cohen

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division,
Calendar 5
General Chancery Section

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Neil H. Cohen was admitted in 1976. Since 1990 he has been a sole practitioner, dealing in state and federal criminal trial and appellate work. From 1987 to 1990 he was a litigation associate with Lord, Bissell and Brook; from his admission to 1987 he was an Assistant State's Attorney. He reports bringing 50 criminal trials to a jury verdict and almost 400 to a bench verdict. He has been principal counsel on 13 appellate cases. Mr. Cohen is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience in complex matters in both state and federal court. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bonita Coleman

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division,
Calendar Z, Sixth Municipal District

Elected to the bench in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Not Qualified

Judge Coleman was elected to the bench in 2010. She was in private practice before becoming a judge. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in Markham. Judge Coleman is reported to be professional and courteous on the bench. The Council is concerned that many lawyers question Judge Coleman's knowledge of the law, although most respondents note that she does the necessary research to rule. There was a mixed response as to whether she is fair to both men and women who appear before her. Some believe she favors male parties, but others say she is fair and seeks a just outcome. The Council must balance the totality of the positive and negative comments we heard about

Judge Coleman's judicial performance. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

H. Yvonne Coleman

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Non-Jury Civil Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election: Qualified

Hon. H. Yvonne Coleman was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1988. Since 2017, she has served as a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, where she is currently assigned to the Municipal Department, District 1, Non-Jury Civil Section. Previously, she was a Solo Practitioner with a focus on civil rights and employment law (2010-2017); General Counsel to the Independent Police Review Board of the City of Chicago (2009-2010); Attorney at the Law Office of H. Yvonne Coleman (2004-2009; 1992-1999); Manager and Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Appeals Division (2003-2004); Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois (1999-2003); Executive Director of the Cook County Bar Association Community Law Project (1989-1994); and Staff Attorney at the National Labor Relations Board, Region 13, Chicago, Illinois (1988-1989). She has served as Executive Director of the Cook County Bar Association and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, where she was Chair of the Civil Rights Committee and a member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee.

As a lawyer for the Council stated: "Ms. Coleman is considered to have good legal ability with a wide range of legal experience, including litigation in more complex matters. She is praised for her temperament and for her trial skills. She is reported to be a good lawyer who is exceptionally active in community affairs. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court."

As a judge for a short period of time, Judge Coleman has received high marks for her ability to manage a courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for the

Circuit Court.

Ann Finley Collins

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the bench in 2010

November 2016 Retention Election, Qualified

Judge Collins served the Cook County Public Defender's Office from November 1985 until 2010 as an Assistant Public Defender, and from 1997 until 2010 on the Homicide Task Force for that Office. She was elected to the bench in 2010. She is currently assigned to the Fourth Municipal District. Judge Collins has been hearing misdemeanor cases for most of her judicial career, although she currently hears felony matters, as well. Prosecutors in particular cases claim she favors the defense, but most respondents praise her for being fair and exceptionally patient and respectful of all parties before her. She is well versed in the law and is considered to be very knowledgeable. She is praised as a diligent jurist who does the right thing. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, 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.

Ann Collins-Dole

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 7 prosecutor for the city. Judge Collins-Dole was first elected to the bench in 2008.

She is considered to be a knowledgeable jurist with an excellent temperament. She is praised for the quality of her opinions. Lawyers generally consider her to be a solid jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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 7 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.

March 2006 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Ann Collins-Dole was admitted to the bar in 1990. She has been Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel, Torts Division for the City of Chicago since 2002. Ms. Collins-Dole is considered to have very good legal ability with extensive legal experience in sophisticated and complex matters. She has a good temperament, is professional in her demeanor, and treats opposing counsel with respect. She is reported to be a model practitioner. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas J. Condon

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed Associate Judge in 1986.

Evaluation

1998 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Thomas J. Condon did not participate in the Council’s evaluation process, submitting no information in support of his candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge his qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds him Not Recommended.

Alison Conlon

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Civil Jury Section

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Stephen J. Connolly

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Stephen James Connolly was admitted in 1971. He is currently a sole practitioner, focusing mostly on civil and criminal litigation. He was an Assistant State’s Attorney from his admission to 1977, and again in the Organized Crime Unit from 1980 to 1983. As lead trial counsel he reports taking 6 civil trials and over 30 criminal trials to a jury verdict as well as 6 civil and over 100 criminal trials to a bench verdict. Mr. Connolly is reported to have good legal ability with litigation experience in complex criminal and civil matters. He has a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maureen E. Connors

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Sixth Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 1994; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2012 Election, Illinois Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Judge Maureen E. Connors was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2010. She became an Associate Judge in 1988 and was elected to the bench in 1994. She was in private practice before taking the bench. She was an assistant general attorney at the Chicago Park District from 1983 to 1988 and was an attorney with Klafter & Burke from 1979 to 1985.

Judge Connors receives high praise both as an Appellate Court judge and as a trial jurist. She is praised for her knowledge of the law. She asks pointed questions during oral argument and her

opinions are praised as well-reasoned and well-written. She was praised for her temperament as a trial judge and her ability to manage her courtroom. She gave ample time for parties before her to argue their cases and then made prompt rulings. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Maureen Connors was in private practice, and also served as an assistant general attorney at the Chicago Park District. Judge Connors was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2010. She became an Associate Judge in 1988 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994. She served in the Traffic Division, Domestic Violence Division, the Probate Division, and the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court.

Judge Connors is considered an excellent, hardworking judge. She is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her knowledge of the law. Attorneys report that she is “exemplary in terms of dealing with people” and “courteous and respectful to all equally.” The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Maureen E. Connors, 50, has been a judge since 1988. She sits in the Probate Division hearing cases involving disabled adults/guardianships. She has

also been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. She was in private practice and worked as an Assistant General Attorney with the Chicago Park District before becoming a judge. Lawyers report that Judge Connors is a good judge who handles a difficult call with great competence and patience. She has good legal ability and an excellent temperament. The Council finds her Qualified.

November 1994 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Maureen E. Connors, 43, is currently an Associate Judge assigned to a courtroom in the Fifth Municipal District in Bridgeview. She has mainly heard misdemeanor jury cases, preliminary hearings, and major traffic cases in Bridgeview. She became a Judge in December 1988 and was previously assigned to Traffic Court and to a Domestic Violence Court at 13th & Michigan.

Judge Connors was admitted to practice in 1979. Prior to becoming a judge she worked at Klafter & Burke, the firm of Alderman Ed Burke, and at the Chicago Park District.

Litigants who have appeared before Judge Connors describe her as fair, diligent, orderly, respectful of those before her, and with good legal ability for the matters that come before her. She has not been tested on a more complex call but has done very well on the calls to which she has been assigned to date.

In the March, 1994 primary, the Council rated Judge Connors qualified for election to the Circuit Court. After that rating, just before the primary election, Judge Connors participated in the primary in paying for a campaign flier that implied that she was running against a LaRouche party opponent. There was no LaRouche party candidate in the race. We believe this campaign flier was misleading and deceptive as a consequence. Judge Connors has reported to us that she did not know exactly what the flier would say or what the format would be, she did not mean to imply that her opponents were LaRouche party members, and she thought the presence of LaRouche party members in some primary races was a legitimate issue. While we recognize the intense pressures involved in election campaigns and the difficulties inherent in having judges campaign for election, the Council believes Judge Connors’ participation in issuing this flier was inappropriate. We do not believe it was so

serious that we should reduce her rating from qualified to not qualified, however. The Council finds her Qualified.

Donna L. Cooper

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division, Calendar 76, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 praised for her knowledge and legal ability by most lawyers; there are lawyers who question her knowledge but also say she does the work necessary to make well-reasoned rulings. She is reported to have a temperament which is stern but professional. She demonstrates good court management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Qualified

Donna L. Cooper has been a lawyer since 1981. She has served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago doing personal injury, workers' compensation, and city ordinance prosecutions work,. She has also served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender in the juvenile justice and child protection area. For 19 years, Ms. Cooper has had a military law practice while serving in the military. In 2003 she was deployed to Iraq where she served as the liaison officer between the Polish Legal Advisors and the U.S. legal office of the Combined Joint Task Force, where she advised on legal matters during the planning and conducting of military and humanitarian operations. During her last evaluation, the Council was concerned about Ms. Cooper's breadth of litigation experience. Since this evaluation, Ms. Cooper has worked to remedy this situation, expanding her litigation experience. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patrick K. Coughlin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Circuit Court Retention Election: Well Qualified

Judge Patrick K. Coughlin was elected to the bench in 2014. He was admitted in 1996. Prior to 10 becoming a judge, he served as a career Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Lawyers express respect for Judge Coughlin's legal knowledge and ability. He is reported to be hard-working and shows patience toward those before him, including those unrepresented by legal counsel. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. He was also praised for his initiatives in helping the Markham

courthouse respond to the pandemic. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election: 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.

Joy V. Cunningham

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Sixth Division

Elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2006

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Well Qualified

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

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

Kevin Patrick Cunningham

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election: Qualified

Kevin Patrick Cunningham was admitted in 1992. He is a sole practitioner and a prosecutor for the Village of Oak Lawn. From 1992-1998 he served as an Assistant State's Attorney and from 1998 to 2001 did criminal defense and personal injury litigation for a private firm. As lead trial counsel he reports taking 31 criminal and 2 civil cases to a jury verdict and around 100 to a bench verdict. He has litigated three appellate cases. Mr. Cunningham is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be a skilled practitioner who is hard-working and conscientious. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court

John J. Curry Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar 3 Tax & Miscellaneous Remedies

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. John Curry was a shareholder and attorney with Polsinelli, PC., a

national law firm, where he focused 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. Judge Curry was elected to the bench in 2014. Judge Curry is considered to be very knowledgeable and is praised for his courtroom management skills. He is reported to be well prepared and has a calm demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Thomas M. Cushing

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed to the Circuit Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Thomas Maloney Cushing was admitted to

practice in Illinois in 1988. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, he was of counsel to the offices of Christopher A. Kreid and Associates, focusing on commercial and chancery litigation. From 2006-2010, Mr. Cushing was Senior Vice President for Membership at the Chicago Climate Exchange, applying his legal skills in a business/environmental policy role. From 2005-2006, he was principal in his own law practice, specializing in personal injury practice. During this time, he also assisted Counsel to the Shakman Decree Monitor. From 1988-2005, he was an associate at Ambrose & Cushing, specializing in civil trials, particularly personal injury, professional malpractice, and municipal liability. Since 2013, he has volunteered as a Hearing Board Member at the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

As a lawyer Judge Cushing is reported to have been a solid practitioner with very good ability and an excellent temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters, and is praised for his litigation skills and for his temperament. He has been involved with numerous community activities, including teaching and environmental advocacy. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2016 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Maloney Cushing was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1988. He is currently of counsel to the offices of Christopher A. Kreid and Associates, focusing on commercial and chancery litigation. From 2006-2010, Mr. Cushing was Senior Vice President for Membership at the Chicago Climate Exchange, applying his legal skills in a business/environmental policy role. From 2005-2006, he was principal in his own law practice, specializing in personal injury practice. During this time, he also assisted Counsel to the Shakman Decree Monitor. From 1988- 2005, he was an associate at Ambrose & Cushing, specializing in civil trials, particularly personal injury, professional malpractice, and municipal liability. Since 2013, he has volunteered as a Hearing Board Member at the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. Mr. Cushing is reported to be a solid practitioner with very good ability and an excellent temperament. He has substantial litigation

experience in complex matters, and is praised for his litigation skills and for his temperament. He has been involved with numerous community activities, including teaching and environmental advocacy. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Paula M. Daleo

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Daleo was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in the Fourth Municipal District of the Circuit Court. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. She was admitted to practice in 1978. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Daleo was an Executive Assistant State's Attorney and formerly Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, as well as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She also has experience as a general practitioner. Judge Daleo came to the bench after having extensive trial experience in complex matters. As a judge, she is widely praised for her legal knowledge and often supports her rulings with explanations. She is reported to be fair to all parties before her and that she applies the law correctly and evenly. She is reported to be especially hardworking and conscientious. She is reported to have an excellent temperament and is praised for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Paula Daleo was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1978. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in misdemeanors in the Fourth Municipal District of the Circuit Court. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. She was admitted to practice in 1978. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Daleo was an Executive Assistant State's Attorney and

formerly Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, as well as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She also has experience as a general practitioner.

Judge Daleo is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her thorough familiarity with current case law and is always well prepared for court. She was also praised for her ability to work with *pro se* litigants. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Paula Marie Daleo was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1978. She has been Executive Assistant State's Attorney since May 2002. Prior to that, she was Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. From 1990 until 1996, she was a solo general practitioner. For the previous twelve years, she had been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She began her legal career at the offices of Joseph V. Roddy in 1978 after having been a clerk there during law school. Ms. Daleo is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. She is praised by lawyers for being especially hard-working and fair. Ms. Daleo has both civil and criminal experience and has administrative experience, as well. The Council finds Ms. Daleo Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Colleen Daly

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Colleen Daly Colleen Daly was admitted to practice in 1996. She is currently a sole practitioner and reports that she concentrates in criminal defense, juvenile law (both child protection matters and delinquency cases), traffic, appellate work, and some domestic relations. She represents police officers in administrative proceedings. She has been

a sole practitioner since January 2010, although she had a partner for part of the time. From 1996 through 2009 she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Her assignments included the juvenile division, and the felony trial division. She served as a first chair prosecutor. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex jury and bench trials. In the last three years, Ms. Daly reports that she has represented police officers in administrative, evidentiary hearings. She has also been appointed to be a Guardian Ad Litem in cases involving minors. Ms. Daly also reported a federal court litigation practice, including litigation claiming racial discrimination and cases involving criminal extortion.

Ms. Daly is reported generally to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is praised for her trial skills, and for being knowledgeable and always well-prepared. She is described by opposing counsel as professional and diligent in following through on such items as discovery requests. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Adrienne E. Davis

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Adrienne E. Davis was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. In March 2017, she was appointed a Cook County Circuit Court judge by the Illinois Supreme Court. Since that time, she has presided in the First Municipal District. Previously she had been an Assistant Public Defender at the Cook County Public Defender's Office (1995-2017), where, from 2010 to 2017, she was assigned to the Homicide Task Force. She was the Law Day 2017 Chair of the Cook County Bar Association and the National Legal Counsel to Top Ladies of Distinction from 2016 to 2017.

Judge Davis was well respected as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender with substantial litigation

experience in complex matters. She has received positive reviews in her tenure as a Circuit Judge. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Eulalia V. De La Rosa

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Daniel R. Degnan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 13 Adult Guardianship Estates

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Daniel R. Degnan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. Since 2016 he has been assigned to the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where he presides over Adult Guardianship cases. His previous judicial

assignments where in the Domestic Relations Division, where he presided over Parentage cases (2014-2016), and in the First Municipal District, where his call included Traffic and Civil Non-Jury cases (2012-2014).

Judge Degnan is praised by judges and lawyers for his work ethic, intelligence, and demeanor. He is described as a “quick learner” and is praised for his court management skills and his professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Daniel R. Degnan did not submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Kent A. Delgado

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2016

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Kent Delgado was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. Since 2016, he has been an appointed Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Probate Division, where he oversees the creation and management of minor estate guardianships. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. As a Judge, he has also presided over traffic cases in Municipal Court. Previously, he was a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Kent Delgado (2016); Partner at Delgado and Tiernan, P.C. (2007-2015); and an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Cook County State’s Attorney Office (1996-2007), where he was assigned to the Appellate, Municipal, and Felony Trial divisions.

As an attorney, the Council found that Mr. Delgado had substantial trial experience in more complex matters. He was respected for his knowledge of the law and for his litigation skills. He was considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and was

praised for his willingness to mentor other attorneys. Judge Delgado is considered to be a knowledgeable and capable judge. He is praised for his dealings with pro se litigants. He is widely praised for his ability to manage his probate courtroom and for the sensitivity that he shows to litigants. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mathias W. Delort

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Sixth Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2012 Election for Illinois Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Judge Mathias Delort was elected as an Associate Judge in 2007. From 1998 to 2007, Judge Delort was an Associate and Shareholder practicing Local Government, Education and Election Law at Robbins Schwartz et al. From 1988 to 1998 he was an Associate and Partner at Odelson & Sterk Ltd., and from 1985 to 1988 he worked as a sole practitioner with a general practice. Judge Delort is currently assigned to the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section, and presides over Calendar 61. He has served in the Section since May 2007. He is a primary author of the benchbook for judges in the foreclosure call. He is also the author of several IICLE chapters for lawyers.

As a practitioner, Judge Delort has extensive experience in municipal and election law at the trial and appellate court levels. He was well-respected as an able and well-prepared practitioner with good legal ability and temperament. As a jurist, he reportedly listens well and responds clearly and decisively. He is respected for his knowledge of the law and for his excellent temperament. He issues written opinions which he posts to Westlaw. He continues to write and lecture extensively. The Council finds Judge Delort Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

2006 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Well Qualified

Mathias W. Delort was admitted to practice in 1985. He is currently a partner concentrating on local government work with Robbins Schwartz Nicolas Lifton Taylor where he has practiced since 2001. He practiced for 10 years with Odelson & Sterk and was a solo practitioner for three years. He also serves as an administrative hearing officer for the city of Park Ridge in which he presides over ordinance violation cases. While Mr. Delort lacks jury trial experience, he is reported to have excellent legal ability with numerous publications and substantial pro bono work. He enjoys a reputation of always being well prepared and of having the highest integrity. He has been involved in a number of efforts aimed at systemic reform in the municipal and election law areas. The Council finds him Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Anna Helen Demacopoulos

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, General Chancery Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 in the Chancery Division.

Judge Demacopoulos is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is praised as a willing and quick study of topics with which she is not familiar. She is considered to be exceptionally hard-working and is reported to have good courtroom management skills. A few attorneys noted she can be short-tempered on the bench, but most praised her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit

Court: 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.

2002 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Anna Helen Demacopoulos was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. Ms. Demacopoulos has spent her entire career with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and is currently the Supervisor, Special Grand Jury, in the Narcotics Bureau at 26th and California. Prior to that she was a Deputy Supervisor in Felony Review (3 years), a Deputy Supervisor in the First Municipal Division (5 years), and an Assistant State’s Attorney (8 years). From 1987 to the present, she has been an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School teaching all levels of trial advocacy. Since 1997, she has been the Grant Reviewer and Program Consultant on Domestic Violence, Stalking, Hate Crimes and Community Prosecution for the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, Violence Against Women’s Office. The investigation of this candidate confirmed her talent as a lawyer, her integrity and her work ethic.

Ms. Demacopoulos identified two cases in which her professional conduct has been commented on by the Appellate Court. A Chicago Tribune investigation also uncovered a 1989 Batson violation that the district judge found to be the product of the candidate’s inexperience. Upon review, we regard these matters as insufficiently serious or current to disqualify the candidate. The Council finds Ms. Demacopoulos Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Maire A. DempseyPresent Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected as Circuit Judge in 2020

Evaluation**November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified**

Maire A. Dempsey was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. Since 2016, she has served as a Partner at Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., where she is a medical malpractice defense litigator. Previously, she also handled medical malpractice defense matters at Hickey Mella & Associates, where she was an Associate Attorney (2008-2015).

Ms. Dempsey is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and her litigation skills. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Sondra Nicole DenmarkPresent Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation**November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified**

Hon. Sondra Nicole Denmark was admitted to practice in 2004 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2018. Before taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Will County State's Attorney since 2008, and was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 2004 to 2007. Ms. Denmark is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Sondra Nicole Denmark was admitted to practice in 2004. She served as an Assistant Will County State's Attorney since 2008, and was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 2004 to 2007. Ms. Denmark is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James T. DericoPresent Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation**May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified**

James Thomas Derico was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. He is partner and founding member of Derico & Associates, providing legal services to small and medium-sized businesses regarding real estate, contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and employee relations.

Mr. Derico is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and pro bono work. Much of his practice involves legal counseling to businesses. However, he also has substantial litigation experience in the probate and chancery divisions of the circuit court and in the federal courts. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Not Qualified

James Thomas Derico was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. He is partner and founding member of Derico & Associates, providing legal services to small and medium-sized businesses regarding real estate, contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and employee relations. Since 2006, Mr. Derico has volunteered with the Chicago Volunteer Lawyers Association and the Trinity United Church of Christ Legal Clinic.

Mr. Derico is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and pro bono work. Most of his practice involves legal counseling to businesses. The Council, however, is concerned that Mr. Derico does not have substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Not Qualified

James Thomas Derico was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. He is partner and founding member of Derico & Associates, providing legal services to small and medium-sized businesses regarding real estate, contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and employee relations. Since 2006, Mr. Derico has volunteered with the Chicago Volunteer Lawyers Association and the Trinity United Church of Christ Legal Clinic.

Mr. Derico is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and pro bono work. Most of his practice involves legal counseling to businesses. The Council, however, is concerned that Mr. Derico does not have substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Israel A. Desierto

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division – Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Israel Abaya Desierto was admitted to practice in 1990. He has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for his entire career, first in the criminal bureau, and, since 2001, doing complex civil litigation. Since 2000, he has been an adjunct professor at Chicago Kent College of Law teaching Trial Advocacy. Mr. Desierto is a 1990 graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Mr. Desierto has strong experience as a prosecutor in both criminal and civil law matters. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is hard working and is praised for his community service. The Council finds Mr. Desierto Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Grace G. Dickler

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 1

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1988; elected to the Circuit Court in 2006

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Grace G. Dickler became an Associate Judge in 1988 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since 2011 has served asy the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. She was previously the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Violence Division. She has been in the Domestic Relations Division since 1991. Prior to taking the bench, she served as a legal aid attorney, a federal Immigration Judge, and an administrative law judge for the Human Rights Commission.

Lawyers describe Judge Dickler as having outstanding ability as both a judge and an administrator. As a judge, she is reported to be decisive with a good demeanor. She is described as respectful to the parties before her, but maintains control of her courtroom. She is exceptionally knowledgeable about her area of law, and she rules in a timely manner without showing a bias toward or against any party.

As a Presiding Judge, she has acted affirmatively to bring about systemic reforms. She was instrumental in establishing rules for financial mediation in Domestic Relations cases, as well as a special domestic relations call for prisoners over which she often presides. She assembled a task force to oversee the consolidation of the divorce and parentage courts – separate but unequal courts based on the marital status of the parents. That

consolidation took place in February 2017. In March 2017, she launched a program through which the process of adjudicating child support for unmarried couples became more fair and efficient through the use of administrative hearing officers. In addition, Judge Dickler was responsible for establishing an online parenting class, a child representative project with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS), and the inclusion of her Domestic Relations Division in the Family Court Enhancement Project, in corroboration with the Office on Violence Against Women and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Grace Dickler a legal aid attorney and was in private practice as a solo practitioner. Judge Dickler was appointed as an Associate Judge in 1988 and elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She served in the Second Municipal District. In 2010, she became Presiding Judge in the Domestic Violence Division, and transferred to the position of Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division in 2011.

Respondents were largely positive with regard to Judge Dickler. They describe her as decisive with good temperament. She is considered to have very good legal ability. Judge Dickler is reported to be both a good judge and a good administrator. In her current role as the Presiding Page 11 of 45 Judge of the Domestic Relations Division, she has assembled a series of task forces to advise her on reform efforts. For example, she spearheaded a reportedly successful program through which lawyers volunteer to do emergency orders of protection for indigent persons. She is engaged and serious in her duties both as a judge on the bench and as a presiding judge interested in reform. Judge Dickler is considered an asset to the court system. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Grace G. Dickler was appointed to the bench in 1988 and has sat in the Domestic Relations Division since 1991. She is currently assigned to an individual calendar in Skokie. She has also served in Housing Court and Traffic Court. Prior to

becoming a judge, she spent two years as an Immigration Judge. From 1982 to 1986, she was an Administrative Law Judge at the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Before that she was a supervising attorney at Travelers and Immigrants Aid. She was a solo general practitioner from 1979 until 1981. She spent her first year as a lawyer as a staff attorney, Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation. Associate Judge Dickler is considered to be a solid jurist and a good administrator. She has good legal ability and an excellent judicial temperament. She is known to be diligent and hard working, and treats parties before her with dignity and compassion. She is praised for explaining her rulings to litigants. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jamie G. Dickler

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jamie Guerra Dickler was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2005. Since that time, she has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where since 2013 she has been assigned to various felony courtrooms and has served as lead counsel on over one hundred bench trials. Her other assignments at the State's Attorney Office include various preliminary hearing courtrooms and the Grand Jury, Sex and Homicide Unit, as well as the Felony Review Unit. She also handled various misdemeanor cases there, including domestic violence.

Ms. Dickler is praised for her legal ability and for her integrity in negotiating with opposing counsel. She is reported to be highly professional and always well prepared. All reports indicate that Ms. Dickler is an ethical prosecutor with good abilities. She is active in in the community. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas More Donnelly

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluation for Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas More Donnelly is a 1986 graduate of Loyola Law School. He has been a solo practitioner since 2000. He was appointed Circuit Court Judge in November 1999. He spent eleven years working in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. From 1997 to 1999, he was a supervisor for eight lawyers in the Post-Conviction Unit in Criminal Division courtrooms throughout all six Municipal Districts. He also served as part-time Director of the Philip H. Corboy Trial Advocacy Fellowship and as an ethics consultant for law firms. From 1990 to 1997, he was a supervisor in the training division of the Public Defender's Office and for misdemeanor trial and felony preliminary hearings. Before that, he spent two years as an attorney in the appeals division. He was a judicial law clerk for the Illinois Appellate Court for the first two years of his legal career. He has extensive criminal trial and appellate experience. He has taught trial advocacy at the University of Chicago and Loyola Law Schools. The Council finds Mr. Donnelly Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

2001 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Not Recommended

In March 2001, the Council found Judge Donnelly Not Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

2000 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas More Donnelly, 41, is a 1986 graduate of Loyola Law School. He was appointed Circuit Court Judge in November 1999. He spent eleven years working in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. From 1997 to 1999, he was a supervisor for eight lawyers in the Post Conviction Unit in Criminal Division courtrooms throughout all six Municipal Districts. He was also part-time Director of the Philip H. Corboy Trial Advocacy Fellowship and an Ethics Consultant for law firms. From 1990

to 1997, he was a supervisor in the training division of the PD's Office and for misdemeanor trial and felony preliminary hearings. Before that, he spent two years as an attorney in the appeals division. He was a judicial law clerk for the Illinois Appellate Court for the first two years of his legal career. He has extensive criminal trial and appellate experience. He has taught trial advocacy at the University of Chicago and Loyola Law Schools. The Council finds him Qualified.

Geraldine A. D'Souza

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed to as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Geraldine Ann D'Souza was admitted to practice in 1992. She is a First Chair Assistant Cook County State's Attorney assigned to a felony trial courtroom at 26th and California. She prosecutes a variety of felonies, including murder cases. From 1992 to 1994 she served as an Assistant Kankakee County State's Attorney. She has substantial experience in complex litigation matters. Ms. D'Souza is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her trial skills. She supervises prosecutors with less experience and is reported to be very knowledgeable about the areas of law in which she practices. She is considered to be well-prepared and always professional in her demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Daniel P. Duffy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Civil Jury Section

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

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

Melissa A. Durkin

Present Judicial Duties
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar C
Motions

Appointed as Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2014

Evaluation

Lauren Gottainer Ediden

Present Judicial Duties:
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District - Felony

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation for Associate Judge:

Qualified

Lauren Ediden was admitted to practice in 1989. She has been a solo practitioner handling criminal defense matters since 2000. She also serves as Village Prosecutor for Northbrook. From 1993 to 2000, she was an associate at Massucci Blomquist & Brown. From 1989 until 1993, she was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Ms. Ediden is reported to have good legal ability and temperament, and is praised for her community involvement. The Council has some concerns about her limited litigation experience in complex matters, but notes that she has substantial litigation experience generally, including prosecuting municipal cases in a large volume courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

John H. Ehrlich

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar H
Motion Section

Elected to Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge John H. Ehrlich was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1998. Prior to becoming a judge, he worked in the City of Chicago Law Department and has been Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Torts Division. Prior to that, he was in private practice handling commercial litigation matters. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2014, he has been assigned to the County Department, Motion Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where his docket consists of non-commercial tort cases. His previous judicial assignments were in the County Department, Chancery Division, Foreclosure Section (2013) and the Municipal Department, First Municipal Division, Traffic Section (2012-2013).

Judge Ehrlich is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for issuing well-reasoned orders and opinions. He is very knowledgeable and viewed by other judges as a resource. He is

generally described as having a good temperament. He is reported to be well prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

**November 2012 Election, Circuit Court:
Well Qualified**

John H. Ehrlich was admitted to practice in 1988. He has worked in the City of Chicago Law Department since 1994 and has been Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Torts Division since 1999. Prior to that, he was in private practice handling commercial litigation matters. Mr. Ehrlich has served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law since the fall of 2003. Mr. Ehrlich has excellent legal ability and extensive legal experience. He has handled significant, high profile cases on behalf of the City of Chicago, both as plaintiff and defendant. He has a very good temperament. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court

David Ellis

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Third Division

Elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2014

Evaluation

**November 2014 Election, Appellate Court:
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 25 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.

Jerry A. Esrig

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar S Commercial Calendar Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016.

Evaluation

**November 2016 Election, Circuit Court:
Highly Qualified**

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

being prepared on credit card debt, the City of Chicago Landlords and Tenants Ordinance, Subrogation, and Guaranties. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Timothy C. Evans

Present Judicial Duties

Chief Judge, Circuit Court

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

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

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

In 2009, he received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented by the National Center for State Courts. The award recognizes a state judge who “exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics.” He pushed for the establishment of the Domestic Violence Courthouse that opened in 2005. He is also credited for pushing forward the Court’s mortgage foreclosure program. He has been praised for increasing the diversity of the Presiding Judges among the numerous divisions of the Circuit Court. In 2013, he issued a general

administrative order outlawing the practice of some preliminary hearing judges of denying a Public Defender to defendants without conducting an indigence hearing. He is currently promoting the development of a community court in the North Lawndale area of Chicago.

Chief Judge Evans has his critics. Some respondents say he is too often slow to respond to the need for major systemic changes. But he has his strong supporters, as well, and the Council notes his many accomplishments. We know that the Circuit 9 Court needs consistent, enlightened leadership, and the Court must collaborate with all of the major stakeholder governmental agencies to bring about necessary systemic reform. We encourage Chief Judge Evans to meet this challenge. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Timothy Evans graduated from John Marshall Law School in 1969. He was admitted to practice in 1966. Judge Timothy Evans was elected to the bench in 1992 and was elected Chief Judge in 2001. He has been unanimously re-elected chief judge three times. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Evans was an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago and had served as a floor leader for Mayor Harold Washington and as an Alderman for the 4th Ward.

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

2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Timothy C. Evans is the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division.

He was elected to the bench in 1992 after a long career as a solo practitioner and government official. Lawyers report that Judge Evans is an outstanding judge who is knowledgeable, patient, fair, and hard working. He has good legal ability and an excellent temperament, and is believed to be completely fair and of the highest integrity. He is also widely praised for his innovative work as an administrator. As the Presiding Judge in the Domestic Relations Division, he is credited by many lawyers for substantially improving the Division. As the Chief Judge, he has been accessible to the legal community and receives praise for his commitment to improving the court system. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Timothy C. Evans is the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. He was elected to the bench in 1992 after a long career as a solo practitioner and government official. Lawyers report that Judge Evans is an outstanding judge who is knowledgeable, patient, fair, and hard working. He has good legal ability and an excellent temperament, and is believed to be completely fair and of the highest integrity. He is also widely praised for his innovative work as an administrator, and is credited by many respondents for substantially improving the Domestic Relations Division. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Fifth Subcircuit: Qualified

Timothy C. Evans, 49, is best known as a former fourth ward alderman and committeeman and candidate for Mayor of Chicago. As an alderman, Mr. Evans was head of the Finance Committee during Harold Washington's term as Mayor. Besides these positions, Mr. Evans has been a practicing lawyer since 1969. He began his practice in the City's Corporation Counsel's office and doing criminal defense work. Since 1973 he has had a solo civil litigation practice, consisting primarily of personal injury cases. He is described by lawyers who have appeared in cases with him as a solid lawyer with very good legal ability. The Council believes he is qualified.

John Abbrey Fairman

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 5

Appointed to the Circuit Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

John Abbrey Fairman II was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2004. Since 2007, he has been a Partner in Lee & Fairman, LLP in Homewood, Illinois, where he focuses on criminal and civil litigation, handling orders of protection, child support issues, license reinstatement, expungements, school board hearings, and municipal issues and hearings. From 2004 to 2007, he was an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where he served in the Domestic Violence (2006-2007) and Felony Review (2006) units.

John Abbrey Fairman II is considered to have good legal ability, and is praised for his knowledge of the law and for being well prepared. He has substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal matters. Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patricia M. Fallon

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed to the Circuit Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Patricia Maria Fallon was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since 2017, she has served as Chief of Human Resources for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. From 2004 to 2017, she worked for the Labor and Employment Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she served as an Assistant State's Attorney and also as a Supervisor (2015-17) and Deputy Supervisor (2013-2015).

Ms. Fallon is considered to have good legal ability

with litigation experience in both state and federal court. She is described as hard-working with good temperament, and is praised for her supervisory skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Patricia Maria Fallon was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since 2017, she has served as Chief of Human Resources for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. From 2004 to 2017, she worked for the Labor and Employment Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she served as an Assistant State's Attorney and also as a Supervisor (2015-17) and Deputy Supervisor (2013-2015).

Patricia Maria Fallon is considered to have good legal ability with litigation experience in both state and federal court. She is described as hard-working with good temperament, and is praised for her supervisory skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court

Peter A. Felice

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Peter A. Felice was in private practice. Judge Felice is currently sitting at the Fifth Municipal District 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 and knowledge of the law. He is praised as a hardworking and his praised as being fair and respectful to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Peter A. Felice has been a solo general practitioner since being admitted to the bar in 1976. His practice has involved real estate matters, administrative law and municipal law matters. He has been general counsel to many municipalities. While the candidate was regarded as person of integrity and good character, he was deemed by number of contacts as having ordinary legal ability and experience. We find the candidate Not Qualified.

Rossana Patricia Fernandez

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar W

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Rosanna Patricia Fernandez was admitted to practice in Illinois in May 1997. She was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, she was a partner at Sanchez and Daniels doing personal injury litigation.

From 1997-2000 she worked at Eannace Lowery & Meade as an Associate Attorney. Judge Fernandez is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. Most respondents say she has a good temperament. All

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

Brian K. Flaherty

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Not Qualified

Brian Kevin Flaherty was admitted to practice law in 1980. Since 1994, Mr. Flaherty has been a legal advisor and Director of Personnel and Operations for the Cook County Sheriff. He spent one year before that as a solo general practitioner. From 1990 until 1993, he was an associate at the general litigation firm of Connolly, Ekl & Williams. Before that, he spent ten years as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Mr. Flaherty received his JD from DePaul University College of Law in 1980.

Mr. Flaherty is considered to have average legal ability but an excellent temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that Mr. Flaherty does not have substantial recent trial experience. The Council finds Mr. Flaherty Not Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Kathy M. Flanagan

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar E
Motion Section

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 1988

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Judge Kathy M. Flanagan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. Prior to becoming a judge, Kathy Flanagan was in private practice. Judge Flanagan was elected to the Circuit Court in 1988. Since 2010, she has been Supervising Judge of the Law Division, Motion Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her previous judicial assignments were in the Domestic Relations Division (Preliminary Motion Judge, 1992-1994; Trial Judge, 1988-1990).

Judge Flanagan is considered to be very informed on the law as it applies to the Law Division. She applies the law and rules rigorously, and cases move through her courtroom quickly and on a tight schedule. She is praised for the quality of her decisions. However, practitioners have strong opinions about her temperament. Well respected practitioners describe her as tough, fair, and efficient. Other equally well-respected practitioners believe she is unduly harsh, overbearing, and sometimes disrespectfully aggressive with litigants, with deadlines too often set without any input from litigants. She is reported to threaten sanctions, including daily fines for non-compliance with discovery deadlines. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kathy Flanagan was in private practice. Judge Flanagan was elected to the Circuit Court in 1988. She was initially assigned to the Domestic Relations Division as a trial judge. Judge Flanagan currently sits in the Law Division on a motion call.

With regard to fairness and legal ability, Judge Flanagan is generally considered intelligent, with a good grasp of the law, and appropriate diligence. Respondents believe her to be very engaged in the courtroom, giving full attention to the details. With regard to rulings, she is described as “consistent, predictable and follows the law.” Many interviewees characterize her as “very fair” and “always prepared.”

However, a substantial number of respondents had a negative impression of Judge Flanagan’s judicial temperament. She was called “hostile,” “imperious,” “rude” and “discourteous.” She was frequently described as impatient or inflexible. A number of

attorneys believe these qualities negatively affected her ability to manage her courtroom efficiently. However, even some Page 13 of 45 respondents who were highly critical of her temper noted that she is “bright” and “truly cares” about the outcomes in her courtroom.

Responses indicate that Judge Flanagan is clearly diligent and capable on the bench. She is prepared for court, punctual and engaged in the proceedings with a reputation for intelligence and general fairness. However, responses show that Judge Flanagan displays inappropriate temper and has created a courtroom atmosphere that is readily described as hostile or unpleasant. In 2006 the Council found Judge Flanagan Not Qualified for retention for these same reasons. There reportedly has been no significant improvement. The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kathy M. Flanagan, 47, was first elected as Circuit Court Judge in 1988 and retained by the voters in 1994. Prior to reaching the bench, Judge Flanagan had ten years of legal experience, mostly in a solo general practice. The Council previously found Judge Flanagan not qualified in 1988 due to her lack of experience, but found her qualified for retention in 1994 and qualified as a candidate for the Appellate Court in 1996 and 1998 (although she lost in the primary both years). Since 1993, she has served on the Motion Call in Law Division. In most areas – legal knowledge, integrity, sensitivity to diversity, diligence and impartiality – the Judge draws high marks from lawyers. The Council finds especially laudable the Judge’s routine issuance of written opinions, not common among Motion Call judges. Where she falls down (as was also the case in our 1994 evaluation) is in the area of temperament. There continue to be reports of rough, brusque treatment of lawyers in her courtroom. The Judge herself attributes her reputation to the demands of a high-volume call and her willingness to say “no” to lawyers seeking more time to complete discovery. The Council believes that such exigencies may explain, but do not excuse, judicial rudeness. Nonetheless, reports are that the Judge continues to work on this one flawed facet of her otherwise good-to-excellent tenure. The Council finds her Qualified.

1998 Primary & General Elections, Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Kathy M. Flanagan has served as a Motion Judge in the Law Division since 1992. She was a judge in the Domestic Relations Division between 1988 and 1992. Between 1980 and 1988 she was in private practice with a concentration in domestic relations. Judge Flanagan has good legal ability and is exceptionally hard-working. Some lawyers characterize her temperament as overly rigid but most lawyers praise her as a no-nonsense judge who does a difficult job well. The Council finds her Qualified.

March 1996 Primary Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Kathy M. Flanagan, 43, has been a Circuit Judge since she was elected in 1988. She sits in the Law Division, where she hears a motion call. From 1988 to 1993, she sat in the Domestic Relations Division. In 1994, the Council found Judge Flanagan qualified for retention but noted a number of reports indicating that she could be unnecessarily rude to attorneys. The investigation for this election indicates that Judge Flanagan has addressed that problem and has improved. Attorneys report that she is exceptionally well-prepared in her present assignment, which is similar to the functions of an appellate judge. She has good legal ability and moves her call well. The Council finds her Qualified.

November 1994 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kathy M. Flanagan, 41, has been a judge since she was elected in 1988. She served in the Domestic Relations Division until January 1993. Since that time she has been assigned to the Law Division as a judge on the motion call. As a motion call judge, Judge Flanagan runs a very tight ship. She works hard and usually is well prepared. She does her own research and has one of the most current calendars in the Law Division. The majority of reports we have received about Judge Flanagan’s legal abilities are very favorable. However, we have received a number of reports that Judge Flanagan can be unnecessarily rude or hostile to attorneys. In addition, attorneys report that she has, on occasion, ruled without adequate preparation, resulting in questionable rulings. The motion call assignment is a difficult and demanding one and these problems

may be caused in part by the nature of her call. Given her strengths and dedication, on balance the Council finds Judge Flanagan to be qualified for retention.

November 1988 (D), Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Ms. Flanagan has been in private general practice since 1979. The Council does not believe that Ms. Flanagan has the professional experience necessary for the judiciary.

March 1988 (D) Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Ms. Flanagan is a private practitioner. The Council has received insufficient information to judge her qualifications for the Circuit Court.

James P. Flannery, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1988

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 has introduced improvements in the Law Division. He is praised for his administrative function, as well as for his performance as a trial judge. He is reported to offer thorough and accurate 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. He has an excellent demeanor and many respondents noted that he treats all parties fairly while having a calm yet effective temperament. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. James P. Flannery, Jr., 52, has been a judge since 1988. He has sat in the Law Division, Trial Section since 1997. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District. He then spent more than three years assigned to the Fourth Municipal District before he was transferred to the Criminal Division in 1992. Lawyers praise Judge Flannery for his legal knowledge, diligence, and judicial temperament. We therefore find him Qualified for retention.

November 1996 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge James P. Flannery, Jr., 46, has been a judge since 1988. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District. He spent more than three years assigned to the Fourth Municipal District before he was assigned in 1992 to the Criminal Division. Judge Flannery is considered by practitioners to be a good judge who is hard working and who has good legal ability. The Council finds him Qualified.

1990 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Associate Judge Flannery sits in the Fourth Municipal District in Maywood. Faced with the challenges and realities of a high-volume court call, Judge Flannery runs an efficient courtroom in which all parties feel justly treated. The Council finds Judge Flannery qualified.

Ellen L. Flannigan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 51

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2006

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Ellen L. Flannigan was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Prior to becoming a judge, Ellen L. Flannigan worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Flannigan was elected to the 12 Circuit Court in 2006. Since 2016, she has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division, Hearings and Trials, of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her previous assignments were with the Domestic Relations as a Parentage Expedited Judge (2012-2016) and an Expedited Hearing Judge (2009-2012), and in the First Municipal District (2006-2009, traffic citations and misdemeanor traffic matters).

Judge Flannigan is reported to have a good grasp of legal issues. She is described as having good legal ability with rulings that are well reasoned and clearly stated. She is praised for her grasp of the law, for her ability to control the courtroom, and for her temperament. She is praised for her patience on the bench – informing the parties about the process and explaining her rulings. Many respondents to this evaluation praise her integrity and her commitment to improving the operation of the court to make it fairer. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ellen L. Flannigan worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Flannigan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She is assigned to the Domestic Violence Division.

Most respondents say that Judge Flannigan is performing adequately. She is reported to have a good grasp of the issues and is praised for putting specific findings on the record. Respondents believe she is generally fair, reaching sound decisions, based in law.

However, some respondents have concerns that Judge Flannigan is not always well-prepared. Attorneys report she has not always read the case materials, but these lawyers add that she usually comes to the right decision. Some attorneys also say that Judge Flannigan can be insensitive when questioning victims of domestic violence. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Lawrence Edward Flood

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001

Evaluation

2001 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Not Recommended

In March 2001, the Council found Judge Flood Not Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

Michael A. Forti

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations

Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Forti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. In 2016, he was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court and was elected by the Circuit Judges in 2019 as an Associate Judge. He is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Previously he was Chief Counsel and Ethics Officer at the Illinois Department of Transportation (2012-2015); Deputy Corporation Counsel (1999-2012) and Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel (1994-1998) for the City of Chicago Department of Law; and associate (1980-1988) and equity and income partner (1988-1994) at Bell Boyd & Lloyd (now K&L Gates), where he handled commercial litigation and antitrust counseling.

Judge Forti was considered to be a good attorney with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he continues to receive very positive marks. He has demonstrated his ability to handle a high-volume call and is praised for his handling of pro se litigants – respectful and informative without going beyond the role of judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Forti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. In 2016, he was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court, and is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Previously he was chief counsel and ethics officer at the Illinois Department of Transportation (2012-2015); deputy corporation counsel (1999-2012) and chief assistant corporation counsel (1994-1998) for the City of Chicago Department of Law; and associate (1980-1988) and equity and income partner (1988-1994) at Bell Boyd & Lloyd (now K&L Gates), where he handled commercial

litigation and antitrust counseling.

Judge Forti was considered to be a good attorney with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he continues to receive very positive marks. He has demonstrated his ability to handle a high-volume call and is praised for his handling of pro se litigants – respectful and informative without going beyond the role of judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Forti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. In 2016, he was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court, and is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Previously he was chief counsel and ethics officer at the Illinois Department of Transportation (2012-2015); deputy corporation counsel (1999-2012) and chief assistant corporation counsel (1994-1998) for the City of Chicago Department of Law; and associate (1980-1988) and equity and income partner (1988-1994) at Bell Boyd & Lloyd (now K&L Gates), where he handled commercial litigation and antitrust counseling.

Judge Forti was considered to be a good attorney with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he continues to receive very positive marks. He has demonstrated his ability to handle a high-volume call and is praised for his handling of pro se litigants – respectful and informative without going beyond the role of judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Forti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. In 2016, he was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court, and is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Previously he was chief counsel and ethics officer at the Illinois Department of Transportation (2012-2015); deputy corporation counsel (1999-2012); Chicago Department of Law; and associate (1980-1988) and equity and income partner (1988-1994) at Bell Boyd & Lloyd (now K&L Gates), where he handled commercial litigation and antitrust

counseling.

Judge Forti was considered to be a good attorney with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he continues to receive very positive marks. He has demonstrated his ability to handle a high volume call and is praised for his handling of pro se litigants – respectful and informative without going beyond the role of judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2012 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Michael Angelo Forti was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1980. He is currently the Deputy Corporation Counsel for the Constitutional and Commercial Litigation Division of the Chicago Department of Law. He has served as the Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel of that Division. From 1994-1999 he was Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel at the City of Chicago Law Department, and from 1980-1994 he was an Associate and later Partner at Bell Boyd and Lloyd, now K&L Gates. Mr. Forti is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to be a thoughtful, organized, and well-prepared lawyer with a professional demeanor. While serving in a supervisory role, he also maintains a trial court practice where he appears as lead counsel in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Beatriz Frausto-Sandoval

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Department

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2005. Since 2011, she has been a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval, where she focuses on immigration law and related matters. She has also worked as a full-time Contract Attorney at Hudson Legal (2011-

2012), where she handled document review in contract litigation cases and an Associate with a focus on immigration law at both Hughes Socol Piers Resnik and Dym, Ltd. (2006-2011) and the Law Office of Scott. E. Bellgrau in Bensenville, IL (2005-2006).

Ms. Frausto-Sandoval specializes in immigration law and is praised for her knowledge of that area of law. She is reported to have good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, with the depth and breadth of her practice. She has been a lawyer since 2005 and focuses almost exclusively on immigration work, which does not include state court practice. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court of Cook County

Carolyn J. Gallagher

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Housing Section

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election: Circuit Court, Qualified

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

Daniel J. Gallagher

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Misdemeanor/Ordinance

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Gallagher was elected to the bench in 2010. Prior to his appointment, he was in private practice and served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Gallagher is presently assigned to the Misdemeanor Room at Branch 34, presiding over various misdemeanor cases. Judge Gallagher is considered to have good adequate legal ability and is praised for his willingness to mentor young lawyers. But some respondents noted that he demonstrates a short temper on the bench. Yet Judge Gallagher has acknowledged that temperament can be a problem for him, and is taking steps to remedy the problem. Judge Gallagher has been praised for seeking to find pragmatic solutions for offenders on his call. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

John T. Gallagher

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge John Terrence Gallagher was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Prior to becoming a judge, he had been a sole practitioner since 1996. He tried cases in both state and federal courts. From 1994 to 1996 he worked at the Law Office of Edward R. Vrdolyak where he represented clients in criminal matters, and from 1992 to 1994 he worked at Augustine, Kern, & Levens where he litigated civil matters, mostly contract cases with some injury cases. He worked in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps between 1988 and 1992. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2014, he has been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Bridgeview, Illinois, where he presides over a misdemeanor courtroom. His previous assignments were to a misdemeanor courtroom at Branch 35 in Chicago, Illinois (2013-2014) and to the First Municipal District Traffic Call in the Daley Center (2012-2013).

Judge Gallagher is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his knowledge of the law. His temperament is described as low key and he is respectful of all parties. He is praised for his courtroom management and for being fair in his rulings. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

John Terrence Gallagher was admitted to practice in 1988. He has been a sole practitioner since 1996. He tries cases in both state and federal courts. From 1994 to 1996 he worked at the Law Office of Edward R. Vrdolyak where he represented clients in criminal matters, and from 1992 to 1994 he worked at Augustine, Kern, & Levens where he litigated civil matters, mostly contract cases with some injury cases. He worked in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps between 1988 and 1992. Mr. Gallagher has substantial litigation experience and is considered to be a solid practitioner. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

William G. Gamboney

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge William Gamboney was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1977. Prior to becoming a judge, he spent a few years in private practice, and then served as an Assistant Cook County State's 13 Attorney between 1979 and 1994. He was a sole practitioner since 1994. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since November 2017, he has been assigned as a Floater Judge in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His previous assignments were in the Juvenile Justice Division (2013-2017) and the First Municipal Division (2012-2013, Traffic and various Branch Courts in Chicago).

Judge Gamboney is considered to have good legal ability. He is especially praised for his communications with jurors. He has a good temperament and is reported to be adept at handling his court call. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

William Gamboney was admitted to practice in 1977. After spending a few years in private practice, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between 1979 and 1994. He has been a sole practitioner since 1994. He reports acting as lead counsel in one civil jury, 50 criminal jury trials, 10 civil bench trials, and hundreds of criminal bench trials. He has handled 25 cases on appeal. Mr. Gamboney is considered to be a skilled criminal defense lawyer with extensive experience in state courts. He is praised for his demeanor and honesty. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Celia G. Gamrath

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Celia Gamrath was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1994. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a partner at Schiller DuCanto and Fleck where she handled family law litigation, complex motion practice, and appeals. From 1994 to 1997, she served as a judicial law clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court. She was appointed to the bench in 2010, and was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2016, she has been assigned to the General Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her previous assignments were in the Domestic Relations Division (Trial Judge, 2010-2016) and the Municipal Division at the Daley Center (Traffic, 2010).

Judge Gamrath is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is described as always being prepared and is praised for her temperament. She is generally described as hard working and is praised for managing a sometimes difficult court call. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Celia Louise Gamrath was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010. She was admitted to practice in 1994. Before becoming a judge, she was a partner at Schiller DuCanto and Fleck where she handled family law litigation, complex motion practice, and appeals. From 1994 to 1997, she served as a judicial law clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court. The vast majority of her cases settled before trial, but she did substantial numbers of evidentiary and dispositive motions. She reported handling about 50 appeal cases. Judge Gamrath is exceptionally active in bar association activities and has published numerous articles in legal texts. Lawyers report that as a lawyer, Judge Gamrath had good legal ability and

was considered to be a zealous, ethical advocate who is hard-working. She has a good temperament and is praised for her community service. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Celia G. Gamrath was admitted in 1994. She is currently a partner at Schiller DuCanto and Fleck where she handles family law litigation, complex motion practice and appeals. From 1994 to 1997, she served as a judicial law clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court. The vast majority of her cases settle before trial, but she does substantial numbers of evidentiary and dispositive motions. She reports handling about 50 appeal cases. Ms. Gamrath is exceptionally active in bar association activities and has published numerous articles in legal texts. Lawyers report that Ms. Gamrath has good legal ability and is considered to be a zealous, ethical advocate who is hard-working. She has a good temperament and is praised for her community service. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Vincent M. Gaughan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1991; elected in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

Judge Gaughan is widely praised for his legal ability and for being adept at handling some of the most complex cases in the criminal division. He is reported to have very good courtroom management skills. Many respondents say that he can be short

tempered on the bench, but even those who complain about his temperament report that he is a very good trial judge. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Vincent Gaughan was appointed to the bench in 1991 and elected in 1994. He presently serves in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. He was admitted to practice in 1971. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Gaughan was a supervising Public Defender.

Judge Gaughan is considered to have good legal ability and has handled some of the most complex cases in the Criminal Division. He is considered to be a hard working judge who is praised for his courtroom management skills. He can be short-tempered on the bench, but most lawyers consider him to be a solid judge who is adept at handling the most complex cases. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Vincent M. Gaughan sits in the Criminal Division at 26th and California. He was appointed to the bench in 1991 after a career as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Lawyers report that he is a good jurist. He has good legal ability and his fairness and integrity are unquestioned. The Council has received some reports that he occasionally demonstrates an inappropriate temperament. However, on balance the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention – Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Vincent M. Gaughan sits in the Criminal Division at 26th and California. He was appointed to the bench in 1991 after a career as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Many lawyers say that he is a good jurist. He has good legal ability and his fairness and integrity are unquestioned. However, too many lawyers find his temperament to be erratic and occasionally unacceptable. He loses his temper on the bench, often without good reason. There are reports that his temperament problem is large

enough that it adversely affects his judgment. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for retention.

1992 Circuit Court (Murphy Vacancy): Qualified

Vincent Gaughan, 50, was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1991. He has been sitting in the Criminal Division at 26th and California. He was admitted to the bar in 1971, and worked from 1973 to 1991 at the Public Defender's Office, where he became a supervisor. Attorneys give Judge Gaughan's work as a supervisor mixed reviews.

Since becoming a judge, however, Judge Gaughan has received good reports from attorneys. He is reported to be very fair, with good control of his court call and good knowledge of the law. He is reported to be independent-minded, with good integrity. The Council finds him Qualified for election.

James J. Gavin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1996

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. James J. Gavin has been a judge since 1996. He has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division since then, and presently sits at the Sixth Municipal District. He is reported to have an excellent temperament, control of courtroom, and a strong work ethic. By all accounts, he is doing a fine job. The Council finds Judge Gavin Qualified for retention.

March 1996 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

James Joseph Gavin, 39, has been practicing law for 10 years. He has been a partner in private practice with his father since being admitted to the bar. His practice is primarily divorce and personal injury litigation, although he also does some criminal defense work. Mr. Gavin lacks the breadth of experience in complex litigation matters necessary to qualify him to serve as a judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Nichola Geanopoulos

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 17K

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

2007 Evaluation to fill Judicial Vacancy: Qualified

Nicholas Geanopoulos has practice law since 1983. He has been an associate with the Vrdolyak Law Group since 1992. From 1983 to 1992, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Geanopoulos is a solid practitioner with good legal ability and substantial trial experience. He has a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified to fill a vacancy.

Michael P. Gerber

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Traffic

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Michael P. Gerber was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. He was appointed to the bench as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2016. He presides over criminal misdemeanors, felony preliminary hearings, and traffic matters. Previously, he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, where he prosecuted criminal matters (1984-2016); an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County (1981-1984), where he handled motions and trials and, during his last 18 months there, felony preliminary hearings; and as an associate for Martin S. Gerber (1980-1981), where he handled civil municipal and misdemeanor cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

As a lawyer, Judge Gerber was considered to be an outstanding practitioner with very good legal ability and temperament. He was respected for his litigation skills and he had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable. As a judge he is reported to be handling a high volume call with efficiency and fairness. On the basis of this 2017 evaluation the Council would have found Judge Gerber to be Well Qualified.

However, subsequent to the evaluation the Council conducted in 2017, the Council notes that a post-conviction judge vacated a murder case conviction that then Mr. Gerber had prosecuted many years earlier. In vacating the conviction, the judge stated in regard to Mr. Gerber, as the prosecutor, that he had made "factually false arguments to the jury" about a key piece of evidence. The judge further stated,

"This Court cannot say the prosecutor's improper remarks did not contribute to petitioner's conviction; a jury could have

reached a contrary verdict had the improper remarks not been made. * * * Indeed, such statements amounted to a purposeful due process violation that led to petitioner's conviction. As such, petitioner was prejudiced by appellate counsel's failure to raise this claim."

The defendant was exonerated. The Council considers these findings to be exceptionally serious. However, the Council also must consider the totality of Judge Gerber's well-respected career. In a close call, the Council finds Judge Gerber to be Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mohammed M. Ghouse

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Appointed to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Mohammed Mujahid Ghouse was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1998. He is currently a sole practitioner focusing on criminal and traffic law litigation, with additional practice in civil transactional matters; he is also an adjunct professor at Moraine Valley Community College's Criminal Justice Program. Prior to the establishment of his practice, Mr. Ghouse was an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County where he prosecuted both misdemeanors and felonies. Mr. Ghouse volunteers his time as a pro bono attorney through the Southwest Bar Association 1-2 times per year. In addition, Mr. Ghouse assists the Chief Legal Counsel of the not-for profit Zakat Foundation of America with legal issues.

Mr. Ghouse is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He has substantial litigation experience and is praised for his temperament and diligence. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Aleksandra Nikolich Gillespie

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election to Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Daniel T. Gillespie

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar B Motion Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1988

Evaluation

2008 Primary Election: Qualified

Daniel T. Gillespie has been a lawyer since 1978. He has served as an Associate Judge since 1988, and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. Before taking the bench he served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender and an Assistant State's Attorney. He is a former Illinois Assistant Attorney General. He teaches trial advocacy at Loyola University law school. Judge Gillespie is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and his courtroom management skills. He is reportedly hard-working and wellprepared. The Council finds him Qualified for Circuit Court.

Steven J. Goebel

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

Jean M. Golden

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal Division – Traffic Section

Appointed Associate Judge to the Circuit Judges in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Jean Mary Golden was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1977. She is an equity partner at Cassidy Schade, LLP, where she focuses on insurance and contract law. Previously, she worked as a staff attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority Legal Department (1979-1983) and as an Assistant

Attorney General in the Welfare Litigation Division of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. She is a member of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, has chaired the Long Range Planning Committee of the Chicago Bar Association, and served on the board of directors of the Federal Bar Association. She also served as president of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois.

Ms. Golden is considered to have very good legal ability. She is praised for her extensive knowledge of the law, and for her writing skills. She is reported to have good trial skills, and is always prepared. She is active in legal community activities. She is also praised for her professional temperament and being especially hard working. She has the reputation of being an excellent practitioner. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Renee G. Goldfarb

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 35

Appointed Associate Judge in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Well Qualified

Renee Goldfarb was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1975. Since 1986, she has been at the Office of the Cook County State’s Attorney, where she is currently Chief of the Criminal Appeals Division. From 1979 to 1986, she was in private practice as a partner in a general civil practice firm. From 1975 to 1979, Ms. Goldfarb was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Ms. Goldfarb received her JD in 1975 from the University of Illinois.

Ms. Goldfarb is considered to be an excellent appellate lawyer with substantial trial experience, as well. She is well regarded as a supervisor and administrator. She has a wide range of legal knowledge and a very good temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned and she has received numerous awards for her work and for her community service. The Council finds Ms. Goldfarb Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Megan E. Goldish

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge in 2014, Hon. Megan Goldish served as Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She worked as a First Chair prosecutor in a felony trial courtroom, and served as the First Chair in the WINGSS Felony Prostitution Call, a well-respected diversion program. As a judge, she is currently assigned to the Domestic Violence Division. She is praised for her knowledge of the law and for the respect she shows all persons in her courtroom. She is reported to have a calm and patient demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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 31 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.

Peter Michael Gonzalez

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation:

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Peter Michael Gonzalez was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, he had been a solo practitioner whose main focus is criminal defense, but who also handles matters that include domestic relations, employment, licensing, and immigration. He has also worked as an administrative law judge in the Illinois Department of Employment Security (2003-2013) and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office (1994-2003), where his assignments included Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Abuse and Neglect, Preliminary Hearings, Night Narcotics, and the Felony Trial Division. Since 2012, he has been a Member of the Lawyer's Auxiliary Board of the Illinois Judges Foundation. In 2005 and 2007, he was disciplined by his employer, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, for discourtesy during hearings he conducted as an administrative law judge.

In 2013, the Council stated that, "Mr. Gonzalez is reported to have good legal ability and his earlier career involved substantial litigation matters. He was praised for his temperament as defense counsel, and is considered to be a good defense lawyer. The Council, however, is concerned about negative reports concerning his current role as an administrative hearing 30 officer. He is reported to be inappropriately impatient and rude to litigants. He is criticized for the disrespectful manner in which he sometimes treats witnesses. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court." Since 2013, Mr. Gonzalez has been a solo practitioner and has received positive marks for his work. But the Council continues to be concerned about Mr. Gonzalez's temperament. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified.

Robert E. Gordon

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Fourth Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1996; elected to

the Circuit Court in 2002; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2006.

Evaluation:

November 2020 Retention Election to Illinois Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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. 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.

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 is widely praised for his temperament and for his integrity. He was also praised as an excellent trial judge before 2005. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election to Illinois Appellate Court: 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.

2005 Evaluation for Appointment to the Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Robert E. Gordon was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1996, after a long career as a litigator. He served as a jury trial judge in the Municipal Division from 1997 to 2003. Since 2003 he has served as a jury trial judge in the Law Division. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1962. He is regarded as having excellent knowledge of law and procedure. He has a strong work ethic and has been commended for his informal efforts to educate inexperienced lawyers who appear before him. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

The Honorable Robert E. Gordon was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in August 1996. Judge Gordon sat in Traffic Court during 1996-97. He is currently assigned to the First Municipal District, where he hears civil jury trials; he also hears Forcible Detainer matters two days each week. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1962. As a judge, he is regarded as having an excellent knowledge of law and procedure. He has a strong work ethic, disposes of cases efficiently, and

has dramatically reduced the backlog of cases that confronted him when he was assigned to his current posting. Attorneys frequently commend him for his informal efforts to educate inexperienced lawyers who appear before him. Attorneys who have tried cases before Judge Gordon generally believe he is fair. A frequent criticism of Judge Gordon is that he is arrogant and quick to remind attorneys of his own knowledge and experience. Although these criticisms give the Council some pause, on balance the Council believes that Judge Gordon's legal knowledge, his efforts to mentor young lawyers, his work ethic, and his productivity outweigh these concerns. The Council finds Judge Gordon Qualified.

1998 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Robert E. Gordon was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in August 1996. He has served in Traffic Court and now serves in the First Municipal District. Before taking the bench, he was a litigator in private practice for 34 years. Judge Gordon is considered to have good legal ability and is fair to all parties appearing before him. His temperament on the bench has been reported to be good although a few attorneys report that as a practitioner, Judge Gordon did not always control his temper when dealing with other attorneys. He is considered to be a good judge. The Council finds Judge Gordon to be qualified.

Ieshia Gray

Present Judicial Duties

Circuit Court Judge, Fourth District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Ieshia E. Gray was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. Since 2004, she has worked as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she is currently a Grade III Felony Attorney. She has also worked as a Coordinator in the Cook County Court, Civil Protection Division (2003-2004). She has provided

pro bono services in wills, trusts, and real estate matters at the Chesterfield Community Council Legal Clinic.

Ms. Gray is considered to have good temperament and has substantial litigation experience. She is active in community activities. Many respondents reported that she is a solid criminal defense counsel and praised her for being able to provide good legal representation in the midst of busy, competing cases in different courtrooms. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jonathan C. Green

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jonathan C. Green was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. He is senior counsel/supervisor of the Department of Law at the City of Chicago, Federal Civil Rights Litigation Division, where is responsible for all aspects of civil rights and torts litigation. From 2003 to 2013, he worked as a principal of the Law Offices of Green and Green, P.C., and of counsel at Rock, Fusco & Garvey Ltd. At both firms his practice included domestic and international civil litigation, including business and construction litigation, real estate and commercial transactions, and international law.

Mr. Green is viewed by many respondents as knowledgeable about substantive and procedural law with good legal ability. To these lawyers, he is a solid practitioner. Most respondents report that he has a good temperament. In general, he has had an impressive legal career with substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Sanju Oommen Green (formerly known as Sanju David Oommen)

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as Associate Judge to Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Sanju David Oommen was admitted to practice in 2000 and currently serves as a First Chair prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She is reported to possess excellent trial skills and is considered to have very good legal ability and integrity. She is praised for her temperament. She is active in bar association activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Sanju David Oommen was admitted to practice in 2000 and currently serves as a First Chair prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She is reported to possess excellent trial skills and is considered to have very good legal ability and integrity. She is praised for her temperament. She is active in bar association activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Joel Leslie Greenblatt

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2004 Evaluations to fill a Circuit Court Vacancy: Qualified

Joel Leslie Greenblatt was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1966. He has been in private practice throughout his career. Mr. Greenblatt has broad experience as a lawyer, and is considered to be a solid practitioner with good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

John C. Griffin

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, First Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2008; appointed as Appellate Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Maxwell Griffin, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 10J

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Maxwell Griffin, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1980. Since 1997, he has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in the Complex Litigation Division, where he defends County medical facilities in medical malpractice cases. Before that, he was in private practice, engaging in personal injury defense trial work. From 1994 to 1997, he was an associate at Goldstein & Fluxgold. For two years before that, he was an associate at Jeffrey M. Goldberg & Associates. From 1983 until 1992, he was an associate, and later, a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson. He began his career by spending three years as an associate at Clausen & Miller. Mr. Griffin is a 1980 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Mr. Griffin is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is very knowledgeable about insurance defense, medical malpractice, and personal injury legal matters. He is a solid practitioner. The Council finds Mr. Griffin Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Susanne Groebner

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Susanne Groebner was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2001, she has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently works in the Felony Trial Division in Rolling Meadows, IL (2013-present). She previously served in the

Felony Trial Division in Chicago (2008-2013); in the Felony Review, Preliminary Hearings, and Grand Jury Units (2004-2008); in the Juvenile Division (Abuse and Neglect/Delinquency, 2001-2004); and in the Child Support Division (2001).

Ms. Groebner is considered to have good legal ability. Respondents to this evaluation say that she has good litigation skills and that she is an honest and fair prosecutor. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Catherine Marie Haberkorn

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division, Second District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 1994

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Catherine Marie Haberkorn was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. Prior to becoming a judge, Catherine Haberkorn was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney throughout her career, handling both criminal and civil law cases. Judge Haberkorn was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994. Since 2000, she has been a Criminal Felony Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County in Skokie, Illinois. Previously she was assigned to Night Narcotics Court in the Criminal Felony Trial Division (1997-1999) and to the Juvenile Delinquency Division (1994-1997).

Judge Haberkorn is praised for her legal knowledge and for her ability to manage her court call. She is part of a special drug probation court call in which she is reported to be doing a very job of handling defendants who have significant drug abuse history and mental health issues. She is reported to be fair and patient on the bench. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Catherine Haberkorn was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney throughout her career, handling both criminal and

civil law cases. Judge Haberkorn was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District and later transferred to the Juvenile Division. She is presently assigned to the Criminal Court in Skokie, where she has been since 1999.

Respondents report that Judge Haberkorn displays a good legal ability and is fair and independent in the courtroom. Her integrity is noted by many and generally her courtroom functions well. Respondents say that Judge Haberkorn is well versed in the rules of procedure and applies them fairly and well. She is described as “honest” and fair, and respondents believe she puts effort into doing the right thing. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Catherine M. Haberkorn has been a judge since 1994. She has sat in the Criminal Division in Skokie since 1999. She has also been assigned to the Evening Narcotics Courtroom at 26th and California Avenue. She served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney before becoming a judge. Judge Haberkorn is considered to have good legal ability and is praised by both prosecutors and defense counsel for her fairness. The Council is concerned, however, about some reports that she can be short-tempered. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified.

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Catherine M. Haberkorn, 44, has been a judge since 1994. She sits in the Criminal Division in Skokie. She has also been assigned to the Evening Narcotics Courtroom at 26th and California Avenue. She served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney before becoming a judge. Lawyers report that Judge Haberkorn has very good legal ability. She rules quickly and correctly on evidentiary issues. She is considered to be a fair impartial judge who is firm with lawyers while maintaining a good judicial temperament. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

November 1994 Election: Qualified

Catherine Marie Haberkorn, 37, was evaluated by the Council of Lawyers in 1992 and at that time was

found qualified for election to the Circuit Court. She was admitted to practice in 1981 and since that time has worked as an Assistant State’s Attorney. The Council’s 1992 evaluation stated, “While relatively young, Ms. Haberkorn is reported to have performed exceptionally well as a trial attorney in felony cases. She has substantial trial experience and is reported to have a good temperament and even disposition.”

At the time of our 1992 evaluation Ms. Haberkorn had spent most of her career at the State’s Attorney’s office as a criminal prosecutor. In the last two years she has substantially broadened her experience, doing civil litigation in the State’s Attorney’s Torts Division. She continues to be well regarded for her legal ability, integrity, fairness, and temperament. The Council again finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 1992 Election: Qualified

Catherine Haberkorn, 35, has recently begun working on civil cases in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. She has been an Assistant State’s Attorney since she was admitted to the bar in 1981, working predominantly in criminal matters.

While relatively young, Ms. Haberkorn is reported to have performed exceptionally well as a trial attorney in felony cases. She has substantial trial experience and is reported to have a good temperament and even disposition. The Council believes she is qualified for the Circuit Court.

John Joseph “Jack” Haggerty

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

John Joseph Haggerty was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990. He is a Partner at Taft Stettinius and Hollister LLP, where he represents public and privately held companies, various local government units and individuals in civil litigation matters.

From 1990 to 1994, he served as an Associate at Phelan, Pope, and John Ltd., where he focused on commercial disputes.

Mr. Hagerty is a widely praised attorney with good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters and is reported to have excellent litigation skills. His temperament is unquestioned and many respondents commented on the respect that he shows to opposing counsel. He is active in community activities. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1991; elected to the Circuit Court in 1992; appointed to the Illinois Appellate court in 1999; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2000

Evaluation

November 2000 Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall, 51, is a 1974 graduate of Boston University School of Law. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1982. In February 1999, she was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court. She was a judge in the Law Division on a civil jury trial assignment from 1995 to 1999. Prior to that, she served for four years in the Domestic Relations Division. Before becoming a judge, she was General Counsel for the Illinois Department of Human Rights for eight years. She supervised a staff of twelve attorneys handling civil rights, administrative, labor, and legislative law issues. Prior to being admitted to practice law in Illinois, she gained extensive civil rights litigation experience in Texas. She has a broad range of legal experience and is considered to be a fair, competent, and hard-working Appellate Court judge. The Council finds her Qualified.

November 1998 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall, 50, sits in the Law Division. She has been a judge since being

appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill a vacancy in 1991. She is the former General Counsel to the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Judge Hall is considered to be bright and well prepared in her current assignment. Lawyers report that she has an excellent judicial temperament and controls her courtroom well. Her fairness and integrity are unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall, 44, was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill a vacancy in 1991. She sits in the Domestic Relations Division. She is the former General Counsel to the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Judge Hall is considered to be hard working, with good legal ability. She is fair and of high integrity. The Council finds her Qualified.

Sophia H. Hall

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 14
General Chancery Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1980

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Hall was elected to the bench in 1980. She is assigned to the Chancery Division, as well as remaining the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department. Judge Hall has taught and lectured at a large number of schools and conferences in the past six 11 years, including Loyal University Chicago School of Law, DePaul School of Law, and the Illinois Administrative Law Conference.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Hall was elected to the Circuit Court judge in 1980 and currently serves in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court and is the presiding judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice/Child Protection Division. Previously she was a felony trial judge in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court and a presiding Judge in the Juvenile Division. She was admitted to practice in 1967.

Judge Hall is especially praised for her work in the Juvenile Division. She has been effective in bringing new diversionary programs and is very active in juvenile court reform activities. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. As a Chancellor, she is praised for her courtroom management skills. Most respondents find her to be a satisfactory Chancellor. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sophia H. Hall sits in the Chancery Division. She is the former Administrative Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section, where she received very positive reviews. Judge Hall has good legal ability and temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention – Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Sophia H. Hall, 55, is the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section. In an unusual dual assignment, she also sits in the Law Division, hearing contested civil motions. She has previously served in the Chancery and Criminal Divisions, having been on the bench since 1980. Lawyers appearing before her in the Law Division say she is an excellent judge. She is smart and decisive. She runs a well-managed courtroom, and her integrity and fairness are unquestioned. As an Administrative Presiding Judge, she spends an extraordinary amount of time meeting with community groups, school officials, representatives of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and other relevant

groups seeking reforms in the way the Circuit Court of Cook County deals with juveniles. She can also fairly take partial credit for many of the much needed reforms made to the Juvenile Court since she began her stint as Presiding Judge of that Division in 1992. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Hall, 49, has been a judge since 1980. She served two years in the Municipal District, two years in the Criminal Division, and six years as a Chancery judge. In February 1992 she was appointed to be the head of the Juvenile Division.

In the Chancery Division, Judge Hall is reported to have been a very good judge. She has good analytical skills, presides well at trial, writes clear opinions in which she explains her reasoning clearly, is well organized, fair, and has a good temperament. She has been especially careful to avoid ex parte contacts or any conduct that could present an appearance of impropriety. Some lawyers complained that she was, on occasion, slow to rule and inflexible on procedural matters, and suggested that she at times allowed lawyers to argue beyond the point where any argument was productive. While many lawyers praised her ability in more complex matters, a few lawyers questioned it. On balance, most lawyers reported that she was regarded as one of the better judges in the Chancery Division.

During her brief time as the presiding judge of the Juvenile Court, Judge Hall has moved to bring much-needed improvement to a badly-run division. She is uniformly regarded by lawyers and judges as a welcome change. Judge Hall has assembled committees of practitioners and participants in the Juvenile Division system, including, for instance, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Legal Assistance Foundation, the Public Defender's office, the Public Guardian's office, and the State's Attorney's office, and has begun to work with them to create standard procedures for the Juvenile Court. She is interested in improving the quality of court training, and the professionalism of the judges and lawyers that practice there. Judge Hall has demonstrated that she is willing to give direction to the judges she supervises to expedite the administration of justice.

The Council applauds Judge Hall's efforts in the Juvenile Division and looks forward to the implementation of new and effective procedures. Much work remains to be done, however, including the implementation of these procedures, staggered court calls, and creation of an effective permanency planning system.

Judge Hall has performed very well in both the Chancery and Juvenile Divisions, and is well qualified for retention.

November 1986 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Hall has been a Circuit Court judge since 1980, serving in the criminal court building as a felony trial judge for the past three years. She is praised by attorneys for her diligence, judicial demeanor, intellect, legal acumen and courtesy to lawyers, witnesses and victims—especially child victims. Her judicial integrity is above reproach, perhaps a result of her long-observed rule that no one may enter her chambers to discuss a case ex parte. She was not familiar with criminal law when she came on the bench, and, therefore, at first she was thought somewhat indecisive. However, her practice of thinking cases through before ruling in an area where she lacked sufficient experience was far better than ruling quickly without sufficient thought. Many practitioners note that she has progressed steadily as a criminal court judge.

Carrie E. Hamilton

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Forcible Entry and Detainer Section

Elected to Circuit Court, 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Carrie Hamilton was admitted to practice in 1996. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. She was an Assistant United States Attorney who had prosecuted a number of high visibility cases in Chicago. She is praised for her legal ability and for

her courtroom skills. She is considered to have a good temperament. She has extensive litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James E. Hanlon, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

James E. Hanlon, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. He is chief of the Special Litigation Division of the Civil Actions Bureau for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where he is responsible for the Civil Rights, Labor and Employment, Medical, and Complex Litigation Units. He was also director of client services at Novus Law LLC (2010-2016), solo practitioner at the Law Offices of James E. Hanlon, Jr. (2008-2010), and equity partner at Howrey LLP (2002-2008). From 1984 until 2002, he worked for Katten Muchin Rosenman, where he rose the level of equity partner. He is a member in good standing of the Chicago Bar Association, where he was chair of the Securities Law Committee. His pro bono work includes his current representation of a guardian of an adult disabled person, his pro bono representation of individuals through his membership in the Federal Trial Bar, and his work as a volunteer lawyer for the Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic in the annual Expungement Summit (2015 and 2016).

Mr. Hanlon is considered to have very good legal ability and he is widely respected for his litigation skills. He is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable in civil law matters and he is reported to have an excellent temperament. He has a wide variety of experience as a practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

**July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation
Report: Qualified**

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

Maureen O. Hannon

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

**November 2016 Election, Circuit Court:
Qualified**

Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon was admitted to practice in 1991. She is an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney working in the Conflict Counsel Unit, where she is responsible for the defense of Cook County Offices, Elected and Appointed Officials, and Cook County employees in various areas of state and federal civil litigation.

Within the State's Attorney's Office, she has served in the Special Projects and Assignment Unit, the Municipal Litigation Unit, the Transactions Unit, and the Labor and Employment Unit. She came to the State's Attorney's Office in 1994 after a stint in private practice and then left the office between 1995 and 1998 to be an Associate with Burke, Burns, and Pinelli, Ltd. She returned to the office in 1999. Ms. Hannon is considered to have good legal ability. She has extensive experience in more complex litigation matters, and she is praised for her litigation skills and for her professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Anjana M.J. Hansen

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

**November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit
Court: Qualified**

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Anjana Hansen was a contract attorney with the City of Evanston, conducting administrative hearings in the areas of police, property standards, health, and fire. She had served as the Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Evanston, and was 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. Judge Hansen is assigned to the Second Municipal District in Skokie. She is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is respected for her courtroom management and for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

**November 2014 Election, Circuit Court:
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.

David E. Haracz

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division – Calendar 61

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

David Haracz was admitted to the bar in 1989 and has spent his entire career with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. He currently supervises a neighborhood intake office. He began as a staff attorney, and, later became a senior attorney (1994-1996), and head of the Foreclosure Prevention Project (1996-97). Mr. Haracz is a 1989 graduate of the University of California.

Mr. Haracz has a wide range of litigation experience in the civil law area. He is considered to have good legal ability and is a solid practitioner and supervisor. His integrity is unquestioned. He is praised for his temperament. The Council finds Mr. Haracz Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Edward S. Harmening

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Supervisor in 2006. Since August of 2014, he has presided over jury trials and conducted settlement conferences in the Law Division.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2008 Evaluation: 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.

Robert F. Harris

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District - Civil Jury Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2p18 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Robert F. Harris was admitted to practice in 1991. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, he served as the Cook County Public Guardian. Mr/ Harris is considered to have good legal ability and was reported to be a good administrator. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Sheldon A. Harris

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Sixth Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2000; appointed to the Appellate Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2014 Election, Illinois Appellate Court: 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.

March 2009 Evaluation, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Sheldon A. Harris is presently assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section, where he presides over

jury and non-jury trials. He was appointed to the bench in 2000, but lost in the primary election. He was reappointed to the bench in 2005 and served in the Municipal Department until January 2008. Judge Harris enjoyed an excellent reputation as a lawyer. However, the Council in its 2002 evaluation noted that as a judge, he was experiencing difficulties with his temperament and found him Not Qualified. However, since being on the bench since 2005, practitioners report that Judge Harris has demonstrated a good temperament with a patient and professional demeanor. He earns praise from those appearing before him as a hard-working judge with good legal ability. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

2002 Primary & General Elections. Circuit Court: Not Qualified

The Honorable Sheldon A. Harris has been serving as a Circuit Judge by appointment since April 1, 2000. He served in the Traffic Division from April 1, 2000 to May 1, 2001. Since May of 2001, he has been assigned to Supplemental and Miscellaneous Remedies for the Municipal and Divorce Divisions, where he disposes of motions to execute, vacate, and dismiss judgments. Before he was appointed to the bench, he spent thirty-four years as a civil litigator, principally as a sole practitioner. He was admitted to the bar in 1966. He reports having tried thirty jury cases and one hundred and fifty non-jury cases during that time; he also argued ten appeals. He receives generally favorable remarks for his work as a litigator. However, he receives consistently negative remarks regarding his temperament as a judge. His demeanor on the bench is described as arrogant and rude. Based on the large number of adverse comments regarding his demeanor as a judge, we find the candidate Not Qualified for the position of Circuit Judge.

Toya T. Harvey

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First District – Civil Jury Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Toya T. Harvey was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. She was appointed to the bench as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in March 2017. From 1996 to 2017, she worked for the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, where since 2013 she was a Grade IV Assistant Public Defender on the Suburban Homicide Task Force. She has provided pro bono services at various expungement summits, including the 2017 County-wide Expungement Summit sponsored by the Clerk of the Court.

As a lawyer, Judge Harvey was considered to be a zealous advocate for her clients and possessed a good temperament. She was a career assistant public defender and had substantial experience with complex criminal law matters. She is reported to have good legal ability. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Donald R. Havis

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Donald R. Havis has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since his admission to the Illinois Bar in 1983. Since 1999, he has been Chief of the General Litigation Division. From 1994 to 1999, he was a Supervisor handling workers’ compensation claims. Before that he served as an Assistant State’s Attorney handling worker’s compensation, criminal-traffic misdemeanors, preliminary hearings, felonies, grand juries, traffic, and paternity and child support matters. Mr. Havis is a 1982 graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. He has been President of the Chicago Chapter of the National Black Prosecutor Association and is currently the association’s local and national Treasurer.

Mr. Havis is considered to be a solid prosecutor with good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. The Council finds Mr. Havis Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Elizabeth Mary Hayes

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Elizabeth Mary Hayes was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender involved in misdemeanor matters. She was a Hearing Officer in the Child Protection Division and worked in the Child Protection Division as a court coordinator. She was a staff attorney with the Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission, Legal Advocacy Services. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since January of 2017 she has been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Bridgeview, Illinois. She currently handles misdemeanor cases but previously her court call there included traffic matters (2015-2017). She has also handled domestic violence, parenthood, and other civil matters in both the Fifth (2015) and Sixth Municipal Districts (2013-2015), as well as traffic matters in the Sixth Municipal District (2012- 2013).

Judge Hayes is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to be knowledgeable, well prepared, and does her own research, if necessary. She is praised for her courtroom management skills and for treating pro se litigants with respect. She has a good temperament, with lawyers noting her patience and her ability to move her call. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Elizabeth Mary Hayes was admitted to practice in 1986. In 2010 she became an Assistant Cook County Public Defender involved in misdemeanor matters. From 1994 to 2007 she was a Hearing Officer in the Child Protection Division. From 2007 to 2010 she worked in the Child Protection Division as a court coordinator. She was a staff attorney with the Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission, Legal Advocacy Services from 1987 to 1993. The Council is concerned that her legal career lacks sufficient experience with litigation matters in more complex cases. Much of her work has been administrative in nature. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patrick J. Heneghan

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Post Judgment and Miscellaneous Remedies

Appointed Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2016

Evaluation

March 2016 Evaluation, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Patrick Joseph Heneghan was admitted to practice in 1983. Mr. Heneghan is currently an equity partner at the firm formerly known as Schopf & Weiss, LLP and has been a part of the firm for nearly 30 years. He represents individuals, small companies, and multinational corporations in various commercial litigation matters. These cases involve a wide range of areas, including, but not limited to: antitrust, fraud, deceptive trade practices, intellectual property and bankruptcy. Mr. Heneghan participates in various community activities, such as volunteering at St. Martin de Porres House of Hope in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. Mr. Heneghan has also served as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Attorney Malpractice. He is especially active with the Boy Scouts of America as a mentor and in a leadership role, where he was a vocal proponent for an inclusive membership policy.

Mr. Heneghan is reported to have very good legal

ability. His career involves substantial experience in complex state and federal litigation matters. He is praised for his courtroom skills and his integrity. He is reported to have a good judicial temperament and is often described as honest, fair, and ethical. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Patrick Joseph Heneghan was admitted to practice in 1983. Mr. Heneghan is currently an equity partner at the firm formerly known as Schopf & Weiss, LLP and has been a part of the firm for nearly 30 years. He represents individuals, small companies, and multinational corporations in various commercial litigation matters. These cases involve a wide range of areas, including, but not limited to: antitrust, fraud, deceptive trade practices, intellectual property and bankruptcy. Mr. Heneghan participates in various community activities, such as volunteering at St. Martin de Porres House of Hope in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. Mr. Heneghan has also served as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Attorney Malpractice. He is especially active with the Boy Scouts of America as a mentor and in a leadership role, where he was a vocal proponent for an inclusive membership policy.

Mr. Heneghan is reported to have very good legal ability. His career involves substantial experience in complex state and federal litigation matters. He is praised for his courtroom skills and his integrity. He is reported to have a good judicial temperament and is often described as honest, fair, and ethical. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas J. Hennelly

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Thomas J. Hennelly was admitted to practice in 1980. Since 2003, he has been a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal law. From 1982 to 2003, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was most recently Deputy Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. From 1980 to 1982 he was a private general practitioner. Mr. Hennelly has taught trial advocacy at the DePaul University College of Law as an adjunct professor since 1995. Mr. Hennelly has extensive trial and appellate court experience in complex matters. He is considered to be very capable and skilled as an attorney. He has very good legal ability and temperament. The Council is troubled, however, that he determined that it was not necessary to disclose on his judicial evaluation application that he was involved earlier in his career in a case where a *Batson* violation was found by a reviewing court. Although he was not named in the written opinion and the ARDC has determined that his trial partner (John "Jack" Hynes) was not guilty of unethical conduct in failing to list the decision in his own judicial application, the much better course would have been to disclose the matter if there was any question. In light of that decision not to disclose, the Council finds Mr. Hennelly Qualified for the Circuit Court, although his abilities and experience would otherwise dictate a higher rating.

Sheree D. Henry

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 4

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sheree D. Henry was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. Since 1999, she has been an Assistant Public

Defender in Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she represents indigent clients in felony cases. She has also worked as an Assistant Public Guardian in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office (1995-1999), where she represented abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court.

Ms. Henry is considered to have good legal ability with substantial bench and jury litigation experience in a variety of criminal law matters. Respondents generally say that she is a good lawyer with good trial skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sheree D. Henry was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. Since 1999, she has been an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she represents indigent clients in felony cases. She has also worked as an Assistant Public Guardian in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office (1995-1999), where she represented abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court. Ms. Henry is considered to have good legal ability with substantial bench and jury litigation experience in a variety of criminal law matters. Respondents say generally that she is a good lawyer with good trial skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Arthur F. Hill, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Well Qualified

Arthur F. Hill, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1978. He has been at the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney since 1996, first as a Chief Deputy State's Attorney, and, currently as First Assistant State's Attorney. From 1996 to 1998, he was in private general practice as a partner with Haggerty Koenig

& Hill. From 1989 until 1996, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Transit Authority. During this period (1991 to 1996), he was also President (1994-1996) and Commissioner (1991-1994) of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. For the first ten years of his career, Mr. Hill was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Hill is a 1978 graduate of Northwestern University School of Law. He has taught Trial Advocacy at Northwestern since 1990, but is currently on sabbatical.

Mr. Hill is considered to have excellent legal ability and temperament. He has extensive litigation experience in both criminal and civil law matters. He is praised for his community service and well regarded as both a prosecutor and private practitioner. The Council finds Mr. Hill Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Stanley L. Hill

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Stanley Hill is widely reported to be a knowledgeable and tenacious lawyer, although the Council's current investigation turned up an issue that warrants special mention. In 1994, Mr. Hill was held in contempt by Judge James B. Zagel for professional misconduct, a ruling that was upheld by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In reported opinions, the district judge found, and the appellate court agreed, that Mr. Hill acted at trial with the specific intent to prejudice a fair and impartial proceeding by refusing to abide by the rulings of the court. Nevertheless, the balance of the Council's investigation leads it to conclude that the passage of time and sufficient seasoning likely have tempered the approach to litigation reflected in those judicial opinions.

Based on the totality of its investigation, therefore, the Council finds Mr. Hill Qualified for the Circuit

Court.

Earl B. Hoffenberg

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1983.

Evaluation

Thomas E. Hoffman

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division

Appointed Associate Judge in 1984; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1993; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1994

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Appellate Court: 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 11 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.

November 2004 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Thomas E. Hoffman was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 1993 to sit on the Illinois Appellate Court. He first took the bench as an Associate Judge in 1984 and was assigned to the Law Division in 1985, where he presided until becoming an Appellate Court Justice.

Justice Hoffman distinguished himself as a judge and administrator in the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was instrumental in implementing an experimental program in the Law Division in which selected judges are given individual calendars. As a Circuit Judge, he was considered to be among the hardest working judges and his legal ability was considered to be excellent.

As an Appellate Court Justice, he is considered to be fair, intelligent, and hard working. He is said to be always prepared. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

March 1994 Appellate Court and November 1994 Retention Election: Qualified

Thomas E. Hoffman, 46, was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 1993 to sit on the Illinois Appellate Court. He first took the bench as an Associate Judge in 1984 and was assigned to the Law Division in 1985 where he sat until becoming an Appellate Court Justice. He is running in this election both for retention as a Circuit Court Judge and for election to the Appellate Court.

Justice Hoffman distinguished himself as one of the finest judges and administrators in the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was instrumental in implementing the experimental program in the Law Division in which selected judges are given individual calendars. As a Circuit Judge, he was considered to be among the hardest working judges and his legal ability was considered to be excellent. His integrity was always considered to be above reproach.

As an Appellate Court Justice, he is considered to be fair, intelligent, and hard working. He is always prepared and has issued two dissents in the last year, an unusual but praiseworthy practice as an appellate justice. He has greatly reduced the case backlog in his division of the Appellate Court.

In the March 1994 primary, the Council rated Judge Hoffman highly qualified for election to the Appellate Court. After that rating, just before the primary election, Judge Hoffman paid for his name to appear with other candidates on an election flier urging voters to vote for real Democrats and to avoid voting for LaRouche party candidates. The clear implication of this flier was that the opponents

of the candidates listed on it were LaRouche party candidates. The flier would be understood by most voters to mean that Judge Hoffman's opponents were LaRouche party members and would be understood by many voters to impugn those candidates. Unfortunately, Judge Hoffman and the other judicial candidates listed on this flier had no LaRouche party opponents. The flier was deceptive and likely to mislead voters.

Judge Hoffman has indicated to us that it was a mistake that he now regrets to participate in paying for the distribution of this flier, that he did it in the heat of an election campaign, and that it was a means, otherwise not possible, to get his name before the voters.

The Council finds this incident to be significant in two ways. First, it is an example of how selecting judges by election is likely to lead to campaign behavior that can damage the reputation for integrity of candidates and courts. Second, we conclude, regretfully, that under pressure in an election campaign Judge Hoffman participated in an election device likely to mislead voters. We cannot continue to rate him highly qualified given these circumstances. We find him qualified for election to the Appellate Court.

1988 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Associate Judge Hoffman has distinguished himself as one of the finest judges and administrators in the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has, through his administrative abilities, greatly reduced the case backlog in the Law Division where he sits. His knowledge of the law is excellent. He is among the hardest working judges, and his integrity is beyond reproach. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

Michael James Hogan, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Municipal Department
District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in
2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation

Report: Qualified

Michael J. Hogan, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1999. He is a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Hogan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Michael J. Hogan, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1999. He is a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Hogan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael J. Hood

Current judicial duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Appointed as Associate Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

William H. Hooks

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Hooks received his law degree from ITT Chicago-Kent in 1981 and was admitted to the Illinois bar in that year. He was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2008. As a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserves, he prosecuted and defended criminal cases. He left active duty in 1985 (though remained in the

Reserves for an additional 10 years) and until 1991 practiced civil litigation (mainly insurance defense) with Pretzel & Stouffer, Hinshaw & Culbertson, and Garland W. Watt and Associates. Between 1995 and 2008, he has practiced on his own and in partnership with others, concentrating on criminal defense and a wide range of civil litigation. As a lawyer, he has extensive jury and bench trial experience in both federal and state courts, and served as a hearing officer and hearing board chair for the ARDC. As a trial judge, he is considered to have good legal ability, and to be hardworking and well-prepared. He is praised for preparing numerous written orders and opinions for the cases before him.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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.

2008 Evaluation to fill vacancy: Well Qualified

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.

Celia A. Horan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 61
First Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Cecilia A. Horan was admitted to the Illinois bar in November, 1997. She is currently a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson, where she has spent most of her career. Her practice concentrates on tort litigation, including personal injury, premises liability, product liability and insurance claims coverage. Ms. Horan is considered to have good legal ability and has experience with more complex litigation matters. She is praised for her temperament both in court and in dealing with opposing counsel. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Carol M. Howard

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2006

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Carol Marie Howard was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1986. Prior to becoming a judge, Carol Howard worked as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Howard was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since 2009, she has been assigned to the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County at 2600 S. California Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. Previously, she was assigned to the First Municipal District (2006-2009).

Judge Howard is reported by most attorneys to be knowledgeable with good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament, as well as her courtroom management. She is especially praised for her patience on the bench. Fair, even-tempered, patient and pleasant were common descriptors. Her handling of cases is called reasonable and attorneys noted her practical, real world approach to the lower level offenses before her. Some prosecuting attorneys complain that she favors the defense. But most attorneys praise her fairness and diligence. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the

Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Carol Howard worked as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Howard was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District and subsequently was transferred to the Criminal Division.

Respondents were uniformly complementary of Judge Carol Howard's demeanor and professionalism. Fair, even-tempered, patient and pleasant were common descriptors. Her reputation among respondents is excellent. Her handling of cases is called reasonable and several attorneys noted her practical, real world approach to the lower level offenses before her. Several respondents praised her grasp of procedure and noted her preparedness for court.

Judge Howard is considered to be a solid judge with good legal ability. Both prosecutors and defense counsel call her fair, with a low-key temperament. She is praised for reading all the pleadings and for being prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Carol M. Howard was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986 and the Wisconsin Bar in 1981. Since 1987, she has been an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Before that, she spent nine months as Law Clerk to Judge Sophia Hall of the Circuit Court of Cook County. She was session attorney for the 1986 Legislative Session of the Washington State Senate Judiciary Committee. From 1983 to 1984, she was at the Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons in Seattle, WA. For two years after graduating from law school, she taught Business Law to undergraduates at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. Ms. Howard is considered to have good legal ability with a professional demeanor. She is respected as a capable lawyer who zealously represents her clients. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Nathaniel R. Howse Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Third Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1998; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009

Evaluation

November 2012 Election, Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Nathaniel Howse, Jr. was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998. Prior to assuming the bench, he practiced about 22 years in small law firms and as a sole practitioner. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. As a trial judge, he was praised for his courtroom management skills and for being knowledgeable about the variety of subjects involved in his court call, including election law, mental health adjudications, and tax deeds. He is considered to be a very good jurist and is praised for the quality of his written opinions. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Justice Nathaniel Howse was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and presently sits in the First District, Fifth Division. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and presided in the County Division, hearing tax deed, adoption, mental health, election, and annexation cases. Justice Howse was admitted to practice in 1976.

As a judge, he was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He was praised for his courtroom management skills and for being knowledgeable about the variety of subjects involved in his court call, including election law, mental health adjudication, and tax deeds. He was considered to have been a good trial judge. In his current assignment on the Appellate Court, he is performing adequately. The

Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse currently sits in the County Division, hearing tax deed, adoption, mental health, election, and annexation cases. Lawyers report that Judge Howse is doing a good job as a jurist. He has adequate legal ability and good temperament. He manages his call well. The Council finds him Qualified for retention in his current position.

1998 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse, Jr. did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of his candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge his qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds him Not Recommended.

Arnette R. Hubbard

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1997; elected to the Circuit Court in 1998.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Arnette Hubbard was appointed to the bench in 1997 and elected in 1998. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was in the First Municipal District. Judge Hubbard was admitted to practice in 1969. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

Judge Hubbard is praised for her fairness and temperament. She is an esteemed member of the bar who is active in community activities. There are some lawyers who question her ability to handle complex matters in her current call, but most respondents say she has good legal ability. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Arnette R. Hubbard was appointed to the bench in 1997 following a distinguished career in private practice. 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 solo 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.

The Council has no information about Judge Hubbard's performance in her initial judicial assignments following her appointment to the Circuit Court in 1997. Since moving to the Law Division in 2001, she has been assigned to several different positions, including a two-year stint in a contested motions call. Judge Hubbard currently is assigned to the Administrative Section, where she occasionally assists with the calls in Room 2005.

Judge Hubbard is an esteemed member of the bar who always is proper in her demeanor on the bench. However, during her assignment as a motions judge, a substantial number of attorneys have 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. Based on its review of Judge Hubbard's judicial record,

including her judicial retention materials, the Council shares those concerns. In light of its reservations about Judge Hubbard's ability to handle a challenging call, the Council is constrained to find her not qualified for retention.

1998 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Arnette R. Hubbard did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of her candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge her qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds her Not Recommended.

John L. Huff

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 14N

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2008

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation: Qualified

John Huff has practiced law since 1973. After clerking one year for a federal district court judge, he spent 15 years handling a variety of civil litigation (including antitrust, securities fraud, commercial and domestic litigation) for Winston & Strawn. In 1989, he and another partner formed their own firm, which handles a wide range of civil litigation, including business litigation, construction cases, employment cases, but focuses on qui tam cases on behalf of the state against retailers for unpaid use taxes. He is a 1972 graduate of Georgetown University. Mr. Huff has had substantial litigation and trial experience over the course of his years in practice. Other attorneys have generally positive things to say about his abilities and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the position of associate judge.

Lindsay Christopher Hugel

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Lindsay Christopher Hugel was admitted to practice in 1989. He is a career public defender with the Cook County Public Defender's Office. He currently serves in the Appeals, Post-Convictions, and Legal Resources section, but has served as a trial attorney, defending complex criminal actions.

Mr. Hugel is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the law. He is reported to be both a good trial and appellate attorney. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bridget Jane Hughes

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Qualified

Bridget Hughes was admitted to practice in 1993. Since 2001, she has had a practice in real estate and tax litigation as an associate with Thomas M. Tully & Associates doing real estate tax litigation. From the time of her admission to practice until 2001, she was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Ms. Hughes is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She enjoys a reputation of being a solid practitioner with substantial jury and bench experience in complex legal matters. She teaches trial advocacy. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Colleen Ann Hyland

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001

Evaluation

2001 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Recommended

In March 2001, The Council found Judge Hyland Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

Michael B. Hyman

Present Judicial Duties

Illinois Appellate Judge, First District, Second Division

Appointed to the Circuit Court in 2006; assigned to Illinois Appellate Court in 2013

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Hon. Michael Hyman was admitted to practice in 1977, Prior to taking the bench, he spent two years with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and then began a career with the law firm of Much Shelist. Since 2013, he has been on the Appellate Court by appointment, including his appointment to the seat vacated when Justice Neville was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2018. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2008, elected in 2008, and retained in 2014.

Justice Hyman is considered to have excellent legal ability and is reported to be always prepared. He is reported to be an active and thoughtful during oral arguments. In addition to opinions, he has published extensively. Respondents spoke highly of his professionalism and temperament. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Appellate Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Appellate Court: 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.

2006 Evaluation to Fill a Circuit Court Vacancy: Well Qualified

Michael B. Hyman was admitted to practice in 1977. Since 1979, he has practiced at Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, where he has been a partner since 1985. From 1977 to 1979 he was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General in the Anti-Trust Division. Mr. Hyman is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial trial experience and he is of the highest integrity and his work with the organized bar has been outstanding. The Council finds him Well Qualified to fill a vacancy.

Cheryl D. Ingram

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

District and became the Presiding Judge in 2010.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Cheryl Ingram was elected to the bench in 1992. She is currently assigned jointly to the Law Division and Fourth Municipal District. Previously, she was in the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Ingram was admitted to practice in 1979. Prior to election, she was an assistant Cook County Public Defender.

Judge Ingram is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is respected as a solid jurist who manages her courtroom well, issues well-reasoned and timely rulings, and shows respect toward all the parties in her courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Cheryl D. Ingram was elected to the bench in 1992 after a career as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She sits in the Fourth Municipal District. She had been sitting in the Domestic Relations Division. Respondents report that she has adequate legal ability and temperament. Her fairness and integrity are unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Cheryl D. Ingram, 44, was elected to the bench in 1992 after a career as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She sits in the Domestic Relations Division. Respondents report that she has developed into a very good jurist. She has good legal ability and is well prepared. She is diligent and punctual. Her fairness and integrity are unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for

retention.

1992 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court (Sullivan Vacancy): Qualified

Cheryl Ingram, 38, has been an Assistant Public Defender since her admission to the bar in 1979. For eight years, she worked in the Juvenile Division. She is now working in a felony courtroom.

Lawyers report that Ms. Ingram is thorough in her preparation. She is reported to have high integrity. Lawyers report that she has been above average in her work. Ms. Ingram is reported to be a very good teacher. Lawyers did report some question as to whether her demeanor is sufficiently forceful to be a judge. On balance, the Council believes that Ms. Ingram is qualified.

Doretha Renee Jackson

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 13

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Moshe Jacobius

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 12
General Chancery Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1991; elected to the Circuit Court in 1994

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Moshe Jacobius was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975. Prior to becoming a judge, Moshe Jacobius was with the Illinois Attorney General's Office for his entire career. Judge Jacobius was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1991. Since 2010, he has been Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. There, he is responsible for administering the General Chancery and Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section; in addition, he hears motions and trials on Chancery cases. He has held previous assignments in 15 the Chancery Division (2000) in the Domestic Relations Division (Presiding Judge, 2000-2010; Calendar 51, 1991-2000).

Judge Jacobius is considered exceptionally knowledgeable with very good legal ability. His rulings are reported to be clear and timely. His temperament is described as understanding, compassionate, dignified, and professional. He is reported to move his call efficiently. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Moshe Jacobius was with the Illinois Attorney General's Office for his entire career. Judge Jacobius was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1991. He was first assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and then to the Chancery Division. In 2000, he was made Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division, and presently serves as Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division.

Respondents report that Judge Jacobius knows the law and works hard. He is considered diligent by the vast majority of respondents. His courtroom is described as efficient and fair. Judge Jacobius is characterized as generally prepared for court with a good memory for his cases. He is called dignified and professional.

As presiding judge, Judge Jacobius handles the administration of the Chancery Division and hears motions and cases assigned to him. Respondents were complimentary and frequently remarked upon his honesty, integrity and knowledge of rules.

Judge Jacobius is highly regarded by attorneys and judges in both Domestic Relations and Chancery

divisions. He is praised as a supervisor and as a mentor. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Moshe Jacobius, 53, has been a judge since 1991. He is the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Division. He has served as a judge in both the Domestic Relations Division and in the Chancery Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Judge Jacobius has excellent legal ability and his integrity is unquestioned. Lawyers report that his judicial temperament is very good, and that in general he has been an excellent judge. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

November 1994 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Moshe Jacobius, 47, was appointed to be a judge in January 1991 and since then has served in the Domestic Relations Division. He is described by lawyers as hard working, with good legal ability, and demeanor. He is known to work into the evenings and try cases on weekends. He issues written opinions. The Council finds him Qualified.

March 1992 Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Moshe Jacobius, 45, was appointed to fill a Circuit Court vacancy about one year ago, and has been sitting in the Domestic Relations Division. He was admitted to practice in 1975, and worked in the Illinois Attorney General's Office until his appointment to the bench. He worked his way through the ranks, finishing his service there as Counselor to former Attorney General Hartigan. His work as an attorney was generally praised.

Judge Jacobius is described as having excellent temperament, integrity, fairness, and common sense. He has issued written opinions in cases. The Council believes that Judge Jacobius is well qualified for election to the Circuit Court.

Raymond L. Jagielski

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Raymond Jagielski was elected to the bench in 1992 and is currently assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. Previously, he was in the County

Division, traffic court, and the First Municipal District. Judge Jagielski was admitted to practice in 1981. Prior to election, he was a Public Defender and served as a member of the Chicago Board of Elections.

Judge Jagielski is considered to be a knowledgeable jurist who is punctual and hard working. While most lawyers say that he has a good temperament, there are some lawyers who say that he can be report that he be short-tempered. On balance the Council finds him Qualified for retention in his current assignment

November 2004 Retention B Circuit Court: Qualified

Raymond L. Jagielski sits in the County Division hearing adoption, mental health, tax, and election law cases. He was elected to the bench in 1992 after a career which included being a member of the Chicago Board of Elections and an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Lawyers report that Judge Jagielski possesses good legal ability and that he treats all parties with equal respect. A substantial number of lawyers, however, noted that Judge Jagielski can be short-tempered. He is considered to be hard working and punctual. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Raymond L. Jagielski, 45, sits in the County Division hearing adoption, mental health, tax, and election law cases. He was elected to the bench in 1992 after a career which included being a member of the Chicago Board of Elections and an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Lawyers report that Judge Jagielski possesses good legal ability and that he treats all parties with equal respect. A substantial number of lawyers, however, noted that Judge Jagielski can be short-tempered, although some reported that when he loses his temper it is due to a lawyer's being unprepared or otherwise acting inappropriately. He is considered to be hard working and punctual. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Fourteenth Subcircuit: Not Recommended

Raymond Jagielski was admitted to the bar in 1981.

He has served as a Republican member of the Chicago Board of Elections. Mr. Jagielski has not participated in the Council's evaluation process. The Council has received insufficient information to judge his qualifications for the Circuit Court. Mr. Jagielski, therefore, is not recommended.

Lionel Jean-Baptiste

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 42

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. Prior to becoming a judge, he had served as the Alderman for the 2nd Ward of Evanston, Illinois. He was appointed to the bench in 2011. At the time of his appointment to the bench, he was a sole practitioner doing administrative law (such as representing clients before the Illinois Department of Human Rights) and litigation. From 1997 to 2001 he practiced law with state Senator Kwame Raoul. He was a sole practitioner between 1993 and 1997 and from 1991 to 1993 he practiced in the firm of Gainer & Dillard. He was elected to the bench in 2012.

Since 2012, he has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Currently, he hears parenting and divorce issues; previously (2012-2016), his call included child support, custody, and visitation matters. From 2011 to 2012, he was assigned to the Municipal Department (Traffic Division) at the Daley Center. In addition to his courtroom, he also serves as an appointed member of the Committee on Child Support of the Illinois Supreme Court. In 2012, the Chicago Council of Lawyers rated him as qualified.

Judge Jean-Baptiste is described as a caring jurist with good legal ability. He is reported to have good temperament and is especially praised for his

dealings with those unrepresented by legal counsel. Lawyers say that he has good courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011. He was admitted to practice in 1991. He is involved in numerous community service pro bono activities, including immigration law work for Haitians to pursue political asylum, Temporary Protective Status, and other relief under immigration law. Before becoming a judge, he had served as the Alderman for the 2nd Ward of Evanston, Illinois since 2001. At the time of his appointment to the bench, he was a sole practitioner doing administrative law (such as representing clients before the Illinois Department of Human Rights) and litigation. From 1997 to 2001 he practiced law with state Senator Kwame Raoul. He was a sole practitioner between 1993 and 1997 and from 1991 to 1993 he practiced in the firm of Gainer & Dillard.

Mr. Jean-Baptiste is reported to be a hard-working lawyer dedicated to social justice. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has sufficient litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Lionel Jean-Baptiste was admitted to practice in 1991. He is involved in numerous community service pro bono activities, including immigration law work for Haitians to pursue political asylum, Temporary Protective Status, and other relief under immigration law. He has served as the Alderman for the 2nd Ward of Evanston, Illinois since 2001. He is currently a sole practitioner doing administrative law (such as representing clients before the Illinois Department of Human Rights) and litigation. From 1997 to 2001 he practiced law with state Senator Kwame Raoul. He was a sole practitioner between 1993 and 1997 and from 1991 to 1993 he practiced in the firm of Gainer & Dillard.

Mr. Jean-Baptiste is reported to be a hard-working

lawyer dedicated to social justice. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. However, the Council is concerned that his practice is narrow and that he has not demonstrated that as a lawyer he has experienced a substantial depth of involvement in all aspects of more complex legal matters. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Lana Charisse Johnson

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

2012 Evaluation for Circuit Court: Qualified

Lana C Johnson was admitted in 1988. She is an Assistant Public Defender in the Homicide Task Force. She has been in the office her entire career. As lead counsel she reports taking 65 criminal trials to a jury verdict and 100 criminal trials to a bench verdict. Ms. Johnson is reported to have good legal ability and is a widely respected criminal defense lawyer handling homicide cases. She has good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Moira S. Johnson

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar F Motions

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2001; elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

The Honorable Moira Susan Johnson serves as a

Circuit Judge by Supreme Court appointment. She was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1983. She served as an administrative law judge for nearly ten years for the Illinois Department of Employment Security and (since 1990) as an arbitrator for the Circuit Court's Mandatory Arbitration Project. She has also practiced personal injury law for over a decade as a solo practitioner. She has considerable trial, adjudicatory and administrative experience and was praised for her temperament and legal ability by those contacted during the investigation. The Council finds Ms. Johnson Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

In March 2001, the Council found Judge Johnson Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

1998 Primary Election. Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Moira Susan Johnson did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of her candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge her qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds her Not Recommended.

2001 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Recommended

Robert W. Johnson

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 45

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Robert Wade Johnson was admitted to practice in 1994. Mr. Johnson is a solo practitioner, representing clients charged with criminal offenses and plaintiffs bringing claims for civil rights violations. His criminal practice mostly involves clients with felony cases pending at the 26th and California courthouse. His civil practice is

concentrated in federal court in the Northern District of Illinois. From 2008 to 2014, Mr. Johnson was a Partner at Smith, Johnson & Antholt, LLC. He performed similar work, representing criminal and civil clients in state and federal court.

Mr. Johnson is considered to have good legal ability and he is praised for his litigation skills. He has substantial litigation experience in both state and federal courts. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Sharon O. Johnson

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, First Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2010; elected as an Illinois Appellate Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Hon. Sharon O. Johnson was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. Since 2010, she has served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where her assignments have included the Sixth Municipal District (2015-present), the Domestic Relations Division, Daley Center (2015), Domestic Relations – Parentage and Child Support (2011-2015), and the Traffic Division (2010- 2011). Prior to becoming a judge, she was Sole Practitioner at the Law Office of S.D. Oden, P.C. (1999-2010), where she handled real estate, contract, corporate, and family law matters. She was also an Adjunct Professor at Olive Harvey College (2002-2006), where she taught business law.

Judge Johnson is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for being thoughtful and hard-working. Overall, she is reported to be an excellent jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Election: 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.

Daryl J. Jones

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Daryl J. Jones was admitted to practice in 2005. Mr. Jones is a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, having been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Illinois Senate. From 2005 to 2013 he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He is considered to have good legal ability with a variety of experiences. The Council is concerned about the short length of time

he has been a lawyer but he had substantial litigation experience as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and is praised for the work he has done more recently. He is praised for his temperament. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Linzey D. Jones

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Election: 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.

Preston Jones, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed to Circuit Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Preston Jones, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. He was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in September 2017. Prior to taking the bench, he was an Assistant Public Defender at Cook County Public Defender's Office, where from 2004 to 2017 he was a member of the Homicide Task Force. Before that, he served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Felony Trial Division (1998-2004) and in Juvenile Justice/Child Protection. 29 Judge Jones is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the criminal law and for his trial skills. He is reported to have a professional demeanor and was a zealous advocate. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Timothy Joseph Joyce

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Timothy J. Joyce was admitted to practice in 1981. From 1993 to the present, he has been in private practice, concentrating primarily in criminal defense work. For ten years before that, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 1981 to 1983, he was associated with the firm of Daley & George.

Mr. Joyce is considered to be a superb trial lawyer with excellent legal ability. He is always well prepared and he has a very good temperament. He has substantial trial experience as both a prosecutor and a defense lawyer. He also has experience in civil law matters. Judges contacted as part of the evaluation praise Mr. Joyce as a zealous advocate who is also ethical and who does not “cut corners.” The Council finds Mr. Joyce Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Michael Joseph Kane

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal and Fifth Municipal Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

2012 Evaluation, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Michael Kane was admitted to practice in 1974. He served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney from 1974 to 1980. He has been in private practice doing civil litigation since 1980. He reports acting as lead counsel in 35 civil and 45 criminal jury trials and 10 civil and 175 criminal bench trials. Mr. Kane is considered to have very good legal ability with experience in complex civil and criminal law matters. He is praised as being knowledgeable, as being always well-prepared, and as being a person of strong character and integrity. He does a substantial amount of pro bono work. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court

James L. Kaplan

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 98

Appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation

Report: 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.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

James N. Karahalios

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

James Karahalios has practiced law since 1970. He spent his first seven years as an attorney as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, after which he left the Office in 1977 to enter private practice as a solo practitioner (1979-85, and 1994-present) and as an associate with various private firms (1977-79, 1985-89, 1989-94). His current practice consists primarily of personal injury cases. Mr. Karahalios

has spoken at CLE seminars, has taught trial advocacy at Loyola University College of Law (1980), and has lectured on Criminal Law at the Cook County Sheriff's Police Training Academy (1975-76). Mr. Karahalios is considered to have very good legal ability, an excellent temperament, and is reported to be a hard-working, solid practitioner with outstanding legal skills. He has a broad and substantial range of litigation experience in state and federal courts, at the trial and appellate levels, in civil and criminal law matters. Mr. Karahalios also has demonstrated a strong commitment to undertaking pro bono work. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Paul A. Karkula

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 7

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999; elected to the Circuit Court in 2000

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Paul Karkula, prior to becoming a judge, worked as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and as Corporation Counsel to the Town of Cicero. He was in private practice immediately before joining the bench. Judge Karkula was elected in 2000. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District Traffic Center and subsequently transferred to the Chancery Division for the foreclosure call. Judge Karkula is presently assigned to the County Division.

Judge Karkula is considered to have good legal ability, and is described as even-tempered and patient. He is praised for his courtroom management, and lawyers generally praise his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Paul Karkula worked as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and as Corporation Counsel to the Town of Cicero. He was

in private practice immediately before joining the bench. Judge Karkula was elected in 2000. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District Traffic Center and subsequently transferred to the Chancery Division for the foreclosure call.

Judge Karkula is presently assigned to the County Division. Judge Karkula is considered fair and extremely diligent. Attorneys report that he remains eventempered, even when there are contentious parties before him and also when his call is heavy. Respondents described the judge as very well organized, well prepa

red for court, and reliable. He Page 18 of 45 is called fair to all parties. He handles a sometimes emotional call with what is characterized as both good legal skill and temperament. Much of his call is routine uncontested matters—such as name changes—but he is described as “quiet, efficient, and considerate in these proceedings.” Attorneys with experience before him in Chancery or on more complicated matters in County feel he has a good legal ability and an extensive knowledge of the property tax code. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

2000 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Paul August Karkula did not participate in the Council's evaluation process, submitting no information in support of his candidacy. The Council received insufficient information to judge his qualifications for the Circuit Court. The Council finds him Not Recommended.

Martin C. Kelley

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Martin C. Kelley was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Currently, he is assigned to hear Non-Jury Civil Matters at the Third Municipal Court of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. His previous calls at the Third Municipal Court were Parentage (2013- 2015), Veterans/Mental Health Court (2014-2015), and Traffic/Misdemeanors (2013-2015). He was also assigned to Traffic/Misdemeanors in the First Municipal Court (2012-2013).

Judge Kelley is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his temperament and for his handling of pro se matters. He is described as giving everyone in front of him a a full and complete hearing. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Martin C. Kelley has been in private practice since his admission to the bar in 1992. He has spent his entire career with his family firm and is currently a partner. Mr. Kelley has adequate legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that his practice lacks depth. He has little actual trial experience as the primary practitioner. In general, he lacks experience in complex litigation matters. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas J. Kelley

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar G District 3

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

In 2004, Thomas J. Kelley was elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was initially assigned to the 1st Municipal District. In July 2005, Judge Kelley was transferred to the Domestic Relations Division, where he currently presides, hearing divorce trials and contested hearings related to custody, visitation, property distribution, child support, and related issues. Prior to election, Judge Kelley worked as a partner at Kelley, Kelley & Kelley. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. Judge Kelley earned his J.D. from DePaul University and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984.

Judge Thomas Kelley is considered to have good legal ability. He has good courtroom management skills and is particularly praised for his temperament. His decisions are well reasoned and timely. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2004 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas J. Kelley has practiced law since 1984. He has been in private practice for his entire career and has been a partner practicing family law since 1987. Mr. Kelley has good legal ability and is especially praised for his good temperament. He has substantial legal experience and has been involved in pro bono representation of children in divorce and custody matters. The Council finds him

Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kerry M. Kennedy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Kerry Kennedy worked as Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1979 to 2002. Currently Judge Kennedy is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District hearing felony trials. Judge Kennedy is considered to be a knowledgeable jurist with a good temperament. He is praised for his fairness and for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kerry M. Kennedy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1979. Mr. Kennedy has been an Assistant Public Defender for his entire career. He has significant trial experience. He received general commendations from those contacted about his legal ability, temperament and experience. The Council finds him Qualified.

Diana L. Kenworthy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 she 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 Criminal Division.

Judge Kenworthy is considered to be a knowledgeable judge with a good temperament. She is praised for the quality of her opinions. She is reported to be fair to all parties. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Not Qualified

Diana Kenworthy has been a lawyer since 1995. She is currently in private practice doing criminal defense work. She is also a hearing officer with the Water Reclamation District. From 1996 to 2000 she served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender. Ms. Kenworthy is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised as a solid practitioner. The Council, however, is concerned that she has been a lawyer for only 12 years, her practice is narrow, and she does not have substantial experience in complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

Edward John King

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 68
Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section
Kevin T. Lee

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Carol A. Kipperman

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 4

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1988.

Evaluation

John P. Kirby

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1998.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

Judge Kirby is considered to be knowledgeable in a variety of areas of law with considerable judicial experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He is reported to have very good temperament and enjoys a reputation of being fair to all sides. He is praised for being well-prepared. In the criminal division, he received praise for his dedication to using alternative sentencing in cases where the defendants are nonviolent. He was personally involved in developing a cyber high school as an alternative sentence for youthful offenders. Upon the awarding of a high school diploma, Judge Kirby entered a motion to vacate the judgment. He implemented a special program for defendants who are veterans, and he has personally sought to find alternative 14 treatment programs to become part of his sentencing. He earns high respect as a jurist in both civil and criminal divisions. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

John Patrick Kirby was elected to the bench in 1998 and presently sits in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. He was admitted to practice in 1979. Before his election to the bench, Judge Kirby served as a solo practitioner and an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Judge Kirby is considered to have excellent legal ability and temperament. But he receives extraordinary praise for his dedication to using alternative sentencing in cases where the defendants are non-violent. He is respectful to all persons in his courtroom, and has personally been involved in developing a cyber high school as an alternative sentence for youthful offenders. Upon the awarding of a high school diploma, Judge Kirby enters a motion to vacate the judgment. He has implemented a special program for defendants who are veterans, and he has personally sought to find alternative treatment programs to become part of his sentencing. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

John Patrick Kirby was elected to the bench in 1998. Before becoming a judge, he had served as a solo practitioner and an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Kirby has very good legal ability and is considered to have good temperament. He is fair and of high integrity. The Council finds him Qualified.

1998 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Qualified

John Patrick Kirby was admitted to practice in 1983. He was a solo practitioner for four years and since 1988 has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Kirby has very good legal ability and is considered to have good temperament. He is fair and of high integrity. The Council finds him Qualified.

Demetrios G. Kottaras

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 1A

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2007

Evaluation

2007 Evaluation: Qualified

Demetrios G. Kottaras has been at the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney since he was admitted

to the bar in 1984. He is currently Deputy Supervisor of the Public Interest Bureau. From 1996 to late 2001, he was supervisor of the Financial Crimes Division. Prior to that, he had assignments in the Felony Trial, Juvenile, Narcotics, Felony Review, and Preliminary Hearings Divisions. He also served as a legislative liaison for the office. He began his career by spending six months at Hinshaw & Culbertson. Mr. Kottaras is a 1984 graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he has taught Trial Advocacy as an adjunct professor since 1992. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Bar Association since 2000.

Mr. Kottaras is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is particularly well regarded as a lawyer dealing with financial crimes. He has a good temperament, and his integrity is unquestioned. He is a solid practitioner known for his good judgment. The Council finds Mr. Kottaras Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Steven A. Kozicki

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

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

Joan M. Kubalanza

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations

Division, Calendar 75

Appointed as Judge to Circuit Court in 2008

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Joan M. Kubalanza was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. Since 2016, she has been a partner at the Chicago office of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, where she focuses on insurance coverage matters and family law mediation practice. Previously, she was a recalled Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, in the Juvenile Court, Child Protection Division (2008-2012), and later the Domestic Relations Division (2014-2016); an attorney with the Illinois Department of Insurance (2013); a partner or associate focusing on commercial litigation and appeals for firms including Lowis & Gellen (2002-2008); Foley & Lardner (1990-1998; 1999-2002), and Wilson & McIlvaine (1987-1990); an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Juvenile Division, Child Protection (1998-1999); and a law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice William G. Clark (1984-1986).

Judge Kubalanza is considered to have excellent legal ability with extensive legal knowledge. She is praised for her ability to help parties settle cases and for her assistance to unrepresented parties. She is reported to have good temperament and to have been always well prepared when she was on the bench. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Judge Kubalanza was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to be a trial judge in 2008. She is assigned to the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Her assignment began on the date of her recall December 1, 2008. When she was on the bench previously as an Associate Judge, 1998 to 1999, she was also assigned to the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Division. She was admitted to practice in 1984. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice. Ms. Kubalanza

is considered to have good legal ability and had solid litigation experience in more complex matters before taking the bench. She is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Evaluation for Associate Judgeship, Circuit Court: 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.

Daniel J. Kubasiak

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar T Commercial Calendar Section

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Daniel J. Kubasiak 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 was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2012 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. He is currently assigned to the Law Division.

Judge Kubasiak is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He is reported have a good temperament. The Council received a few comments questioning his equitable treatment

of lawyers appearing before him. But in these situations, others who had witnessed the interactions disagreed that Judge Kubasiak had acted inequitably. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election: 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.

Geary W. Kull

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Appointed to fill a judicial vacancy by the Illinois Supreme Court in

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Well Qualified

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

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

Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election – 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.

Maria Kuriakos Ciesil

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007

Evaluation

2006 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Maria Kuriakos Ciesil was admitted to the bar in 1990. With the exception of three months at a firm she has spent her entire career as an Assistant Attorney General. She has been Assistant Bureau Chief of Felony Prosecutions since 2005. Ms. Ciesil is reported to have very good legal ability and an excellent temperament. She enjoys a reputation of being an outstanding lawyer who is fair to all parties. She has substantial litigation experience in complex jury and bench matters. She teaches trial advocacy, is involved in a number of community service activities, and is considered to be exceptionally hard-working. The Council finds her Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Robert D. Kuzas

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District –
Misdemeanor/Ordinance

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Robert Kuzas was a solo practitioner where he focuses on criminal defense, personal injury, and labor relations cases. He had been in private practice throughout his career. Judge Kuzas is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He is reported to have a good temperament and is reported to be fair to all parties and is praised for his courtroom management. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 52
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Anthony C Kyriakopoulos had served as an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Money Laundering Unit of the Narcotics Bureau. He was appointed to the court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010, appointed to another vacancy in 2012, and was elected to the bench in 2014. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section.

Judge Kyriakopoulos is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about mechanics lien law, with a good judicial temperament. He is a respected jurist. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Anthony C Kyriakopoulos was admitted in 1990. Since 1998 he has been an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Money Laundering Unit of the Narcotics Bureau. He has been in the office since his admission. As lead counsel he reports taking 10 criminal trials to a jury verdict and 125 trials to a bench verdict. Mr. Kriakopoulos is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters and is praised for being a honest and zealous prosecutor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bertina E. Lampkin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1987; elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Appellate Court: Well Qualified

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

the Chicago Department of Law. Justice Lampkin was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009.

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Justice Bertina E. Lampkin was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and presently sits in the First District, First Division. Prior to her appointment to the Appellate Court, she was a supervising Judge in the Circuit Court, Criminal Division. She was admitted to practice in 1974. Prior to her election, Justice Lampkin was an Assistant State's Attorney and member of the Chicago Corporation Counsel's office.

As a Circuit Judge, she was considered to have good legal ability and was reported to be an exceptionally hard working jurist. She served on the Illinois Supreme Court criminal pattern jury instructions committee and was chair for the last five years. In

that position, she was responsible for writing the new death penalty instructions. She has taught for the last several years in the area of death penalty litigation and created her own seminar materials. As an Appellate Justice, Justice Lampkin receives many positive reports focusing on her preparedness and vigor during oral argument. Her opinions are considered to be well-reasoned. She has made a successful transition to the Appellate Court. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Bertina A. Lampkin sits in the Criminal Division. Those who appear before her report that she has adequate legal ability and that she makes a conscientious effort to keep abreast of changes in the criminal law. Her integrity is unquestioned, and she is known to be a punctual and exceptionally hard-working jurist. The Council is concerned, however, about persistent reports of Judge Lampkin's conduct in the courtroom. Judge Lampkin occasionally engages in inappropriate displays of temper to the attorneys who appear before her. She also is reported to treat lawyers rudely, occasionally lectures counsel in front of seated juries, and can be strident and dismissive when attorneys take issue with aspects of her decisions. Notwithstanding the Council's serious concerns about these issues, on balance it finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention – Circuit Court: Qualified

Bertina A. Lampkin, 49, sits in the Criminal Division. Lawyers report that she has very good legal ability and that she makes a conscientious effort to keep fully abreast of changes in criminal law. Most lawyers say she has a good judicial temperament, although some complain that she can be rude to attorneys. Her fairness and integrity are unquestioned, and she is known to be consistently punctual and exceptionally hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Second Subcircuit Judgeship: Qualified

Judge Lampkin, 43, presently sits in evening narcotics court. From 1974 to 1987 she had extensive experience as an Assistant State's

Attorney and member of the Chicago Corporation Counsel's office. She is described by lawyers who have appeared before her as a good, solid judge. A few lawyers question whether she unduly favors the position of Assistant State's Attorneys who appear before her and report that she rarely, if ever, will discredit the testimony of a police officer. Most lawyers, however, believe she is fair. The Council finds her Qualified.

Kathaleen T. Lanahan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Department

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kathaleen T. Lanahan was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. She is a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, where she is a first chair felony trial assistant, and whose responsibilities include prosecuting homicide cases. Prior to her work at the State's Attorney Office, she was an analyst at the Cook County Board of Real Estate Appeals (1993-1994).

Ms. Lanahan is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience across a variety of criminal prosecution matters. She is praised for her trial skills and 28 for her temperament and honesty as a prosecutor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Terrence J. Lavin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Second Division

Appointed to the Appellate Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2012 Election, Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Terrence J. Lavin was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. From 1983 to 2009 Judge Lavin was in private practice. He has substantial litigation experience in medical malpractice and personal injury matters. He has taught trial advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, and has written several published articles. He is active in community service. Judge Lavin was considered to be a good practitioner with good legal ability and temperament. As an appellate judge, he is Page 35 of 45 reported to be well-prepared. His opinions are considered well-reasoned. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Kerrie Maloney Laytin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Kerrie Maloney Laytin was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2002, she has served as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago's Department of Law, where she practices appellate law on behalf of the City of Chicago, City employees, and City agencies.

Previously, she worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (2000-2002). Since 2010, she has volunteered for Columbia Law School, Social Justice Initiatives, as the regional adviser in Chicago for students involved in government and public interest careers.

Ms. Laytin is considered to have very good legal ability as an appellate lawyer. She is praised for

legal skills and for her professional demeanor, even in the midst of heated legal matters. She is reported to have good judgment and has the ability to resolve contested disputes. The Council is concerned that she has no notable trial experience but we believe that her appellate career has demonstrated the analytical thinking and management skills necessary to be a good Circuit Judge. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Kerrie Maloney Laytin was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2002, she has served as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago's Department of Law, where she practices appellate law on behalf of the City of Chicago, City employees, and City agencies. Previously, she worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan (2000-2002). Since 2010, she has volunteered for Columbia Law School, Social Justice Initiatives, as the regional adviser in Chicago for students involved in government and public interest careers.

Ms. Laytin is considered to have very good legal ability as an appellate lawyer. She is praised for legal skills and for her professional demeanor, even in the midst of heated legal matters. She is reported to have good judgment and has the ability to resolve contested disputes. The Council is concerned that she has no notable trial experience but we believe that her appellate career has demonstrated the analytical thinking and management skills necessary to be a good Circuit Judge. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Christopher E. Lawler

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar R Motion Calendar Section

Elected as Circuit Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Before becoming a judge, Hon. Christopher E. Lawler 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. Judge Lawler is currently assigned to the Law Division, Motion Calendar Section. Judge Lawler was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2013 and elected to the court in 2014.

Judge Lawler is praised for his legal knowledge, even temperament, and his courtroom management skills. Lawyers report that he is fair to all parties, and is well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Kevin T. Lee

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge in 2014

Evaluation

Pamela M. Leeming

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Pamela Mariam Leeming was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. She was appointed to the bench in 2009 by the Illinois Supreme Court. She ran for election in the 2010 primary and was defeated. She was recalled to the bench and then won election to the bench in 2012. Before being appointed to the bench she served an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She concentrated her practice in the areas

of paternity, criminal misdemeanor, preliminary hearings, a variety of other pre- and post-trial matters, and appeals. Since 2014, she has been assigned to a felony courtroom in the Fourth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Maywood, Illinois. Previously, she was assigned to the Fourth District's Misdemeanor and Preliminary Hearing Call (2010-2014) and to Traffic Court at the Daley Center (2009-2010).

Judge Leeming is praised for her knowledge of the law and for her temperament. She is reported to have good courtroom management skills. She is respected for her thoughtful and thorough rulings. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Pamela M. Leeming was appointed to the bench in 2009 by the Illinois Supreme Court. She ran for election in the 2010 primary and was defeated. The Council found her Qualified for recall by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before being appointed to the bench 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. As both a lawyer and as a judge, she is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council was concerned that as a lawyer she lacked breadth and depth in her legal experience, as well as an absence of sufficient experience in more complex litigation matters. As a judge she receives good marks for her temperament and ability to control a courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Pamela M. Leeming was appointed to the bench in 2009 by the Illinois Supreme Court. She ran for election in the 2010 primary and was defeated. Before being appointed to the bench 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. As both a lawyer and as a judge, she is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council was concerned that as a lawyer she lacked breadth and depth in her legal experience, as well as an absence of sufficient experience in more complex litigation matters. As a judge she receives good marks for her temperament and ability to control a courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for recall as a Circuit Judge.

Casandra Lewis

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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. Judge Lewis is assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section.

Judge Lewis is reported to be a hard-working with a good temperament. She manages her courtroom well, and is praised for being fair to all parties. Attorneys note that she is diligent in doing the research necessary to always being knowledgeable about the area of law being tried before her. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Casandra 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.

2006 Primary Election, Appellate Court: Not Qualified

Hon. Casandra Lewis elected to the bench in 2002. She currently hears jury and bench trials in the First Municipal District. Prior to becoming a judge, she spent nine years in private practice and two years as an Assistant Kane County State’s Attorney. Judge Lewis has adequate legal ability for her current assignment and is praised for her temperament. She receives mixed reviews, however, for her work ethic – many lawyers complain that she is not well prepared and is often not punctual in taking the bench. The Council also is concerned that Judge Lewis has not demonstrated the breadth of experience or the writing and analytical ability necessary for an appellate judge. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Appellate Court.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Kimberly D. Lewis

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division

Elected

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Kimberly Dionne Lewis was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001. Since 2014, she has been assigned to the Juvenile Court Child Protection Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her previous judicial assignment was in the Traffic Division of the First Municipal Court.

Judge Lewis is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to be well prepared. Her rulings are often described as “thoughtful” and she has demonstrated that she knows the law and how to apply it. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Kimberly Lewis did not submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Matthew Link

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 63

Elected Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

James B. Linn

Present Judicial Duties
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1989

Evaluation

Thomas J. Lipscomb

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas J. Lipscomb was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1973. He has been in private practice since 1977, first as a solo practitioner and, since 1994, as a partner in Lipscomb & Yuknis. His practice involves general litigation and real estate. From 1973 to 1977, he was an Assistant Public Defender. His experience includes a good mix of civil and criminal trial work. Those contacted deemed the candidate to be a good lawyer. We find the candidate Qualified

Anna M. Loftus

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 59
Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016.

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Mark Joseph Lopez

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 99

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1999.

Evaluation

Pamela E. Loza

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 99

Elected Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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. Judge Loza is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Loza is considered to have very good legal ability and is described as being very knowledgeable about the law. She is praised for her courtroom management skills and for being fair and respectful to all parties. She has participated in major efforts to bring about systemic reform of the Domestic Relations Division. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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 15 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.

Qualified

Pamela E. Loza has been a lawyer since 1977. She is currently a sole practitioner specializing in family and criminal defense law. From 1984 to 2003, she handled similar cases as a lawyer in the firm of Cameron, Loza & Associates. From 1978 to 1981, she did appellate work as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability and that she is a zealous, but fair advocate for her clients. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Stuart F. Lubin

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division, Calendar 58

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1991; elected to the Circuit Court in 1994.

Evaluation

2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Stuart Fredric Lubin was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1974. Prior to becoming a judge, Stuart Lubin was a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Lubin was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1991 and elected in 1994. Since 1991, he has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His previous judicial assignment was at the First Municipal Division, where his call included forcible Entry and Detainer, Housing Court, and Misdemeanors and Felony Preliminary Hearing Branch Courts.

Judge Lubin is regarded as an excellent jurist with very good legal ability. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. He is reported to have a good temperament – patient and respectful of the parties in front of him. He is praised for his integrity and fairness. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Stuart Lubin was a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Judge Lubin was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1991 and elected in 1994. He currently serves in the Juvenile Justice Division.

Judge Lubin is regarded as an extraordinary jurist with excellent legal ability. His courtroom management praised as exceptional. He is efficient in the courtroom, but is praised for taking the time to communicate with the lawyers and litigants before him.

Respondents characterize him as very diligent. He is praised for his integrity and fairness. He exhibits a low-key demeanor but is reported to always be in control of his courtroom. Respondents characterize Judge Lubin as a model judge and consider him an asset to the judiciary. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well

Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Stuart F. Lubin, 51, has been a judge since 1991. He sits in the Juvenile Justice Division. He served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender before becoming a judge. Judge Lubin is praised by lawyers for having very good legal ability. He is a diligent and hard-working judge who maintains a firm control of his courtroom. However, while most lawyers describe Judge Lubin as having a good judicial temperament, the Council received reports from some lawyers saying that he can be short-tempered and impatient at times. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified.

March 1994 Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Stuart F. Lubin, 44, was evaluated by the Council of Lawyers in 1992 and at that time was found highly qualified for election to the Circuit Court. He was appointed as a Circuit Court judge in 1991 and through at least January 1994 was assigned to the Juvenile Division. He was an Assistant Public Defender from 1974 to 1991, where he tried felonies and was a supervisor. He had a reputation as an outstanding lawyer.

In 1992 we wrote, "As a judge, Judge Lubin receives rave reviews. He has excellent demeanor, and is quiet but firm. His legal ability is excellent. Both sides of cases praise his work."

Our investigation in 1994 revealed that Judge Lubin continues to be an excellent judge. Every person contacted described him in glowing terms. He is said to have excellent legal ability and knowledge, firm control of the courtroom, and a good demeanor. He holds both sides to high standards of compliance on pre-trial discovery matters. He is

fair to the prosecution and the defense both at trial and in dispositions. He shows great compassion and interest in the litigants and treats all parties who appear before him with courtesy and respect. The Council finds Judge Lubin highly qualified for election to the Circuit Court.

March 1992 Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Stuart Lubin, 42, was appointed as a Circuit Judge in 1991, and has been sitting in the Juvenile Division. He was an Assistant Public Defender from 1974 to 1991. In the Public Defender's Office, he tried felonies and was a supervisor. He had a reputation as an outstanding lawyer.

As a judge, Judge Lubin receives rave reviews. He has excellent demeanor, and is quiet but firm. His legal ability is excellent. Both sides of cases praise his work. The Council believes he is highly qualified for election to the Circuit Court.

John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Freddrenna M. LylePresent Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery and Elder Law & Miscellaneous Remedies Divisions

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation**November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified**

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

Daniel Joseph LynchPresent Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1998.

Evaluation**November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified**

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

Judge Lynch is widely respected for his knowledge of the law and procedure. He is considered to be well prepared and is reported to be adept at handling long, complex trials. Some respondents complained that he can, on occasion, be short tempered on the bench. Most say that he has a

good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that Judge Lynch on several occasions has reached beyond his immediate role as judge in a particular matter to engage in legal acts that seem to be outside his normal course of deciding a case before him. These matters include seeking or having sought to have the attorneys prosecuted for fraud or obstruction. In another matter, the judge unsuccessfully sought to have the Cook County State's Attorney prosecute one of the parties before him. These unorthodox uses of judicial discretion, including criminal contempt charges, are troubling to the Council. On balance, the Council finds Judge Lynch to be Not Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Daniel Lynch was elected to the bench in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, he was in the First Municipal District, Domestic Violence Section, and the Chancery Division. Judge Lynch was admitted to practice in 1988. Prior to election, he was an assistant State's Attorney and senior prosecutor in the Gang Crimes Unit.

Judge Lynch is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He seldom raises his voice or becomes confrontational with lawyers or defendants and he is considered to have good courtroom management skills. He is praised for being hard working and for always being prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Daniel Joseph Lynch currently sits in the First Municipal District. He was elected to the bench in 1998. Before becoming a judge, he spent his career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Lynch is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be fair to all parties before him. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

1998 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Daniel Joseph Lynch was admitted to practice in 1988. He has spent his career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Lynch is considered to

be a good prosecutor with good legal ability and a good temperament. He is considered to be fair in his dealings with defense counsel. The Council finds him Qualified.

Thomas V. Lyons II

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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.

2008 Evaluation to fill Vacancy - Qualified

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.

Aicha Marie MacCarthy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 10 Adult Guardianship Estates

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Aicha Marie MacCarthy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1997. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a sole practitioner handling a variety of criminal and civil law matters, with a focus on probate, real estate, and criminal law matters. From 2001 to 2008 she worked for the City of Chicago. From 2004 to 2008 she was an Assistant Commissioner at the Department of 17 Aviation, and from 2001 to 2004 she was Assistant to the Mayor at the Office of the Mayor. In 2001, she was a Financial Planning Analyst at the Department of Planning and Development and from 1998 to 2001, she worked as a Staff Attorney/Hearing Officer at the Chicago Housing Authority. In 1998, she served as a Traffic Division Prosecutor at the Chicago Department of Law. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2013, she has been assigned to the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her call there has included Adult Guardianship Estates (January 2017-present), Minor Guardianship (2015-2017), Disabled Adult Estates (2014-2015), and an assignment as a Floating Judge (2013-2014). From 2012 to 2013, she was assigned to the First Municipal Division, where she heard traffic, DUI, evictions, and civil non-jury cases.

Judge MacCarthy is reported to be doing a good job of balancing the needs of disabled persons and the desires of family members – a task very much part of Judge MacCarthy's current assignment. She is praised overall for her temperament and for her legal ability and breadth of knowledge. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Aicha M. MacCarthy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1997. She is a sole practitioner handling a variety of criminal and civil law matters, with a focus on probate, real estate, and criminal law matters. She serves as a court-appointed guardian ad litem. From 2001 to 2008 she worked for the City of Chicago. From 2004 to 2008 she was an Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Aviation, and from 2001 to 2004 she was Assistant to the Page 41 of 45 Mayor at the Office of the Mayor. In 2001, she was a Financial Planning Analyst at the Department of Planning and Development and from 1998 to 2001, she worked as a Staff Attorney/Hearing Officer at the Chicago Housing Authority. In 1998, she served as a Traffic Division Prosecutor at the Chicago Department of Law. She provides substantial amounts of time to pro bono programs. Ms. McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability with a substantial commitment to pro bono work. She has a good temperament and is considered diligent and hard-working. The Council is concerned that she does not have substantial experience in a variety of more complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court at this time.

Terence MacCarthy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Qualified

Judge MacCarthy was elected to the bench in 2010. He had served as an Assistant Public Defender for Cook County. He is currently sitting in the Fourth Municipal District, where he has been handling domestic misdemeanor and Class 4 Felony Criminal cases. He has taught at both DePaul University's College of Law and the University of Chicago's Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, serving as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the former. MacCarthy has also co-authored a book on Impeachment, entitled "MacCarthy on

Impeachment: How to Find and Use these Weapons of Mass Destruction", published spring 2016 by the American Bar Association. He has also recently authored a book titled "Improv for Lawyers", to be published at a later date.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, 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.

Myron F. Mackoff

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 44

Appointed as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Myron Mackoff was admitted to practice in 1994. He served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General from 1994 to 2002, after which he entered private practice. He reports acting as lead counsel in 2 civil jury trials and about 12 civil bench trials. He practices in both state and federal courts and has experience litigating complex matters. He is

involved in numerous pro bono and community activities, including an award for excellence in pro bono work from the Federal Trial Bar. Mr. Mackoff is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Myron Mackoff was admitted to practice in 1994. He served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General from 1994 to 2002, after which he entered private practice. He reports acting as lead counsel in 2 civil jury trials and about 12 civil bench trials. He practices in both state and federal courts and has experience litigating complex matters. He is involved in numerous pro bono and community activities, including an award for excellence in pro bono work from the Federal Trial Bar. Mr. Mackoff is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Myron Mackoff was admitted to practice in 1994. He served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General from 1994 to 2002, after which he entered private practice. He reports acting as lead counsel in 2 civil jury trials and about 12 civil bench trials. He practices in both state and federal courts and has experience litigating complex matters. He is involved in numerous pro bono and community activities, including an award for excellence in pro bono work from the Federal Trial Bar. Mr. Mackoff is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

John J. Mahoney III

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected as Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. John J. Mahoney served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and was the Supervisor of the Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit in the Special Prosecutions Bureau. He is currently assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. Judge Mahoney is considered to have good legal knowledge and legal ability. Lawyers generally report that he has good judicial temperament. Issues have been raised about whether he is sufficiently sensitive to diversity and bias, but our investigation uncovered no examples of these issues. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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 coauthor of the Illinois statute known as the Illinois Financial Crime Law. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Alfredo Maldonado

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

Daniel B. Malone

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 7 Decedent Estates

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Daniel E. Maloney

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Daniel Edward Maloney was admitted to practice in 2001. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, Judge Maloney served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He was assigned to the Complex Narcotics Unit of Cook County State's Attorney's Office. For two years, he had been the sole Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the DEA/HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Strike Force. While there, Mr. Maloney assisted law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of high-level narcotics dealers. Judge Maloney had been employed within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office from 2001 to his appointment to the bench. He has also worked within the Special Prosecutions Bureau and the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau.

As a lawyer, Judge Maloney is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in prosecuting complex criminal law matters, including murder cases. He is praised for his courtroom skills and for his temperament. He is reported to be an excellent mentor to less experienced lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Daniel Edward Maloney was admitted to practice in 2001. Mr. Maloney is an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He is currently assigned to the complex narcotics unit of Cook County State's Attorney's Office. For two years, he has been the sole Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the

DEA/HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Strike Force. Mr. Maloney assists law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of high level narcotics dealers. Mr. Maloney has been employed within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office since 2001. He has also worked within the Special Prosecutions Bureau and the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau.

Mr. Maloney is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in prosecuting complex criminal law matters, including murder cases. He is praised for his courtroom skills and for his temperament. He is reported to be an excellent mentor to less experienced lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Edward M. Maloney

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Felony Preliminary Hearings

Elected Circuit Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Edward Michael Maloney was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2013, he has been assigned to the Branch 44 - Preliminary Hearing Court of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. His previous assignments were in branch courts of the First Municipal Division, where he handled felonies and misdemeanors, and to Traffic Court at the Daley Center.

Judge Maloney is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about his area of the law, and has good legal ability. He has a good temperament. He is described as calm, slow to anger, and respectful to the parties before him. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Edward Michael Maloney was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1978. He is a partner at Ahern Maloney Moran & Block. From 1978 to 1985 he was an associate at Hennessy, Faraci & Tassone. He has published various articles on DUI related issues for the ISBA Traffic Newsletter, and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. Mr. Maloney is considered to have good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable about his practice area. He is reported to have good temperament and has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Ellen Beth Mandeltort

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation: Well Qualified

Ellen Mandeltort was admitted to practice in 1985. Since 2003, she has been the Deputy Illinois Attorney General for the Criminal Justice Division. From 1985 until 2003, she was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and was in a supervisory position from 1998 until leaving the office. Ms. Mandeltort enjoys the reputation of having very good legal ability and temperament. She is respected for her fairness and integrity, and has substantial litigation experience in complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Marcia Maras

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Setting Call

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999; elected to the Circuit Court in 2000.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Marcia Maras was appointed to the bench in 1999. Prior to becoming a judge, Marcia Maras was in private practice. She also served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and as General Counsel to the Cook County Assessor. Judge Maras was appointed in 1999 and elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Judge Maras has been in the Law Division since 2006. From 1999 to 2006, she was in the County Division hearing adoption, election, mental health, and real estate tax matters. Prior to her judicial appointment, she was Chief Deputy of the Cook County Assessor's Office for five years. Her duties there included oversight of the General Counsel Division and supervision of all litigation. Before that, she was Assistant General Counsel in the Assessor's Office, a law firm associate, an Assistant State's Attorney in the Real Estate Tax Unit, and a law clerk to an Illinois Appellate Court Justice.

Judge Maras is considered to be a very good jurist with good legal ability and temperament. She handles a difficult call efficiently and with a professional manner. She understands the issues and rules decisively. She is considered to have good legal ability with an excellent temperament. Judge Maras was praised by all respondents as having a good knowledge of procedure and substantive law. She is particularly praised for her courtroom management skills. She presides over a call with complex matters. She takes time to allow counsel to speak and makes a record. She is well prepared. She reads and understands all of the pleadings and 18 takes the time to do independent research, if necessary. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Marcia Maras was in private practice. She also served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and as General Counsel to the Cook County Assessor. Judge Maras was appointed in 1999 and elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District before transfer to the County Division. She currently sits in the Law Division.

Judge Maras handles a hectic call of both routine case management and complex substantive matters. She is praised her for her courtroom management and manner. Several mentioned that the judge is prompt and keeps good notes on the cases. She is considered professional.

Judge Maras received praise for her courtroom management skills in particular, with one respondent noting "Judge Maras runs an efficient call, but, as is often not the norm, takes time to allow counsel to speak, and make a record if need be. She takes time to learn of the key issues and address them fairly." Another respondent related an anecdote complimenting how Judge Maras dealt with an unprepared or possibly incompetent attorney, noting she was firm, but professional.

She is considered knowledgeable and up-to-date on black letter law. Judge Maras is characterized as a fair and competent jurist who runs her courtroom in a firm, efficient and attentive manner. She handles a routine, but hectic, call with what is described as professionalism and decorum. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Marcia Maras was appointed in 1999 and since then has sat in the County Division presiding over misdemeanor trials, statutory summary suspension hearings, motions to quash, and other matters. Prior to her appointment, she was Chief Deputy of the Cook County Assessor's Office for five years. Before that, she was Assistant General Counsel in the Assessor's Office, a law firm associate, an Assistant State's Attorney in the Real Estate Tax Unit, and a law clerk to an Illinois Appellate Court Justice. Judge Maras is considered to have good legal ability. She is very knowledgeable and is praised for keeping up-to-date on the state of the law. She is hard working and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified.

2000 Primary & General Elections Circuit Court: Qualified

Marcia Maras, 43, is a 1982 graduate of DePaul University College of Law. Since being appointed in February 1999, she has been a Circuit Court Judge and has presided over misdemeanor trials, statutory

summary suspension hearings, motions to quash, and other matters. Prior to her judicial appointment, she was Chief Deputy of the Cook County Assessor's Office for five years. Her duties there included oversight of the General Counsel Division and supervision of all litigation. Before that, she was Assistant General Counsel in the Assessor's Office, a law firm associate, an Assistant State's Attorney in the Real Estate Tax Unit, and a law clerk to an Illinois Appellate Court Justice. She has broad legal knowledge and experience and a reputation for fairness. The Council finds her Qualified.

Lisa Ann Marino

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District and Chancery Section
Housing Section; Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999; elected to the Circuit Court in 2000.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Lisa Ann Marino was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Prior to becoming a judge, she was 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. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2016, she has been assigned to the Circuit Court of Cook County's Housing Section of the First Municipal Court as well as the Mortgage Foreclosure Section of the Chancery Court. She had also served in the Mortgage Foreclosure Section from 2013 to 2014 and in the Juvenile Justice Division from 2014 to 2016.

Judge Marino is reported to have good court management skills. She runs an efficient court call and is reported to be respectful and fair to all

parties. She is especially praised for her dealings with litigants unrepresented by counsel. She is knowledgeable about her area of law and is described often as being thorough and well prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Jill C. Marisie

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2006

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Jill C. Marisie was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. Prior to becoming a judge, Jill Cerone-Marisie worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney as well as in private practice. Judge Cerone-Marisie was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since September 2017, she has served as Acting Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. Since 2015, she has also presided over the Third District's Veteran Court, Mental Health Court Probation, and expungements. Her other assignments in the Third District have included bond hearings, preliminary hearings, warrants, misdemeanor criminal calls, trials,

motions, and violations of probation (2011-2017) and misdemeanor cases (2007-2011). Prior to that, she was assigned to the First District (2006- 2007), where she heard traffic cases.

Judge Marisie is considered to have good legal ability. She is knowledgeable and is praised for the thoroughness and accuracy of her opinions. She handles problem solving courts such as the Veterans Court and the Mental Health Court call. While she has been the Presiding Judge for only a short period of time, she is considered to be doing a good job. As a judge she is considered to be fair and patient on the bench and is reported to have good courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Jill Cerone-Marisie worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney as well as in private practice. Judge Cerone-Marisie was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal Division, and transferred to the Third Municipal District in 2007.

Judge Jill Cerone-Marisie received high marks in all categories. With regard to her legal ability, attorneys stated that she is "an excellent judge," with "a very knowledgeable grasp of the case law and the courtroom procedures;" and, "the best... she knew the law well and was able to apply it correctly." She was also praised for her ability to move through her cases in an efficient manner despite having a heavy call: she is "always on time" and her "call runs smoothly" and "moves efficiently."

Attorneys on both sides of the aisle gave Judge Cerone-Marisie positive marks for her diligence, preparedness, integrity and temperament – attorneys were roundly impressed by her judicial tone, demeanor, and personable disposition: "she treats everyone the same" and is "authoritative, but not condescending." Finally, attorneys praised her fairness and independence. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Diann K. Marsalek

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District- Traffic Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Diann K. Marsalek was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. 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 three 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. She was elected to the bench in 2012. She is Supervising Judge in the Traffic Section of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her 19 other assignments in the First District have included Post Judgment Collections, eviction, and, from 2011 to 2013, traffic court.

Judge Marsalek is considered to have good courtroom management skills who is fair and respectful to all parties. She is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable about her area of law, and is reported to be well prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: 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 three 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.

LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2002; elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge LeRoy Martin was appointed to the bench in 2002 and elected in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. Previously, he was assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Martin was admitted to practice in 1984. Prior to election, he was both a Cook County Public Defender and in private practice.

Judge LeRoy Martin is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for always being

prepared. He has a good temperament and courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

September 2002 Appointment to Fill a Vacancy, Qualified

LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1984. Since 1995, he has been a solo practitioner specializing in criminal, domestic relations, and real estate matters. From 1987 to 1995, he was a partner at Martin & Duckworth. From 1993 to 1995, he was a per diem prosecutor at driver's license hearings for the Illinois Secretary of State. Since 1990, he has also been a member of the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals. In 1987, he was a solo practitioner for a period of nine months. From 1985 to 1987, he was a Cook County Public Defender. From 1984 to 1985, he was an associate at a plaintiff's personal injury firm. Mr. Martin is a 1984 graduate of North Carolina Central University Law School.

Mr. Martin is considered to be a good practitioner who is diligent and hard working. He is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds Mr. Martin Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Marc W. Martin

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Marc Martin was admitted to practice in 1987 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. Before going to the bench, Judge Martin was an acclaimed criminal defense attorney. He is considered to have good legal ability and his praised for his litigation skills and for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maritza Martinez

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 97

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Maritza Martinez was an Associate in the Law Offices of Victor J. Cacciatore where she had a litigation practice in criminal defense, civil law, and administrative matters. She was a Commissioner for the Illinois Court of Claims, and had 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. Judge Martinez was elected to the bench in 2014. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Martinez is well-respected for her knowledge of the law and for her temperament. She did not have substantial experience in domestic relations issues when she took the bench, and lawyers noted that she had worked hard to reduce the learning curve. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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 26 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.

Mary C. Marubio

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Mary Catherine Marubio was admitted to practice in 1997, and became an Associate Judge in 2016. Before taking the bench, she was an Administrative Law Judge within the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for the State of Illinois. She presided over formal adversarial hearings throughout the state involving various licensed professionals, such as physicians, real estate brokers and public accountants. Judge Marubio also served as an ethics officer for IDFPR employees and professional boards, where she provided guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the State Employees and Officials Ethics Act. From 1997 to 2012, she was a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense and immigration matters. She participates in numerous pro bono and charitable community activities.

As a lawyer, Judge Marubio was considered to be a smart, solid practitioner with a variety of litigation experiences. She is praised for her temperament. She is praised for being able to master the various areas of law that her career has involved, including financial regulation, criminal defense, and immigration. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Mary Catherine Marubio was admitted to practice in 1997. Ms. Marubio is currently an Administrative Law Judge within the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for the State of Illinois. She presides over formal adversarial hearings throughout the state involving various licensed professionals, such as physicians, real estate brokers and public accountants. Ms. Marubio also serves as an ethics officer for IDFPR employees and professional boards, where she provides guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the State Employees and Officials Ethics Act. From 1997 to 2012, she was a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense and immigration matters. She participates in numerous pro bono and charitable community activities.

Ms. Marubio is considered to be a smart, solid practitioner with a variety of litigation experiences. She is praised for her temperament. She is praised for being able to master the various areas of law that her career has involved, including financial regulation, criminal defense, and immigration. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Celestia L. Mays

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Celestia L. Mays was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. She was elected to the bench by the Circuit Judges as an Associate Judge in December 2019. Before taking the bench, she was principal of Celestia L. Mays, P.C., where she practiced in family law and probate law, and handled real estate closings. She previously worked as an associate at Bourgeois & Bourgeois (1994-1997); and at the Los Angeles County law firms of McIntosh, Schmidt & Long (1991-1994, law clerk); and Mercer & Zinder (1988-1991, law clerk). She has served on the board of directors of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago; as the deputy regional director and treasurer of Region VII of the National Bar Association; and in a variety of offices at the Cook County Bar Association, including president. She is a former board member of Legal Aid Chicago.

Judge Mays is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is reported to be an excellent practitioner with great integrity. She is praised for her litigation skills. She is exceptionally active in community activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Celestia L. Mays was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990. She is principal of Celestia L. Mays, P.C., where she practices in family law and probate law, and handles real estate closings. She previously worked as an associate at Bourgeois & Bourgeois (1994-1997); and at the Los Angeles County law firms of McIntosh, Schmidt & Long (1991-1994, law clerk), and Mercer & Zinder (1988-1991, law clerk). She has served on the board of directors of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago; as the deputy regional director and treasurer of Region VII of the National Bar Association; and in a variety of offices at the Cook County Bar Association, including president. She is a former board member of LAF, and was recently appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court to the Committee on Character and Fitness.

Ms. Mays is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is reported to be an excellent practitioner with great integrity. She is praised for her litigation skills. She is exceptionally active in community activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Celestia L. Mays was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990. She is principal of Celestia L. Mays, P.C., where she practices in family law and probate law, and handles real estate closings. She previously worked as an associate at Bourgeois & Bourgeois (1994-1997); and at the Los Angeles County law firms of McIntosh, Schmidt & Long (1991-1994, law clerk), and Mercer & Zinder (1988-1991, law clerk). She has served on the board of directors of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago; as the deputy regional director and treasurer of Region VII of the National Bar Association; and in a variety of offices at the Cook County Bar Association, including president. She is a former board member of LAF, and was recently appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court to the Committee on Character and Fitness.

Ms. Mays is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is reported to be an excellent practitioner with great integrity. She is praised for her litigation skills. She is exceptionally active in community activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Margaret Stanton McBride

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fourth Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1987; elected to the Circuit Court in 1990; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1998

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Judge Margaret Stanton McBride was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976. Prior to becoming a judge, she serves as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Since 1998, she has served on the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District. Since 2015, she has been assigned to the Court's Fourth Division. She also serves as a member of the Court's Executive Committee, as an Elected Appellate Court Member of the Illinois Courts Commission (2007-present), and as a member of the Illinois Supreme Court's Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee (2011-present), Rules Committee (2012-present), and Access to Justice Commission (2015-present). Her previous judicial assignments were in the Circuit Court of Cook County, as Presiding Judge, Third Municipal District (1997-1998), the Chancery Division (1994-1997), the Law Division (1992-1994), the Criminal Division (1990-1992), and the First Municipal District (1987-1990).

Judge McBride is reported to have an excellent grasp on law and facts of each case which comes before her. She is always well prepared for oral argument, and is an active participant. She is praised for the quality and the timeliness of her opinions. She is also very involved in activities around improving the quality of the court system. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Appellate Court.

2008 Evaluation: Well Qualified

Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride has been an Illinois Appellate Justice since 1998. She has served as the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District. As a lawyer, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. As a judge, she has also served in the First Municipal District, the Criminal Division, the Law Division, and Chancery. She has outstanding legal ability and was widely praised as an excellent trial judge. As an appellate justice, she is considered to be smart, well prepared, and hard working. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

1998 Primary & General Elections, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Margaret Stanton McBride is the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District. As a lawyer, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. As a judge, she has served in the First Municipal District, the Criminal Division, the Law

Division, and Chancery. She has outstanding legal ability and is widely praised as an excellent judge. She is fair and exceptionally hard working. The Council finds her Highly Qualified.

November 1996 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Margaret Stanton McBride, 44, has been a Circuit Judge since 1990. She sat in the Criminal Division from 1990 to 1992 and in the Law Division, Jury Section from 1992-1994. She currently sits in the Chancery Division. Practitioners report that she has excellent legal ability and is hard working. She has excelled in each of her judicial assignments. Judge McBride is considered to be fair and to have an outstanding temperament. The Council finds her Highly Qualified.

1990 (D) Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court (Cieslik Vacancy): Highly Qualified

Associate Judge Margaret Stanton McBride sits in the First Municipal District. She was an Assistant State's Attorney for ten years and served as a felony trial supervisor in that office. The Council has received uniformly positive reports about Judge McBride. Her legal ability is considered to be outstanding, and both prosecutors and defense counsel consider her to be fair and independent. She is considered to be of high integrity and knowledgeable about the law. The Council, therefore, finds her to be highly qualified.

Kelly Marie McCarthy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kelly M. McCarthy was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. She works as a supervisor in the First Municipal Division of the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Other positions that she has held at the Public Defender's Office include Assistant Public Defender in the Homicide Task

Force (2 years); Felony Trial Division (12 years); and Civil Division (1 ½ years). She is a former board member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has volunteered as an evaluator and coach for mock trial and moot court competitions.

Ms. McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is reported to be knowledgeable and hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Dennis M. McGuire

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Non-Jury Civil Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Dennis McGuire was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. He has spent his entire legal career doing civil work as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Since 1992, he has practiced in real estate tax litigation. Prior to that, he worked in hospital and special litigation. He lacks experience with jury

trials and criminal practice. Some attorneys praise his legal ability, yet some question whether he possesses the necessary judicial temperament. The Council believes that he lacks the jury trial experience and the temperament necessary to be a Circuit Judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified.

Terrence J. McGuire

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 11 Decedent Estates

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Terrence J. McGuire was a solo practitioner focusing on estate planning, probate, and real estate transactions. He was also an administrative law judge in ordinance enforcement proceedings. He had little litigation experience in more complex matters. He was elected to the bench in 2014. He is currently assigned to the Probate Division. Judge McGuire had little experience in probate law when he was assigned to the Probate Division. By all accounts, he worked hard to reduce the size of the learning curve and today is a well-respected jurist. He is considered knowledgeable and is praised for the fairness and respect that he shows all parties. He is praised for being decisive. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Thomas Francis McGuire

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas Francis McGuire was admitted to practice in 2000. Since 2013, he has been a sole practitioner doing primarily criminal defense work. From 2003 to 2013, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 2001 to 2003, he worked as an attorney with the Office of the Chief Judge assigned to research post-conviction petitions. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the law. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters both as a State's Attorney and as a private practitioner. Lawyers said he is trustworthy in his dealings with opposing counsel and has a good temperament generally. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Thomas Francis McGuire was admitted to practice in 2000. Since 2013, he has been a sole practitioner doing primarily criminal defense work. From 2003 to 2013, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 2001 to 2003, he worked as an attorney with the Office of the Chief Judge assigned to research post-conviction petitions. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the law. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters both as a State's Attorney and as a private practitioner. Lawyers said he is trustworthy in his dealings with opposing counsel and has a good temperament generally. The Council finds

him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kathleen M. McGury

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1995; elected to the Circuit Court in 1996.

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Kathleen McGury was appointed as a Circuit Judge in 1995 and was subsequently elected to a full term the following year. She began her judicial career in the First Municipal District and in the Child Protection Division. In August 1997, she was transferred to the Fourth Municipal District in Maywood, where she primarily hears traffic and misdemeanor cases. She received consistently good marks for her legal knowledge and ability, integrity, and judicial temperament. The Council finds Judge McGury Qualified for retention.

Michael B. McHale

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Michael B. McHale was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. Prior to becoming a judge, Michael McHale served as a career Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Judge McHale was elected in 2006. Since 2013, he has been assigned to felony criminal courtrooms in the Circuit Court. His prior assignments included cases involving sexually violent persons (2010- 2013) and Domestic Violence Court (2007-2010).

Judge McHale receives high marks for his legal knowledge. He is reported to be well prepared and as a judge makes a good record, and prepares written rulings when deemed necessary. He is considered to have a good temperament, and many respondents note that he is especially patient with those unrepresented by legal counsel. The Council is concerned, however, that we have received reports that Judge McHale can unduly favor the prosecution. Sentencing information the Council has reviewed suggests that he can issue harsh sentences compared to other criminal division judges. However, the Council believes that these reports are offset by other reports that Judge McHale does explore more lenient sentencing options that, for example involve drug or mental health treatment coupled with probation rather than prison. We understand that Judge McHale will provide multiple chances for a defendant to complete probation successfully, and he has sought to reduce the burden that court costs, fines, and fees imposes on defendants following their conviction. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Michael McHale served as a career Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney.

Judge McHale was elected in 2006. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District and transferred to the Domestic Violence Division in 2007. He is presently assigned to the Criminal Division as a floater judge, working on the Presiding Judge's call, handling motions, hearings, expungements, trials on the sexually violent persons call, and other matters.

Judge McHale is often described as having a "full, comprehensive" legal knowledge and well-prepared for court. Some interviewees noted both that the judge has a solid understanding of the Page 21 of 45 law and that he is constantly improving. He is known to pass cases and do appropriate research the same day in order to understand issues and move cases efficiently. Respondents state he has a calm, respectful demeanor, but remains "quick and effective" at managing his call. Judge McHale is characterized as respectful of attorneys, defendants and court staff.

He is considered "fair" and "honest." Judge McHale handles many pro se cases on the expungement call, and several interviewees noted his patience with the call and his ability to manage the hearings well. Judge McHale is considered to have an outstanding temperament, remarkable patience and an excellent work ethic. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Mike McHale has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since he was admitted to practice in 1991. He has been the Supervisor of Branch 38 since 2004. Mr. McHale is considered to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor. He has substantial experience in criminal law matters. He is said to be well prepared and creative, with a strong work ethic. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary Kathleen McHugh

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Non-Jury Civil Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Scott D. McKenna

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Scott Darrell McKenna was admitted to practice in 1996. Mr. McKenna is currently a partner at Best, Vanderlaan & Harrington. He is the principal trial attorney for a caseload of approximately 175 civil cases. He also is responsible for interviewing and hiring attorneys, mentoring attorneys, reviewing client bills and management of the firm. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. McKenna was an associate at Richard B. Bogich & Associates (now known as Winters Salzetta O'Brien & Richardson). He handled plaintiff personal injury matters at both the trial and appellate levels. Mr. McKenna is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. His career includes law firm management and extensive experience as a litigator in civil matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Clare Elizabeth McWilliams

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trail Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Judge McWilliams is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her well-reasoned and timely decisions. She has good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Clare Elizabeth McWilliams has been in private

practice since her admission to the bar in 1988. She is currently a partner in a general litigation firm where the majority of her practice concerns matrimonial law matters. A number of lawyers contacted during the judicial evaluation find Ms. McWilliams to be a competent attorney with a good temperament. The Council is concerned that we have received a few reports of cases involving more complex matters where attorneys have questioned her diligence or legal ability. On balance, however, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patricia Mendoza

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division, Calendar 53

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Patricia Mendoza was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. Since 1995, she has been Regional Counsel for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). For one year prior to that, she was an assistant attorney at the Chicago Board of Education. For one year before that, she was a staff attorney for the ACLU. From 1988 to 1993, she was a staff attorney and a supervisory attorney for the Legal Assistance Foundation. From 1984 to 1988, she was a staff attorney at the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation. Ms. Mendoza is a 1984 graduate of DePaul University College of Law.

Ms. Mendoza is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is hard working and is well regarded both as a practitioner and as a supervisor. She is praised for her dedication to public service. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Regina A. Mescall

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Regina Mescall was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2008, but has practiced since 2004. Since 2008, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently serves as a First Chair in the Felony Trial Division and previously served in the Felony Review Unit (2018—Jan. 2019, 2015-2016, 2008-2009), the Felony Trial Division (2016-2018, 2012-2015), and the Preliminary Hearing/Grand Jury Unit (2009-2012). Prior to that, she was Assistant District Attorney in the state of New Mexico (2004-2008). She is a member in good standing of the National District Attorney's Association.

Ms. Mescall is considered to have good legal ability and handles some of the most complex matters in the State's Attorney's Office. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Pamela McLean Meyerson

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar
11
General Chancery Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon Pamela McLean Meyerson 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. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois

Supreme Court in 2013, and currently sits in the Chancery Division.

Judge Meyerson is a well-respected jurist who is praised for her knowledge of the law and for being exceptionally hard-working. Lawyers noted that she had to deal with a learning curve when she was assigned to Chancery and was able to handle the caseload, including reducing a substantial backlog of cases. She is considered to be a knowledgeable jurist with a good demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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 32 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

Mary L. Mikva

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, First Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004; appointed to the Appellate Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Mary Mikva was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2004. She was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in June 2016. She had been assigned to the Chancery Division and to the Child Protection Division. Judge Mikva was

admitted to practice in 1980 and prior to her election, she was law clerk to Judge Prentice H. Marshall and later to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Judge Mikva also served as an appellate attorney for the City of Chicago Law Department, as well as in private practice.

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Mary Mikva was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2004 and is currently assigned to the Child Protection Division. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. Judge Mikva was admitted to practice in 1980 and prior to her election, she was law clerk to Judge Prentice H. Marshall and later to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Judge Mikva also was an appellate attorney for the City of Chicago Law Department, as well as in private practice.

Judge Mikva is considered to have very good legal ability. She is praised for her even temperament and for her courtroom management skills. She is respectful of all parties and is hard working and well prepared for the cases that come before her. She is exceptionally active in community service work. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Mary L. Mikva was admitted to practice law in 1980. She clerked for the Honorable Prentice Marshall of the federal district court and then for the Honorable Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. She is primarily a plaintiffs employment and civil rights attorney, although she has some experience in criminal and commercial litigation matters. She was an attorney with small firms between 1982 and 1987 and from 1991 to the present where she is a partner with Abrahamson, Vorachek & Mikva. From 1987

to 1991 she was an attorney with the City of Chicago Department of Law. While Ms. Mikva has little jury experience, she has substantial bench trials and appellate experience. Lawyers report that she has excellent legal ability and temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds her Well Qualified.

Stephanie K. Miller

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

March 2018 Evaluation Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Stephanie K. Miller was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1999. In January 2017 the Illinois Supreme Court appointed her a Circuit Court Judge to fill the Lopez-Cepero vacancy in the 6th Judicial Subcircuit. She currently presides in Central Bond Court, and served previous assignments in traffic court, as well as misdemeanor and felony preliminary hearings courtrooms. From 2001 to 2017, she was an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she worked in Juvenile Court, Preliminary Hearings, Felony Review, the Felony Trial Division, and the Sex Crimes Division. From 1999 to 2001 she was an Assistant Public Guardian in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office.

As a lawyer, Judge Miller was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She had a well-respected career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney's Office with substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She has earned praise for her work as a judge. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Stephanie K. Miller was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1999. In January 2017 the Illinois Supreme Court appointed her a Circuit Court Judge to fill the Lopez-Cepero vacancy in the 6th

Judicial Subcircuit. She currently presides in Central Bond Court, and served previous assignments in traffic court, as well as misdemeanor and felony preliminary hearings courtrooms. From 2001 to 2017, she was an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she worked in Juvenile Court, Preliminary Hearings, Felony Review, the Felony Trial Division, and the Sex Crimes Division. From 1999 to 2001 she was an Assistant Public Guardian in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office.

As a lawyer, Judge Miller was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She had a well-respected career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney's Office with substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She has earned praise for her work as a judge. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Stephanie Miller was admitted to practice in 1999. She serves as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where she currently prosecutes felony sex crime cases. She has served as the first chair prosecutor in hundreds of complex bench and jury trials. From 1999 to 2001 she did litigation with the Cook County Public Guardian's Office. She is considered to have good legal ability with extensive legal knowledge. She has substantial trial experience in complex matters. She is considered a zealous but fair prosecutor, and is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary R. Minella

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Jury Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005

Evaluation

2005 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Mary Regina Minella was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1983. Since 1986, Ms. Minella has been a

partner with Mullen & Minella, where her practice involves litigation, negligence, medical negligence, products liability, and worker's compensation. For three years before that, she was an associate at Mullen & Clancy. The candidate has considerable experience in complex litigation, as well as strong appellate experience. She is a good writer and teacher and is very involved in volunteer efforts. Those contacted found her to be a very good attorney. The Council finds Ms. Minella Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Bridget A. Mitchell

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected as Judge, Circuit Court, 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Bridget Anne Mitchell spent her career in private practice, with an extensive record of civil litigation in more complex matters. Judge Mitchell was elected to the bench in 2014. Judge Mitchell is considered to be a knowledgeable judge and is praised for her temperament. Her rulings are detailed and considered to be well-reasoned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Raymond W. Mitchell

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 2

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well-Qualified

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

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

Lisette Catherine Mojica

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Lisette C. Mojica was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997. Since 2016, she has been a deputy supervisor and the City Prosecutor at the City of Chicago's Department of Law. There, she supervises the Department's Legal Information & Prosecutions Division, and personally handles litigation and non-litigation matters for multiple City departments, including the Chicago Police Department, the Independent Police Review Authority, Office of Emergency Management & Communications, and the Mayor's Office. From 1997 to 2016, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where the positions she held included

supervisor of the Juvenile Justice Division (2014-2016), supervisor of the Preliminary Hearings Unit (2013-2014), trial specialist in the Sex Crimes Unit (2012-2013) and first chair in the Felony Trial Division (2007-2012). She has served as a member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and as a participant in Lawyers in the Classroom.

Ms. Mojica is considered to have very good legal ability. She is described as thorough and knowledgeable, and has had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters in a variety of areas of law. She is praised for her trial skills and also as her skills as a supervisor. She is reported to have a professional temperament and is exceptionally hard working. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lisette Mojica was admitted to practice in Illinois on November 6, 1997. She is a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She currently prosecutes felony cases as a first chair prosecutor. Ms. Mojica is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Teresa Molina

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District - Traffic

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2019.

Evaluation

November 2020 General Election and February 2020 Primary Election Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Teresa Molina was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since July 24, 2019, she has served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where she is assigned to the Traffic Section of the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, she served as Chief of Prosecutions for the Division of Real Estate in the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional

Regulation (2016-2019) and as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2001-2016), where she prosecuted criminal felonies and misdemeanors as well as civil cases related to the enforcement of child support.

Judge Molina is considered to have good legal ability. She had received good marks as a hard-working prosecutor before taking the bench. She is considered to be a good jurist in the limited time she has been on the bench. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Martin Paul Moltz

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Martin Paul Moltz has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1971. He has been at the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office in Elgin since 1972 and has been the Deputy Director of that office since 1997. From 1971 to 1972, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney; he was a clerk at that office for one year before that. Mr. Moltz was awarded his JD by the University of Oklahoma in 1969. He lists numerous bar association activities and has been on the Board of Directors of the Public Interest Law Initiative. He has taught legal research at Roosevelt University since 1987.

Mr. Moltz is considered to have good legal ability and to be a student of the law. Although his trial court experience is limited, he has extensive appellate court experience. He has authored substantial articles on criminal law issues. He has a very good temperament. The Council finds Mr. Moltz Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Caroline Kate Moreland

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar

10

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Caroline Moreland served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She was appointed to the bench to fill a judicial vacancy in September 2010. She was appointed to another vacancy in 2012 and elected to the bench in 2014. She is currently assigned to the Chancery Division.

Judge Moreland is considered to have extensive knowledge of the law and is praised for her courtroom management skills and innovations. She is reported to be fair and respectful to all parties. She is also praised for her punctuality in starting her court calls. She is a well-respected jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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.

Michael T. Mullen

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 8 General Chancery Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Michael T. Mullen was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice where he concentrated his law practice on personal injury cases and more specifically on cases that involved catastrophic personal injuries caused by medical negligence and product liability. From 1985 to 1991, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney where he was the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, and from 1982-1985 he worked as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. He won election to the bench in 2012. Since 2016, he has been assigned to the Chancery of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where he handles cases that include class actions, administrative review actions, and insurance coverage. Previously, he was assigned to the Chancery's Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section (2013-2016) and to the First Municipal District (2011-2013), where he served in the Traffic Section and the Felony Preliminary Hearing Section.

Respondents in this evaluation think he has good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for issuing well-reasoned, thoughtful decisions. He is considered well prepared and is reporting to be doing a good job managing his call. Judge Mullen is sought out by lawyers to help settle cases and he has served as a mentor to other judges. He is praised for putting into place procedures that led to a substantial decrease in the backlog found in the Mortgage Foreclosure Section of the Chancery Division. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Michael Mullen was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1981. He currently works as a partner at Paul B. Episcopo LLC specializing in personal injury litigation. From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Mullen was a partner at Mullen & Minella. While in private practice, he concentrated his law practice on personal injury cases and more specifically on cases that involved catastrophic personal injuries caused by medical negligence and product liability. From 1985 to 1991, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney where he was the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, and from 1982-1985 he worked as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General. Mr. Mullen has personally handled 20 cases as principal counsel on appeal and has orally argued 15 cases. He has authored a number of continuing education articles. From 2006 to present, Mr. Mullen has been a Chairman for the Board of Fire and Police Commission at the Village of Western Springs, and has also participated in CURE, a charitable organization designed to provide medical and dental services to the community.

Mr. Mullen is highly regarded as a very experienced trial lawyer with substantial experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He has experience as an appellate lawyer, as well. He is considered to have very good legal ability and his knowledge of his areas of law is regarded uniformly as excellent. He has a good temperament and is described by respondents generally as low key, effective as an advocate, and fair in his professional dealings. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

John G. Mulroe

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 General Election and February 2020 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge John Mulroe was admitted to practice in

1988. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before being appointed to the bench, he served in the Illinois legislature as a Senator from 10th Senate District. Judge Mulroe has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, a hearing officer with the Chicago Park District and an arbitrator with the Cook County Mandatory Program. His professional background includes working as a Certified Public Accountant.

As an attorney, Judge Mulroe was considered to have good legal ability and was respected for his trial skills and for his integrity. He was reported to have a very good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas R. Mulroy

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar "I"
Commercial Calendar Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation to fill a Circuit Court Vacancy: Well Qualified

Thomas Mulroy has practiced law since 1973. Since 2003, he has been Chairman of the Litigation Committee at McGuire Woods. For two years before that, he was a partner at Mulroy Scandaglia Marrinson & Ryan. From 1976 until 2001, he was at Jenner & Block. He spent 1972 to 1976 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Mr. Mulroy is considered to have excellent legal ability and temperament. He is involved in community service activities and has published articles. The Council is concerned that he provided little attention to the evaluation materials he supplied to the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening. On balance, however, the Council finds him Well Qualified.

James Patrick Murphy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar
25
Decedent Estates

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge James Patrick Murphy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995. Prior to becoming a judge, James Patrick Murphy served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since 2007, he has been assigned to the Domestic Violence Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where he presides over a misdemeanor/felony domestic violence call. He also served as Acting Supervising Judge for court in 2008-2009. His prior judicial assignment was the Traffic Section of the First Municipal Court (2006-2007).

Judge Murphy is considered to have very good legal ability, and is praised for his courtroom management. He balances well the need to keep his court call moving with giving all parties a fair opportunity to be heard. He is reported to be respectful to all those who appear before him. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James Patrick Murphy served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. He is assigned to the First Municipal District, Domestic Violence Division.

Judge Murphy received consistently high marks in all areas surveyed. Respondents believe that he knows the law and that his opinions are well-reasoned and "expressed cogently." He is also seen as very diligent. Respondents stated that he "always reads the pleadings prior to oral arguments," and "listens to both sides."

He was also highly praised for his courtroom management. Several of the interviewees stated that Judge Murphy "kept the call moving." One attorney even stated that this judge was "one of the best I've seen in Cook County" when asked about this judge's

courtroom management skills.

Repeatedly, the respondents stated that this judge was always “very respectful” of everyone who appeared before him. He is viewed as “professional” and “patient.” Judge Murphy is also viewed as a very fair judge whose integrity is beyond reproach. Several of the attorneys interviewed described this judge as “fair” and “even.” A few interviewees also mentioned how well this judge handles pro se litigants. He is said to treat them respectfully and give them a fair shot.

Judge Murphy is described as smart and respectful in the courtroom. He is reported to have good leadership skills and presently serves as a mentor to other judges. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

James Patrick Murphy has been Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since his admission to practice in 1995. Since 2002, he has been a First Chair in the Felony Trial Division assigned to Hon. Stanley Sack’s courtroom. Mr. Murphy is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has only about ten years of experience as a lawyer, but he has progressed through the State’s Attorney’s Office and now is responsible for some of the most serious and complex cases prosecuted by this office. He is respected by both prosecutors and defense counsel. The Council finds him Qualified.

Lorraine Murphy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Lorraine Mary Murphy was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. She is an Assistant State’s Attorney at the Cook County State’s Attorney Office, where she currently is First Chair in a felony courtroom at the George Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She is a

member of several bar associations, including the Chicago Bar Association, where she served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee.

Ms. Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to have a good temperament and is praised for her trial skills. She has substantial experience in complex litigation matters and is currently a lead prosecutor in a felony trial courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patrick T. Murphy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election - Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election - Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Judge Patrick T. Murphy was elected to the bench in 2004, and serves in the Fifth Municipal District Domestic Relations Division, where he runs the Unified Family Court Project. Previously, he served in the First Municipal District and the Sixth Municipal District Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Murphy was admitted to practice in 1964 after earning his J.D. Prior to election, Judge Murphy served as the Cook County Public Guardian. He was also an assistant Cook County state's attorney, an attorney with the National Legal Aid & Defender Program and Legal Assistance Foundation, and in private practice.

Judge Patrick Murphy is considered to have very good legal ability and is held in high esteem by many for his work as Public Guardian prior to the time he took the bench. But many practitioners report that he is inconsistent in his rulings as a judge. They say he often makes inappropriate, sometimes insulting remarks to the parties in front of him. Some say that he fails to follow the law, ruling in a way that he believes is correct. He is considered to be an advocate rather than a neutral arbiter. The Council respects Judge Murphy for his commitment to reform but finds him Not Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

2004 Primary and General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Patrick T. Murphy was admitted to practice in 1964. He has been the Cook County Public Guardian for the past 25 years. From 1981 to 1986, he worked part-time as Public Guardian while maintaining a solo practice. From 1976 to 1981, he was a partner in a private firm. His experience before 1976 included work as a consultant, a research fellow, an attorney for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the Legal Assistance Foundation, a member of the Peace Corps and an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

The judicial candidacy of Mr. Murphy presents a number of difficult questions. He is a very smart and hard-working lawyer who is a forceful and often effective advocate for children. He has attracted good lawyers to the Public Guardian's Office and is an accomplished litigator in a variety of areas. Over the years he has frequently helped lead the fight for systemic changes to better protect the rights of particularly vulnerable parties, such as abused children, elderly people with diminished capacities and the poor. The Council, however, is concerned whether Mr. Murphy possesses the requisite temperament to be a judge. We heard from many lawyers who find his dogged efforts on behalf of children and others to be enough to qualify him for a judgeship. But we also heard from many other

attorneys who expressed serious and substantial reservations as to whether Mr. Murphy has the capacity to put his personal views aside and be a neutral arbiter. These lawyers have criticized Mr. Murphy's tactics in seeking what Mr. Murphy viewed as the right result for a child, often without apparent regard for the viewpoints of others and in some cases seemingly without due deference for the wishes of his own wards. A substantial number of lawyers have also criticized Mr. Murphy's conduct toward opposing parties and counsel as often personal or as otherwise overzealous, including, on occasion, inappropriately leaking information to the press in an effort to gain a tactical advantage. To many lawyers, these tactics are a barrier to good advocacy, and reflect an inability to distinguish what Mr. Murphy personally believes the "correct" result to be from the use of inappropriate means to achieve it. This may be tolerable in an advocate, but if carried to the bench, it could seriously undermine Mr. Murphy's ability to be an even-handed judge. In light of these concerns, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas W. Murphy

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Thomas William Murphy was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. Prior to becoming a judge, Thomas W. Murphy was in private practice and a City of Chicago Alderman. Judge Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. He is the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division of the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Since 2010, he handled civil litigation matters there that include both Law Division and Municipal Division case. For his previous assignment at the Fifth Municipal District, he heard Misdemeanor and Traffic cases (2008-2009). Prior to that, he was assigned to the First Municipal Court, where he heard traffic and municipal civil cases.

Judge Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. He is respectful to all parties before him, and gives individuals an opportunity to address the court. He is reported to be well prepared for each case and makes sure that each person before him understands what is occurring. Overall, he is praised a solid jurist. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Thomas W. Murphy was in private practice and a City of Chicago Alderman. Judge Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. He was first assigned to the First Municipal Division, and transferred to the Fifth Municipal District in 2008.

Judge Murphy is praised for his professional temperament and his fairness. He “knows how to get things done” and is prepared. He is praised for his courtroom management. Judge Murphy appears to have earned the respect of the attorneys surveyed.

Several respondents also noted that Judge Murphy is particularly adept at handling pro se litigants and at handling conflicts in his courtroom. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Qualified

Thomas W. Murphy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1979. He has been an Alderman for Chicago’s 18th Ward for the past 15 years. Prior to 1991, Mr. Murphy was in private practice, and he has continued to practice law during his term as alderman. Mr. Murphy is considered to be a solid practitioner who is smart and well prepared. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Timothy P. Murphy

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 31

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Judge Murphy is considered to be a very capable judge, with good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his professionalism in the courtroom and for his knowledge of the law. The Council finds Qualified for retention.

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Timothy P. Murphy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1984. He has been in private practice handling family law matters for his entire career and has been a solo practitioner since 2001. Mr. Murphy has adequate legal ability and a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he has not demonstrated sufficient depth or breadth of legal experience. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Leonard Murray

Present Judicial Duties:

Acting Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District - Housing Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

November 2006 Election - Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Leonard Murray was admitted to practice in 1974. He spent his initial six years in practice with a large accounting firm and has been a solo practitioner with a varied practice, focused primarily in litigation since 1980. He has had substantial trial experience in both the civil and criminal area in virtually every division of the Cook County court system. Many attorneys and judges report that Mr. Murray is a courteous, competent and professional litigator. The Council is concerned, however, that Mr. Murray has been censured by the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, after admitting to numerous violations spanning more than six years. The Council finds him Not Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

David R. Navarro

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. David R. Navarro was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. In May 2017 he appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court of Cook County. He is currently assigned to Central Bond Court. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1993 to 2009. In 2009, he joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office, where he was chief of the Public Integrity Bureau. In 2007 he was appointed a special Assistant U.S. Attorney to work on an investigation involving the Chicago Police Department's Special Operations Section. He is widely praised for his knowledge, his trial skills, and his integrity. He is often described as being fair and honest. He is considered to have excellent legal ability and is praised for his supervisory skills, as well. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

P. Scott Neville, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Illinois Supreme Court

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999; elected to the Circuit Court in 2000; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2004; appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2018; elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2020.

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Illinois Supreme Court: Well Qualified

Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1974. In 2018, he was appointed to serve as a Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court. He has also acted as a liaison to the IPI Civil Instructions Committee, the Illinois Rules of Evidence Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Committee. Previously, he served as Judge of the Appellate

Court of Illinois (2004-2018) and as a Judge on the Cook County Circuit Court (1999-2004).

Justice Neville has been praised for his legal ability and for his diligence throughout his judicial career. His questioning during oral argument reflect his thorough preparation and understanding of the issues. He is generally praised for his integrity. Justice Neville has been involved in community activities and reform-minded efforts throughout his career. He is considered to be an excellent jurist with an understanding that judges can be active supporters of reforms aimed at improving the effectiveness and fairness of our courts. He actively works for improving the fairness and effectiveness of Illinois courts, and he is praised by social justice advocates for positions he has taken as a Supreme Court Justice. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

November 2012 Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge P. Scott Neville was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, by the Illinois Supreme Court on June 11, 2004. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1999 and was elected to the bench in 2000. He had extensive litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters before becoming a judge. He was reported to be a good trial judge before his appointment to the Appellate Court. Judge Neville has taught at the University of Chicago as an Annual Participant as a Judge and Lecturer from 1999 to present. He also was a Lecturer at Loyola School of Law from 2008-2011.

Judge Neville is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is reported to always well-prepared and he is praised for his questioning during oral argument and for his written opinions. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, P. Scott Neville was an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Department of Income Security, was in private practice, and worked with Chicago Transit Authority. Judge Neville was appointed as a Circuit

Court judge in 1999. He served in Traffic Court and Housing Court before being appointed to the Appellate Court in 2004. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 2012.

Judge Neville is regarded as an experienced and intelligent jurist. Before joining the Appellate Court, he had a reputation for being impartial and sensitive to issues of bias. He is considered diligent and hard-working. He is engaged in arguments before the court and prepared with questions for counsel. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

December 2002 Appointment to the Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge P. Scott Neville was appointed to the First Municipal District as a Circuit Judge in 1999. Prior to becoming a judge, he had extensive litigation experience in complex civil litigation, in election law cases, and in criminal and civil appeals. Judge Neville is considered by lawyers to have good legal ability and to be hard working. His integrity is unquestioned and he is especially praised for his fairness and his diligence. Based on his experience as a litigator with extensive appellate experience and his reputation as a solid judge, the Council finds Judge Neville Qualified for the Illinois Appellate Court.

2000 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

P. Scott Neville, Jr., 51, is a 1973 graduate of Washington University School of Law. He is currently sitting as an appointed judge in Branch 35. Prior to his appointment in December 1999, he specialized in complex civil litigation and

prosecuted criminal and civil appeals and election law cases. From 1987 to 1998, he was Per Diem Attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority. From 1990 to 1998, he also was a principal at Howse Howse Neville & Gray. From 1981 to 1990, he was a principal at P. Scott Neville, Jr. & Associates. For two years prior to that, he was a principal at Neville & Ward. He was of counsel for Howard Mann & Slaughter from 1977 to 1979. From 1974 to 1976, he was law clerk to an Illinois Appellate Court Justice. He has extensive litigation experience. He also has a reputation for integrity, diligence, and good legal knowledge and ability. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Lewis Michael Nixon

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 53
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001; elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 and is exceptionally knowledgeable about the law. He is praised for his courtroom

management. He is reported to be fair to all parties and treats everyone with respect. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court, 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

The Honorable Lewis Nixon was admitted to practice in 1974 and was appointed to the bench as an Associate Judge in 2001. He has served at different times as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a private attorney in civil practice, and counsel to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He received uniform praise for his legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament. His materials and interview answers also distinguished the candidate as having given considerable thought to the role of trial judge. We find the candidate Well Qualified.

James M. Obbish

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal and Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Divisions

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1997.

Evaluation

None

Brendan A. O’Brien

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar X Motions

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

2016 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

Joan Margaret O’Brien

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2000

Evaluation

2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Joan Margaret O’Brien was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. Prior to becoming a judge, Joan

Margaret O’Brien was a career prosecutor with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Judge O’Brien was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. Since 2011, she has been a felony trial courtroom judge in the Fifth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Bridgeview, Illinois. Her previous assignments in the Fifth Municipal District include various criminal and traffic courts, as well as the Drug Treatment and Veterans Treatment Courts (2010- 2014). Prior to that, she was assigned to the Child Protection Division in Juvenile Court (2000- 2008).

Judge O’Brien is considered to have good legal ability, and is reported to be a solid judge with good temperament and courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Joan Margaret O’Brien was a career prosecutor with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Judge O’Brien was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000. She was initially assigned to the Child Protection Division and presently serves in the Fifth Municipal District.

Respondents describe Judge O’Brien as having a good demeanor and better than average courtroom management skills. She is said to comport herself well and keep her courtroom on schedule and in order. Attorneys report that Judge O’Brien is prepared for court and, for the most part, had no complaints about her overall legal ability. She is called “pleasant and knowledgeable.”

Many respondents noted that Judge O’Brien takes care to explain her decisions. Most respondents say she is a solid judge with good temperament and ability to move her call efficiently.

However, Judge O’Brien has a reputation among some lawyers as being inappropriately prosecution-oriented. Some respondents believe that defendants are at a disadvantage in her courtroom. These respondents say she is considered overly harsh in her sentencing and more accommodating to prosecutors’ motions than defense motions. In general, though, Judge O’Brien is considered to be a good judge with very good temperament and courtroom management skills. The Council finds

her Qualified for retention.

2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

2000 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Joan Margaret O'Brien, 42, is a 1982 graduate of Drake Law School. She has spent her entire legal career in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. For the past three years, she has been Chief of the Municipal District, supervising about 150 prosecutors. From 1993 to 1996, she was Supervisor of the 1st Municipal District, and before that, she spent several months as Deputy Supervisor for felony review. She was a prosecutor in the felony trial division from 1989 to 1992. For five years before that, she was an Assistant State's Attorney, prosecuting felony narcotics cases, criminal appeals, traffic cases and misdemeanors. She has extensive criminal trial experience. She is known as a thorough, well-prepared, and fair-minded attorney. She has an excellent reputation for integrity and diligence. The Council finds her Qualified.

William T. O'Brien

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division, Second Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit

Court: 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. His is considered to have good legal ability and a professional demeanor on the bench. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

William Timothy O'Brien obtained his license in 1984 and has been employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office since then. He has been the Chief of the Narcotics Prosecutions Bureau since 1998. He has also been both Chief and Supervisor of the Felony Trial Division. Though currently a supervisor, he still takes complex and high-profile cases to trial. Mr. O'Brien has extensive trial experience and some appellate experience. The persons contacted consistently commented favorably on his integrity, character, professionalism, and fairness. He was reported to be diligent, punctual and professional. He was also described as having strong legal knowledge, particularly in the areas of DNA and scientific evidence. We find him Well Qualified to serve as a circuit court judge.

Ramon Ocasio III

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006

Evaluation

2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Ramon Ocasio III was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. Prior to becoming a judge, Ramon Ocasio III served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and as a Supervisor in the Cook County Public Defender's Office. He also worked in the Illinois Attorney General's Regional Consumer Fraud Office in Chicago. Judge Ocasio was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since January 2018, he has presided over a felony courtroom in the Fourth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Maywood, Illinois. His previous assignments in the Fourth District were to Drug Treatment Court and the preliminary hearing court call (2016-2018) and to misdemeanor/traffic court calls (approximately 2013-2015). Prior to that, he was assigned to Central Bond Court rotation.

Judge Ocasio is considered to have good legal ability and is notably knowledgeable. He has good court management skills, and is praised for explaining court procedures to the litigants before him. He is respectful to all persons before him, and is generally praised a solid jurist. Judge Ocasio is reported to seek alternatives to incarceration, whenever possible, and is considered to be well organized and always well prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Ramon Ocasio III served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender and as a Supervisor in the Cook County Public Defender's Office. He also worked in the Illinois Attorney General's Regional Consumer Fraud Office in Chicago. Judge Ocasio was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006 and assigned to the Bond Court rotation in the First Municipal District, where he currently sits.

The majority of responses indicate that Judge Ocasio has a good grasp of the applicable law. Judge Ocasio is viewed by a number of respondents as having a strong legal ability and as very diligent. Many interviewees mentioned that this judge did his own research and pulled his own cases. Many of the defense attorneys also stated that this judge "took time with every person who appeared before him," in order to make the best possible decision in regards to their bond.

Many respondents also believed Judge Ocasio had high integrity and that he was very fair. They often stated that he was "very professional" and did "nothing improper." One of the attorneys interviewed also stated that this judge "treats all of the defendants the same" and does not show bias. Judge Ocasio is reported to speak in Spanish to some defendants where appropriate to make sure that they understand everything. He is praised for judicial temperament, which is characterized as very low-key but effective.

There seems to be a conflict in respondents' assessment of Judge Ocasio, particularly because many prosecutors believe defendants are at an advantage in Judge Ocasio's courtroom. Some say he improperly sets cash bonds in burglaries and other nondrug felony cases without articulating an appropriate reason for doing so. Defense counsel, however, report that bonds are set correctly and that the judge makes sure the defendants understand their rights and the proceedings. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Ramon Ocasio, III was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989. Since 2000, he has been a supervisor in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender and is currently in the Criminal Division. From 1992 to 2000, he was an Assistant Illinois Attorney General with a practice in the Chancery Division. For four years before that, Mr. Ocasio was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. He was President of the Puerto-Rican Bar Association from 1996 to 1997. Mr. Ocasio is considered to be a zealous advocate for his clients, with good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial legal experience in both civil and criminal law, and he is praised for being hardworking and well-prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Eileen M. O'Connor

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2020

Evaluation

2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Eileen Marie O'Connor was admitted to practice in 2006. She specializes in civil litigation and has worked in several private law firms. Her focus is in personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, railroad and construction negligence, workplace injuries, and civil rights matters. She has handled other cases including criminal law on child abuse matters pro bono. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised as being hard-working. She has substantial motion practice in more complex legal matters. She is considered to have a good temperament and to be diligent and punctual. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kevin M. O'Donnell

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kevin M. O'Donnell was admitted to practice in 1988. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career, although he practiced with small firms for several years early in his career. His current practice concentrates on estate planning, probate, litigation, corporate work, and real estate matters. He is active in community activities. He is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He reports handling 35 relatively few trials, but he has been involved in substantial pretrial practice activities in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Margaret Ogarek

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Margaret M. Ogarek was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1999. Since that time, she has been an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she is currently a supervisor in the Child Advocacy and Protection Unit, and a deputy supervisor in the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Division. She has also worked in the Gang Crimes Unit (2007-2011), the Felony Trial Division (2003-2007), the Felony Review Division (2003), and the Misdemeanor Jury Trial Unit (1999-2003). She has served as vice president of the Illinois Prosecutor's Bar Association and an instructor at the National District Attorneys' Association.

Ms. Ogarek is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience as a prosecutor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James N. O'Hara

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar A Motion Section

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 is praised for his legal knowledge and legal ability. He is reported to have a good temperament and is fair to all parties. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and for the thoroughness and quality of his decisions. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Not Recommended

James N. O'Hara did not submit materials for evaluation. He is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Karen L. O'Malley

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Karen Lynn O'Malley was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice doing personal injury litigation. From 1992 to 2008, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Between 2003 and 2008, she served as a deputy supervisor in the Child Advocacy Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She has taught trial practice at Northwestern University School of Law. She was elected to the bench in 2012.

Since 2013, she has been assigned to the Decedent Estates call of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Her previous judicial assignments were in the First Municipal Division (2012-2013) and included Traffic Court, misdemeanor and felony Branch Courts, Forcible Detainer Actions, Contract and Tort Actions, and Pre-Trial Motion Call.

Judge O'Malley is considered to have good knowledge of the law and procedures in her current

assignment. She served as a faculty liaison for the 2018 Judicial Education Conference where she worked on the curriculum for a course addressing implicit bias. She is reported to be fair to all parties before her. She is praised for being well prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Karen Lynn O'Malley was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1992. Since 2008, she has been in private practice doing personal injury litigation. From 1992 to 2008, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Between 2003 and 2008, she served as a deputy supervisor in the Child Advocacy Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She has taught trial practice at Northwestern University School of Law.

She is considered to have good legal ability with a wide range of litigation experience in civil and criminal law matters. She is reported to have a good temperament and is praised for being hard-working and fair in her professional dealings. Respondents knowing her through both civil and criminal law matters praise her for being able to learn new areas of law quickly and thoroughly. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Shannon P. O'Malley

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

2018 Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Shannon P. O'Malley did not participate in the evaluation process. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Erika Lynn Orr

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Erika Lynn Orr was admitted to practice in 1998. She is a solo practitioner with substantial litigation experience in the family law area. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is a respected practitioner who is praised for her knowledge of the law in her practice area. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Marcia B. Orr

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Previous judicial experience

1995-1996: Traffic Court

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1985.

Evaluation

None

Susana L. Ortiz

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Susana L. Ortiz was admitted to practice in 2001. She is a staff attorney doing criminal defense litigation in the Law Offices of the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Prior to her current position, Ms. Ortiz worked as an Associate in the Law Offices of Raul Villalobos. She is praised as a good practitioner with good legal ability. She is reported to be

knowledgeable and to have good litigation skills. She has substantial litigation experience. Lawyers say she is a zealous and persuasive advocate for her clients. They also praise her for being trustworthy and for having a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael F. Otto

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2012

Evaluation

February 2014 Primary Election Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Michael Otto was admitted to practice in 1998 He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to be a judge in 2012. He is currently sitting in the Chancery Division, hearing foreclosure matters. The Council evaluated Judge Otto before he was appointed to the bench. At that time, he was a lawyer with the law firm of Jenner & Block. He was a judicial clerk for about ten years prior to joining Jenner & Block. He was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, lawyers report that he is doing a very good job in his current position. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jesse Outlaw

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 12

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jesse Outlaw was admitted to practice in 1980. Mr. Outlaw has been a solo practitioner in the City of Chicago for 33 years. He represents clients in real estate, divorce, probate and bankruptcy matters.

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

Donald D. Panarese, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Felony Preliminary Hearings

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1999

Evaluation

None

Joseph D. Panarese

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Civil Jury Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2004 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Joseph D. Panarese has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1988. After engaging in private practice for two years, he served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney between 1990 and 2000. Following an additional period of private practice between 2000 and 2001, Mr. Panarese became Chief of Staff in the City of Chicago Clerk’s Office. Mr. Panarese is considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and has acquired substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified.

Luciano Panici

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001.

Evaluation

March 2001 Appointment. Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Recommended

In March 2001, the Council found Mr. Panici Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

1998 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Lou Panici was admitted to practice in 1979. He has been in private practice throughout his career. He is the prosecutor for the city of Ford Heights and the corporate attorney for Bloom Township. He is considered by judges and attorneys to have good legal ability and to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

1996 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Luciano Panici, 43, has been practicing law for 16 years. He has been in private practice throughout his career. Much of his practice involves personal injury and workers' compensation matters. He is the prosecutor for Ford Heights and is a special counsel to the city of Chicago Heights, handling primarily tort-defense matters. Attorneys report that Mr. Panici has good legal ability and a good temperament. He is considered to be hard working and fair. The Council finds him Qualified.

Kathleen Ann Panozzo

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Kathleen Ann Panozzo has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney since being admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989. Since 2000, she has been a first chair prosecutor in the Gang Crimes Unit in the Felony Division. She has also served in the misdemeanor, jury call, felony review, and appeals sections. Ms. Panozzo is a 1989 graduate of John Marshall Law School.

Ms. Panozzo is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is well regarded as both a prosecutor and a supervisor. The Council finds Ms. Panozzo Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Nichole C. Patton

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Nicole Catina Patton was admitted to practice in 1997. Since 2010 she has served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, focusing on court proceedings involving mental health commitments. From 1997 to 2001 she served as an Assistant Cook County State’s attorney doing both civil and criminal matters. From 2001 to 2002, she was an attorney with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and from 2003 to 2010, she was with small firms or worked as a sole practitioner.

She is considered to be knowledgeable about the law and is described as a “go to” person in the State’s Attorney’s Office. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised as a good lawyer – a zealous advocate who is trustworthy and respectful both to clients and opposing counsel. She is active in community matters, and is the author of a recent article on expert witnesses. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Nicole Catina Patton was admitted to practice in 1997. Since 2010 she has served as an Assistant

Cook County State’s Attorney, focusing on court proceedings involving mental health commitments. From 1997 to 2001 she served as an Assistant Cook County State’s attorney doing both civil and criminal matters. From 2001 to 2002, she was an attorney with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and from 2003 to 2010, she was with small firms or worked as a sole practitioner. She is considered to be knowledgeable about the law and is described as a “go to” person in the State’s Attorney’s Office. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised as a good lawyer – a zealous advocate who is trustworthy and respectful both to clients and opposing counsel. She is active in community matters, and is the author of a recent article on expert witnesses. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Linda J. Pael

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Appointed Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2014

Evaluation

2010 Primary Evaluation Report: 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.

Alfred J. Paul

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 11

Previous judicial experience

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Motions Section; Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Complex Litigation Section; Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Pretrial Mediation Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1986.

Evaluation

None

Paul S. Pavlus

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Elected to Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Paul Steven Pavlus was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2014 he held a dual assignment to the First and Second Municipal Districts of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Skokie, Illinois. He hears traffic, misdemeanor, domestic violence, and felony cases. Prior to his current assignment he worked in preliminary courtrooms throughout the city of Chicago and in traffic court at the Daley Center.

Judge Pavlus is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for both being respectful to the parties before him but also being able to move his call efficiently. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Paul S. Pavlus has been a lawyer since 1991. For most of his career, Mr. Pavlus has served as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney, where he currently serves Deputy Supervisor and Suburban Coordinator for domestic violence courtrooms. He is very involved in community service activities. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and temperament. He is exceptionally knowledgeable about his area of law and enjoys a reputation of being a good advocate who is working to improve the legal system. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jennifer J. Payne

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Jennifer Joyce Payne was admitted to practice in 1990. Ms. Payne is currently a Supervisory Attorney at LAF (formerly known as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago). She supervises five staff attorneys in the areas of educational law and family law, while also managing her own caseload. She edits motions, pleadings, briefs and meets with attorneys about case strategy. She is also responsible for various administrative duties, such as overseeing grant compliance issues, community education and hiring staff. Ms. Payne has been employed by LAF since graduating law school and passing the bar. Ms. Payne has also led dozens of presentations throughout Cook County on topics that affect the poor. These presentations have pertained to issues such as domestic violence, public benefits and special education law.

Ms. Payne is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law and possesses very good legal ability. She is praised for her courtroom skills and for her integrity. Respondents say that she is professional in her demeanor, and is an effective communicator. She is a well-respected practitioner who zealously represents her clients

and works for systemic reform of the court system. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Jennifer Joyce Payne was admitted to practice in 1990. Ms. Payne is currently a Supervisory Attorney at LAF (formerly known as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago). She supervises five staff attorneys in the areas of educational law and family law, while also managing her own caseload. She edits motions, pleadings, briefs and meets with attorneys about case strategy. She is also responsible for various administrative duties, such as overseeing grant compliance issues, community education and hiring staff. Ms. Payne has been employed by LAF since graduating law school and passing the bar. Ms. Payne has also led dozens of presentations throughout Cook County on topics that affect the poor. These presentations have pertained to issues such as domestic violence, public benefits and special education law.

Ms. Payne is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law and possesses very good legal ability. She is praised for her courtroom skills and for her integrity. Respondents say that she is professional in her demeanor, and is an effective communicator. She is a well-respected practitioner who zealously represents her clients and works for systemic reform of the court system. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Jennifer Joyce Payne was admitted to practice in 1990. Ms. Payne is currently a Supervisory Attorney at LAF (formerly known as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago). She supervises five staff attorneys in the areas of educational law and family law, while also managing her own caseload. She edits motions, pleadings, briefs and meets with attorneys about case strategy. She is also responsible for various administrative duties, such as overseeing grant

compliance issues, community education and hiring staff. Ms. Payne has been employed by LAF since graduating law school and passing the bar. Ms. Payne has also led dozens of presentations throughout Cook County on topics that affect the poor. These presentations have pertained to issues such as domestic violence, public benefits and special education law.

Ms. Payne is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law and possesses very good legal ability. She is praised for her courtroom skills and for her integrity. Respondents say that she is professional in her demeanor, and is an effective communicator. She is a well-respected practitioner who zealously represents her clients and works for systemic reform of the court system. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Linda Perez

Present Judicial Duties:
Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Linda Perez was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since 2002, she has worked at the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where her current title is Assistant Public Defender III. She has held positions in the Felony Trial Division (2013-2018), the Juvenile Justice Division (2012- 2013, 2004), the Misdemeanor Division (2005-2012), and the Civil Child Protection Division (2002-2004).

Ms. Perez is considered to have good legal ability and has a professional demeanor. She has had a variety of experiences as an Assistant Public Defender and has defended more complex matters as part of her assignment to the Felony Trial Division for the past five years. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Marian Emily Perkins

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 62

Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Marian Emily Perkins was admitted to practice in 1987. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She is a sole practitioner doing criminal law and domestic violence cases. She reports being a trial advisor at the University of Chicago Mandel Clinic Intensive Trial Techniques Course. She is a Commissioner on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness and a Commissioner on the 2009 State of Illinois Disproportionate Justice Impact Study Commission. She is active in expungement-related pro bono service. Within 34 the last five years, Ms. Perkins has been lead counsel in more complex jury and bench trials, including a recent three day trial, and bench trials in juvenile and felony trial courtrooms. She has substantial recent experience in more complex litigation matters. Ms. Perkins is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her trial skills as well as for her civic activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Angela Munari Petrone

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Angela Petrone was admitted to practice in 1985. She has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since 1988 and is currently Supervisor of

the Delinquency Division. She has been Supervisor of the Child Advocacy Division and was a Deputy Supervisor of the Sex Crimes Division. From 1985 to 1988 she was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Ms. Petrone is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience as both a prosecutor and as a public defender. She brings to the bench her experience as a supervising attorney. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

1998 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Angela Petrone was admitted to practice in 1985. From 1985 to 1988 she was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. From 1988 to the present, she has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She is the Deputy Supervisor of the Sexual Crimes Division. Ms. Petrone has good legal ability and is considered to be fair and of high integrity. The Council finds her Qualified.

Diane M. Pezanoski

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department

District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Diane Marie Pezanoski was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. She began her career as an associate at Freeborn & Peters, focusing on contract law. In 1988, she transitioned to representing the City of Chicago and police officers in Federal civil rights litigation as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law. In 1991, Ms. Pezanoski was assigned to the Affirmative Litigation Division. In 1993 she became the Senior Supervising Attorney for the Commercial and Policy Litigation Division, Public Utilities Section. In 2001, she was promoted to Deputy Corporation Counsel of the Regulatory and Aviation Division (now known as the Aviation, Environmental, Regulatory, and Contracts Division) where she

currently works.

Ms. Pezanoski is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her supervisory ability. She has substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex areas of law – in both state and federal courts. She is reported to have a professional demeanor. She is considered to be a well-respected and hard-working practitioner. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Diane Marie Pezanoski was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. She began her career as an associate at Freeborn & Peters, focusing on contract law. In 1988, she transitioned to representing the City of Chicago and police officers in Federal civil rights litigation as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law. In 1991, Ms. Pezanoski was assigned to the Affirmative Litigation Division. In 1993 she became the Senior Supervising Attorney for the Commercial and Policy Litigation Division, Public Utilities Section. In 2001, she was promoted to Deputy Corporation Counsel of the Regulatory and Aviation Division (now known as the Aviation, Environmental, Regulatory, and Contracts Division) where she currently works.

Ms. Pezanoski is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her supervisory ability. She has substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex areas of law – in both state and federal courts. She is reported to have a professional demeanor. She is considered to be a well-respected and hard-working practitioner. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Diane Marie Pezanoski was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. She began her career as an associate at Freeborn & Peters, focusing on contract law. In 1988, she transitioned to representing the City of Chicago and police officers in Federal civil rights litigation as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law. In 1991,

Ms. Pezanoski was assigned to the Affirmative Litigation Division. In 1993 she became the Senior Supervising Attorney for the Commercial and Policy Litigation Division, Public Utilities Section. In 2001, she was promoted to Deputy Corporation Counsel of the Regulatory and Aviation Division (now known as the Aviation, Environmental, Regulatory, and Contracts Division) where she currently works.

Ms. Pezanoski is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her supervisory ability. She has substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex areas of law – in both state and federal courts. She is reported to have a professional demeanor. She is considered to be a well-respected and hard-working practitioner. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James Paul Pieczonka

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. James Paul Pieczonka spent most of his career as a sole practitioner doing both transactional work and litigation. In addition to his legal practice, he had 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. Judge Pieczonka had limited litigation experience when he was elected to be a judge in 2014. But lawyers say that he has overcome that weakness and has become a respected jurist. He is consistently described as being prepared and having a full understanding of the issues before him. He is praised for the thoroughness and quality of his rulings. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Cook County State’s Attorney. In 1975, he worked for the Cook County Assessor’s Office as the Chief Deputy Assessor. He became a partner at a civil and criminal litigation and real estate tax firm in 1980 before he became a solo practitioner from 1986 until 2008. He most recently was assigned to the Law Division before he was appointed to the First District Illinois Appellate Court in 2013.

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

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Daniel J. Pierce

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, First Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2008; assigned to Appellate Court in 2013

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Pierce was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008 and elected in 2010. He served early in his career as an Assistant

Michele M. Pitman

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001

Evaluation

2001 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Recommended

In March 2001, the Council found Judge Pitman, then known as Michele M. Simmons, Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

Dennis J. Porter

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge and Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1988

Evaluation

None

Joan E. Powell

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Appointed Circuit Judge in 2006 and was elected to the bench in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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. 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 and is calm and respectful to all persons in her courtroom. She works hard to be prepared. There are some lawyers who say she is too often indecisive in making her rulings, although most of these critics say she ultimately comes to the right decision. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2006: Qualified

Joan E. Powell has been practicing law since 1992. She maintained a solo practice between 1992 and 1996, focusing on contract, family, and elder law. She then became a Law Clerk with the Circuit Court of Cook County, and spent four years as a law clerk to the Honorable Joseph N. Casciato. From 2000 to the present, Ms. Powell has been an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney doing medical malpractice defense, employment and labor law, and civil rights litigation. Ms. Powell is reported to possess good legal ability and she is praised for her temperament. She is considered to be a good practitioner and has been involved in a sufficient amount of sophisticated litigation to warrant the Council finding her Qualified to fill a vacancy.

Patrick J. Powers

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar Y / 85 District 5

Elected to Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

Lorna E. Propes

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Lorna E. Propes was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975. Before becoming a judge, she was a partner in the firm of Propes & Kaveny LLC. She served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between 1975 and 1980. She has been in private practice since 1980, concentrating on medical malpractice, product liability, and personal injury litigation. She was appointed to the bench in 2010 and won election to the bench in 2012. Since 2013, she has been assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section of of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Previously, she had been assigned to traffic court at the Richard J. Daley Center (2010-2013).

Judge Propes is considered to be an excellent trial judge. She has very good legal ability and is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is respectful to litigants and is reportedly good with jurors. She is exceptionally hard working and conscientious. She enjoys a reputation of being fair to all who appear before her. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Lorna Propes was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010. She was admitted to practice in 1975. Before becoming a judge, she was a partner in the firm of Propes & Kaveny LLC. She served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between

1975 and 1980. She has been in private practice since 1980, concentrating on medical malpractice, product liability, and personal injury litigation. Judge Propes was considered to be an excellent trial attorney with substantial experience in more complex litigation matters. She brings to the bench a knowledge of both civil and criminal law. She has a good temperament and has been active in community service activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Lorna Propes was admitted to practice in 1975. She is currently a partner in the firm of Propes & Kaveny LLC. She served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between 1975 and 1980. She has been in private practice since 1980, concentrating on medical malpractice, product liability, and personal injury litigation. Ms. Propes is considered to be an excellent trial attorney with substantial experience in more complex litigation matters. She brings to the bench a knowledge of both civil and criminal law. She has a good temperament and has been active in community service activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Aurelia Pucinski

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Second Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004, elected to the Appellate Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Hon. Aurelia Pucinski became a trial judge in 2004. After serving in Traffic Court, she was assigned from 2005 to 2008 to Domestic Violence Court and was then assigned to the County Division where she heard 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. She was elected to the Appellate Court in 2010.

Justice Pucinski has worked hard to prepare herself to be an Appellate Justice. She has overcome a steep learning curve and is now considered to be well-respected appellate jurist. She is reported to be well-prepared, having read all materials and demonstrating an understanding of the issues before her. Lawyers report that her opinions are thorough and well-reasoned. She has worked on reform proposals regarding unrepresented litigants. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Appellate Court.

November 2010 Election, Appellate Court: 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.

2004 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Aurelia Pucinski is 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.

Ms. Pucinski had serious disagreements with the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County when she served as Clerk of the Circuit Court, but she brought integrity back to the Clerk's office. She is a hard worker and made important improvements in the operation of the Clerk's office.

Despite her admirable record of public service, however, the Council is concerned that Ms. Pucinski has little trial experience and has minimal appellate experience. Ms. Pucinski's strengths as an administrator qualify her for many important positions in both the private and public sectors, but they do not qualify her to be a trial judge. The Council believes that candidates for the Circuit Court bench must have significant experience litigating and trying cases, whether in paid or volunteer efforts. Unfortunately, while Ms Pucinski's record is replete with many significant accomplishments, she lacks the requisite legal experience. The Council finds Ms. Pucinski Not

Qualified.

Carolyn Quinn

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Probate Division, Calendar 1
Minor Guardianship Estates

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2003; appointed Associate Judge in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Carolyn Gerard Quinn was admitted to the bar in 1987. Since 2001, she has been employed by Hubert Fowler & Quinn, where the majority of her practice involves products liability and medical malpractice cases. For six months before that, she was an associate director and senior attorney at the American Medical Association. From 1997 to 2000, she was Law Clerk to Justice Mary Ann McMorrow of the Illinois Supreme Court. From 1994 until 1997, she was an associate at Cassidy Schade & Gloor. For five years before that, she handled trial and appellate level litigation as an associate at Kelley Drye and Warren. For the first two years of her career, Ms. Quinn was Law Clerk to Justice Allen Hartman of the Illinois Appellate Court. Ms. Quinn is a 1987 graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Since 1995, she has been on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility.

Ms. Quinn is considered by both lawyers and judges to have very good legal ability and temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned. She has a broad range of experiences as a lawyer and is well regarded as an exceptionally diligent, organized lawyer. Her litigation experience includes substantial appellate work. The Council is concerned that Ms. Quinn has relatively little trial experience, but we conclude that her appellate work, her clerkships, and her reputation for excellent legal knowledge offsets her litigation deficiency. The Council finds Ms. Quinn Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Jill Rose Quinn

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jill Rose Quinn was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. Ms. Quinn began her career at Michael Barford as an associate. She then spent three years at Mevorah and Associates. In 1988, she worked at Jegen and Associates handling municipal law matters. She worked there until she started a solo practice in 1996, focusing on real estate. Additionally, she has worked as a Cook County arbitrator and a DuPage County arbitrator.

Ms. Quinn is considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and has substantial litigation experience in more complex legal areas. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Marguerite A. Quinn

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

prepared. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Marguerite Anne Quinn was admitted to practice in 1986. She has been in private practice since 1999 where 99% of her practice is for the Tax Reactivation Program for the City of Chicago and for South Suburban Cook County. She had previously spent 12 years as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Ms. Quinn is considered to have good legal ability and has had both criminal and civil law experience. She is praised for being hard working and for her reliability. She is involved in substantial amounts of community service. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Clare J. Quish

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Non-Jury Civil Section

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election: Qualified

Clare Joyce Quish was admitted to practice in 2000. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She was a Partner with Schuyler Roche & Crisham P.C., serving as litigation counsel in a variety of commercial and civil litigation matters in both state and federal courts. She has also had an appellate practice in both state and federal courts, including the Illinois Appellate Court, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been a Partner since 2009 and an Associate between 2007 and 2009. From 2000 to 2007 she was a law clerk to Justice Mary Jane Theis when she was an Appellate Court judge. She has served as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Law School, and serves on the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee for Character and Fitness for the First Judicial District.

Ms. Quish is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in more complex

matters. She is well respected as a practitioner, and she is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Clare Joyce Quish was admitted to practice in 2000. She is a Partner with Schuyler Roche & Crisham P.C., serving as litigation counsel in a variety of commercial and civil litigation matters in both state and federal courts. She has also had an appellate practice in both state and federal courts, including the Illinois Appellate Court, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been a Partner since 2009 and an Associate between 2007 and 2009. From 2000 to 2007 she was a law clerk to Justice Mary Jane Theis when she was an Appellate Court judge. She has served as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Law School, and serves on the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee for Character and Fitness for the First Judicial District.

Ms. Quish is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in more complex matters. She is well respected as a practitioner, and she is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

William B. Raines

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. William B. Raines worked in law enforcement and served as an Assistant 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 Fremont 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. He was elected to the Court in 2014 and is currently assigned to the Fifth Municipal District.

Judge Raines is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to have good court management skills. He is considered fair to all parties and is patient and respectful on the bench. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Cynthia Ramirez

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Cynthia Ramirez was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990. Following her admission to the bar, Ms. Ramirez served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1990 to 1995, left the Office for private practice in 1996 to 1997, and returned to the Public Defender's Office from 1997 to 1998. She has served as an administrative law judge with the

Illinois Department of Human Services, and with the Illinois Department of Public Health. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2014, she has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. She was previously assigned to the Domestic Violence Division (2013-2014) and to the First Municipal District (2012-2013), where she presided over traffic matters and rotated through various misdemeanor and preliminary hearing courtrooms.

Judge Ramirez is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to be knowledgeable about her area of law and to possess a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Cynthia Ramirez has been practicing law since 1990. Following her admission to the bar, Ms. Ramirez served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1990 to 1995, left the Office for private practice in 1996 to 1997, and returned to the Public Defender's Office from 1997 to 1998. She has served as an administrative law judge with the Illinois Department of Human Services, and is currently an administrative law judge with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Ms. Ramirez is considered to have good legal ability, and is praised as an administrative law judge for her temperament and legal skills. She acquired first-hand litigation and courtroom experience both as an Assistant Public Defender and as a private practitioner. The Council finds her Qualified.

Sandra G. Ramos

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Felony Preliminary Hearings

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2010

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Ramos was elected to the bench in 2010. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in

April, 1986. She began her career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and then worked as a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense cases. She has been assigned to a variety of misdemeanor courtrooms. She currently is assigned to Branch 48 where she hears felony preliminary hearings.

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

November 2010 Retention Election: 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.

Pamela Reaves-Harris

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as a Circuit Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Pamela Reaves-Harris was admitted to practice in 1992. She was an Illinois State Representative for the 10th District. From 1996 to 2015 she was a sole practitioner

er and served as Assistant Vice President/Compliance Officer for Citibank between 1993 and 1995. She has served as an

Administrative Law Judge for several municipalities. She is considered to be smart and knowledgeable. She has an extraordinary record of community service and is well respected for her work as a practicing attorney and as an administrative law judge. She has an exemplary temperament. The Council is concerned that she has little litigation experience but we note that her overall experience demonstrates the ability to be a good judge. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Erica L. Reddick

Present Judicial Duties
Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Erica Lorraine Reddick was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. Prior to being appointed, Judge Reddick was an Acting Chief Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She has spent her career with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2013, she has been assigned to the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where she hears felony and post-conviction matters. Previously, she was assigned to the Chicago Traffic Center (2010-2011) and the Child Protection Division.

Judge Reddick is considered to have very good legal ability, and is very involved in judicial education sessions throughout Illinois. She is praised for her courtroom management skills and is respectful for all the parties before her. Her opinions are thoughtful, thorough, and issued in a timely fashion. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election: Qualified

Judge Erica L. Reddick was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the

Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. Prior to being appointed, Judge Reddick was an Acting Chief Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She has spent her career with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. As a lawyer, Judge Reddick was considered to have good legal ability. She had a wide range of experience in criminal law matters and was praised Page 36 of 45 for her litigation skills. She serves as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Election: Qualified

Erica L. Reddick was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. Prior to being appointed, Judge Reddick was an Acting Chief Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She has spent her career with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. As a lawyer, Judge Reddick was considered to have good legal ability. She had a wide range of experience in criminal law matters and was praised for her litigation skills. She serves as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Eve M. Reilly

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Civil Jury Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Jesse G. Reyes

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fourth Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1997; elected to Illinois Appellate Court in 2012

Evaluation

November 2012 Election to Illinois Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Jesse G. Reyes was elected as an Associate Judge in 1997. He currently sits in the Chancery Division hearing mortgage foreclosure matters. From 1995-1997, Judge Reyes worked as an Assistant Attorney at the Chicago Board of Education specializing in Civil Litigation, and from 1985 to 1995 he served as a Senior Supervising Attorney specializing in civil litigation at the City of Chicago Law Department, Torts Division. He was in private practice from 1984 to 1985. Judge Reyes has taught at the John Marshall Law School as a lecturer. He has written a Chapter on Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law and articles in the Women's Bar Association of Illinois Newsletter. Judge Reyes is exceptionally active in community service. Judge Reyes is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. He is always well-prepared and his rulings are often described as clear and well-reasoned. The Council finds him Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Jeanne Marie Reynolds

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar V / 82 District 2

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Jeanne M. Reynolds has been in private practice at the Law Offices of Reynolds & Reynolds since her admission to practice in 1986. She has a general practice representing corporations. She also

handles contract, commercial litigation, real estate, labor, employment, and probate matters. Since 2000, she has been a court-appointed pro bono guardian ad litem. Ms. Reynolds is considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and since 2002 has had substantial litigation experience. The Council finds Ms. Reynolds Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Judith C. Rice

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 31

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Before becoming a judge, Hon. Judith Rice was 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. Judge Rice was elected to the court in 2014 and currently is assigned to the Fourth Municipal District hearing domestic relations matters.

Judge Rice is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. She is reported to be fair to all persons before her, and lawyers note her extensive community involvement. She is reported to have good judicial temperament and is praised for her courtroom management. The Council finds her Qualified for

retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Elizabeth Loreda Rivera

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 41

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1998.

Evaluation

None

Kristal Royce Rivers

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Kristal Royce Rivers served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General where she practiced 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. Judge Rivers was elected to the bench in 2014 and is assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division.

Judge Rivers is reported to have good knowledge of the law and manages her courtroom efficiently and with respect for all persons. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Mary Colleen Roberts

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, First District

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge Mary Colleen Roberts was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. Prior to becoming a judge, Mary Colleen Roberts was a social worker and then served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She has also served as a hearing officer for the Cook County Circuit Court and an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago in the Law Department. Judge Roberts was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. Since 2015, she has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Fourth District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Maywood, Illinois. Her previous assignments were to the Cook County Criminal Court (2010-2015); the Felony Trial Court and the Access to Community Treatment Court (2012-2015), Municipal and Traffic Matters in the Fourth (2008-2010) and the First District Courts (2006- 2007), and the Juvenile Justice Division (2007-2008).

Judge Roberts is considered to have very good legal ability. Her rulings are reported to be thoughtful and thorough. She understands the relevant law and is praised for how she applies the law to the facts of the case. She has an excellent temperament and is well respected for her treatment of litigants unrepresented by legal counsel. Judge Roberts has good court management skills and runs her courtroom both efficiently and fairly. Before being assigned to her current call, Judge Roberts helped plan and was the founding judge for the Access to Community Treatment Courtroom 201 at the Leighton Criminal Courts Building, where she 24 received praise for her problem-solving abilities in this community treatment diversion court. The

Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Mary Colleen Roberts was a social worker and then served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She has also served as a hearing officer for the Cook County Circuit Court and an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago in the Law Department. Judge Roberts was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She has served in the Municipal and Juvenile Divisions, and is presently sitting in the Criminal Division.

Judge Mary Colleen Roberts received praise for all aspects of her judicial performance. She is described as "smart" and "hard working," a judge who tries to do the right thing. She is characterized as "even keeled," "professional" and "pleasant." Her court call is considered wellmanaged. Judge Roberts is well-respected both as a practitioner before becoming a judge and as a jurist – particularly in the Juvenile Justice Division. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Mary Colleen Roberts has been practicing law since 1989. Since 2003, she has been First Chair in the Complex Narcotics Prosecution Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. From 1998 until 2003 she was an Assistant Corporation Counsel and later a Supervising Attorney for the Chicago Department of Law. For two years before that she was a Hearing Officer in the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. From 1989 to 1996, she was an Assistant State's Attorney. Ms. Roberts is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has had broad experience in both criminal and civil law matters and was described as a "do the right thing" kind of prosecutor. She is praised as being exceptionally organized and hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Edward N. Robles

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2016

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Edward Robles was admitted in 1988. He is currently a partner with Sanchez, Daniels and Hoffman practicing civil litigation. As lead trial counsel he reports taking 10 civil cases to a jury trial. He has litigated 3 appellate cases. Mr. Robles is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be a good practitioner who is honest and hard-working. He is praised for being a mentor to other lawyers regarding litigation issues. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary K. Rochford

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fifth Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Court in 1991, elected to the Circuit Court in 2006, elected to the Appellate Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Well Qualified

Prior to being elected to the Appellate Court in 2010, Justice Rochford was an Associate Judge in 2001 and was elected to the bench in 2006. She has served in the Chancery Division, and had 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. Justice Rochford serves as chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and serves on the Supreme

Court's Committee on Equality.

She is praised for her extensive career as a trial and appellate judge, and as a person working for improving access to the courts for all persons. She is highly praised for her preparedness and for the quality of her opinions. She is also praised for her integrity and for being exceptionally hard-working. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Appellate Court.

November 2010 Election, Appellate Court: 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.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit

Court: Well Qualified

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

Patrick T. Rogers

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2006 for Primary Election: Not Qualified

Pat Rogers was admitted to practice in 1983. He has been in private practice since 1988 and, is currently a solo general practitioner handling municipal, criminal and traffic cases. From 1983 until 1988, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Since 1993, he has been a Supervisor for

the Township of Lyons and also serves as an Administrative Hearing Officer for several other cities. Mr. Rogers is considered to knowledgeable about his practice areas, which are mainly limited to traffic and municipal matters. His integrity is unquestioned and he has a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he has little experience in complex litigation matters and does not have the range of experience necessary to be judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Abbey Fishman Romanek

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 94

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Abbey Romanek served as a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Division. From 1987 until 2004, she was in private practice first handling 26 criminal defense matters and focusing for the next eleven years on medical malpractice cases. Judge Romanek was elected to the Court in 2014 and is assigned to the Domestic Relations Division.

Judge Romanek is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is praised for being prepared and for having a good temperament. She reportedly has good courtroom management skills and is fair to all persons in the courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified to be retained to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Joanne F. Rosado

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Joanne F. Rosado was admitted to practice in 2001. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. She is a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender. She is a First Chair Public Defender in murder cases, assigned to the Multiple Defendants Unit. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters in both civil and criminal law cases, having been assigned to the section doing child protection cases. Ms. Rosado is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her litigation skills and for being a strong advocate while maintaining a professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Diana Rosario

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 55

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Diana Rosario was 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. Judge Rosario was elected to the bench in 2014 and is assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Rosario is reported to be calm and thoughtful on the bench. She is reported to have good courtroom management skills in a courtroom where there are often heated disputes. Most lawyers say she has good legal ability and knowledge of the law, but some say she needs more experience when it comes to complex matters in her current assignment. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Lori Rosen

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lori M. Rosen was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. She has spent her entire legal career at the

Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she is currently an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Appeals Division. Other divisions of the Cook County State's Attorney Office she has been assigned to include the Felony Trial Division (2003-2010); the Felony Review Unit (where she was a trial supervisor, 2009); and the Preliminary Hearing Courts (2001-2003).

Ms. Rosen is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Geri P. Rosenberg

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Geri P. Rosenberg was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. She has spent her entire legal career in the Torts Division of the Chicago Transit Authority, where she currently is a chief attorney. She serves on the Membership Committee of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, and also participates in that organization's L2L Mentoring program.

Ms. Rosenberg is considered to have good legal ability. She is described as a formidable legal opponent and extremely knowledgeable in tort litigation. She is praised for her temperament. She is respected as a solid practitioner with very good litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Geri P. Rosenberg was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. She has spent her entire legal career in the Torts Division of the Chicago Transit Authority, where she currently is a chief attorney. She serves on the Membership Committee of the Women's Bar

Association of Illinois, and also participates in that organization's L2L Mentoring program.

Ms. Rosenberg is considered to have good legal ability. She is described as a formidable legal opponent and extremely knowledgeable in tort litigation. She is praised for her temperament. She is respected as a solid practitioner with very good litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Steven J. Rosenblum

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fifth Municipal District

Appointed as Associate Judge to Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

Dominique C. ROSS

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 34

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 and is praised for her courtroom management skills. She is reported to be good at getting the parties to resolve disputes. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Not Recommended

Dominique C. Ross did not submit materials for evaluation. She is Not Recommended for Circuit Court.

James J. Ryan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Civil Jury Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2004.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Judge Ryan is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to be a conscientious judge who is well-prepared and diligent. Practitioners say that he has a professional demeanor, and treats everyone fairly. In 2010, the Council noted that he

had a serious temperament issue. Our 2016 evaluation shows a very different judicial behavior. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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. His judicial career has mostly involved less complex matters. While many praise his ability to manage his voluminous court call, many lawyers report that he can be short-tempered on the bench. However, it has been reported that Judge Ryan has made positive steps to insure that all defendants receive a fair hearing in his courtroom. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified in his present assignment.

2004 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court: Not Recommended

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

Kristyna C. Ryan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected circuit judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Kristyna C. Ryan was in private practice. Judge Ryan is currently sitting at the Fourth Municipal District where she hears misdemeanors and is assigned to the Mental Health Treatment Court and the Veterans

Treatment Court. Judge Ryan was elected to the bench in 2008. She was assigned to the Fourth Municipal District in 2010.

Judge Ryan is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is praised for her courtroom management and for her temperament. She is considered to be a solid jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2008 Evaluation for Primary Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Kristyna Colleen Ryan did not submit materials for evaluation. She is Not Recommended for Circuit Court.

Stanley Sacks

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1988

Evaluation

March 1992. Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Stanley Sacks, 50, became an Associate Judge in 1988. He has been assigned to the Juvenile Division. Prior to his appointment, Judge Sacks was a lawyer with the Legal Aid Bureau for two years and an Assistant Public Defender from 1970-1981, where

he tried over 100 felony trials and served as a member of the Murder Task Force. From 1981-1985, he was in private practice, and from 1985-1988 he was an Assistant Corporation Counsel. He had a reputation as a good attorney before becoming a judge.

Judge Sacks is described by lawyers as fair, unbiased, very intelligent, talented, professionally demanding, and of the utmost integrity. His courtroom is organized and efficient. He issues written opinions, which are organized, detailed and concise. He is diligent in his study of the law. Many attorneys consider him to be a model judge.

Because of the widespread praise of his work as a judge, the Council finds Judge Sacks to be highly qualified for the Circuit Court.

Stephanie D. Saltouros

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division and Second Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Stephanie D. Saltouros was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. In September 2016 the Illinois Supreme Court appointed her as a Circuit Judge. She is currently assigned to the First Municipal District in Cook County Circuit Court. Previously, she was a solo practitioner with a practice focused on criminal defense (2008-2016), and an Assistant Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1996-2008), where she prosecuted criminal and traffic cases. She is a member of the Pensions and Benefits Committee of the Illinois Judges Association.

Judge Saltouros is considered to have good legal ability. Respondents praised her as a prosecutor, a criminal defense practitioner, and as a judge. She is reported to have a professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court

Beatriz Santiago

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Beatriz Santiago was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender defending felony cases in the Juvenile Division. For three years she was in private practice doing personal injury litigation. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since February 2017, she has been assigned to handle traffic and misdemeanor cases in the Third Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. She has also been assigned to Marriage Court (2015-2017), misdemeanor branch courts (2013-2014), and Traffic Court at the Daley Center (2012-2013).

Judge Santiago is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her temperament and for her courtroom management, and in particular for the way she communicates with defendants who are unrepresented by counsel. The Council is concerned that in 2015, a Judicial Inquiry Board complaint involving misrepresentation in a personal mortgage refinancing matter resulted in her being censured. But in balancing this ethical issue against the generally positive comments the Council has heard about Judge Santiago's judicial performance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Beatriz Santiago was admitted to practice in 1996. She is an Assistant Cook County Public Defender defending felony cases in the Juvenile Division. For three years she was in private practice doing personal injury litigation. She is active in community affairs. As an Assistant Public Defender she has tried over 200 bench trials to verdict.

She is considered to have very good legal ability with good litigation skills. She was praised by both judges, colleagues, and prosecutors as being a zealous advocate for her clients while maintaining a professional demeanor. She is praised for her integrity. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bernard J. Sarley

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 9I

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified (Evaluated in 2006)

Bernard Sarley has been an Assistant Cook County Public Defender since his admission to practice law in 1981 and has been on the Homicide Task Force for the past twenty years. Mr. Sarley enjoys a reputation of being a solid practitioner with very good legal ability. He has a professional demeanor and is known for his fair and zealous representation of his clients. He is respected for the mentoring that he provides to younger lawyers. The Council finds him Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Regina A. Scannicchio

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 62

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2012

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Regina Ann Scannicchio was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice with a focus on family law. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2012, she has been assigned to the Domestic Relations

Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Previously she was assigned to the Traffic Division of the First Municipal District (2011-2012).

Judge Scannicchio is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and for always being well prepared. She is considered to be a solid jurist who does a good job of controlling her courtroom, and issuing accurate and timely decisions. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Regina Scannicchio has been in private practice since her admission to the bar in 1989. From 1989 to 1992, Ms. Scannicchio was associated with a general litigation firm, but her current practice consists mainly of family law and some real estate matters. Ms. Scannicchio is considered to have good legal ability and she is praised by both lawyers and judges for her professional demeanor. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and enjoys a reputation as a solid practitioner. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Andrea M. Schliefer

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 73

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Andrea M. Schleifer was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in November 2010. Before taking the bench, she was a solo practitioner concentrating in family law matters for most of her career since being admitted to practice in 1979. From 1986 to 1987, she was a partner in the general practice firm of Kaszak & Schleifer. From 1980 to 1981, she was a partner in the general practice firm of Mullane & Schleifer. She was elected to the bench in 2012. Since 2011, she has been assigned to the

Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Previously she was assigned to the Forcible Entry and Detainer section at the Daley Center (2010-2011) and to the Traffic Division of the First Municipal District (2010).

Judge Schleifer is described as a hard-working jurist who is concerned about justice. Her temperament is described as being patient and respectful. There are some lawyers who question her application of the law to the facts of the case, but most lawyers say that she has good legal ability and is a solid jurist. She is reported to be doing a good job of managing her courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Andrea Schleifer was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in November 2010. Before taking the bench, she was a solo practitioner concentrating in family law matters for most of her career since being admitted to practice in 1979. From 1986 to 1987, she was a partner in the general practice firm of Kaszak & Schleifer. From 1980 to 1981, she was a partner in the general practice firm of Mullane & Schleifer. Judge Schleifer is reported to have very good legal ability and temperament. As a lawyer she has substantial litigation experience in complex matters and was praised for her community service and for her service to the legal profession. The Council finds her Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Andrea Schleifer was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in November 2010. Before taking the bench, she was a solo practitioner concentrating in family law matters for most of her career since being admitted to practice in 1979. From 1986 to 1987 she was a partner in the general practice firm of Kaszak & Schleifer. From 1980 to 1981, she was a partner in the general practice firm of Mullane & Schleifer. Ms. Schleifer is reported to have very good legal ability and temperament. As a lawyer she has substantial litigation experience in complex matters and was praised for her community service and for her service to the legal profession. The Council finds her Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Catherine A. Schneider

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Civil Jury Section, Motions

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

Naomi H. Schuster

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 22

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Naomi H. Schuster was admitted to practice in 1978. Ms. Schuster has had a private general practice for her entire career. Since 1992, she has been a solo practitioner. Before then, she was a partner (1982 to 1992) and an associate (1978 to 1982) in general practice firms. She is chair-qualified in the Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Program. Ms. Schuster is a 1978 graduate of DePaul University College of Law.

Ms. Schuster is highly regarded for having broad-based knowledge of real estate and probate law. She serves as guardian ad litem for children and disabled adults and is considered an excellent litigator. She has an excellent temperament. The Council finds Ms. Schuster Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Joseph M. Sconza

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Housing Section and Chancery Division, Calendar 65

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Not Qualified

Joseph M. Sconza was admitted to the bar in 1971. He has been a solo general practitioner since 1979. From 1973 to 1979, he was a staff attorney at the

Chicago Transit Authority. For one year before that, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Sconza is a 1971 graduate of IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. He has been an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Chicago and is a Cook County Arbitrator.

Mr. Sconza is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he has insufficient trial experience in sophisticated and complex matters. The Council finds Mr. Sconza Not Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Debra Ann Seaton

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Sixth Municipal District

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Debra A. Seaton was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. She was appointed to the bench as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in May 2017. Between 2010 and the time of her appointment to the bench, she served as a supervisor at the Legal Resources Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she also worked from 1988 to 2000. She has also worked as a solo practitioner, focusing on defending death penalty cases (2000-2010); as an Assistant Public Defender in the Kane County Public Defender's Office in Geneva, IL (1987- 32 1988); and as an Assistant Appellate Public Defender at the Office of the State Appellate Defender, in Mt. Vernon, IL (1986-1987). She has provided pro bono services at the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School, and is a participant in the ABA Mock Trials.

Judge Seaton is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to be very knowledgeable, and is a zealous but highly ethical practitioner. She has substantial litigation experience in complex matters, and is praised for her trial skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Robert E. Senechalle, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluation for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Robert E. Senechalle, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1973. He has been in private practice for his entire career. His practice currently focuses on business transactions and commercial real estate matters, but his early years of practice were in litigation. He was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General to represent the State in a condemnation hearing in 1973-74. He has also been a member of the Illinois Armory Board (1980-1982). Mr. Senechalle graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 1972.

Mr. Senechalle is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is well regarded as a solid practitioner with a variety of litigation experience. The Council finds Mr. Senechalle Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Rouhy J. Shalabi

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department District 4

Appointed as Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Rouhy J. Shalabi was admitted to practice in 1981 and has always been in private practice. He has a wide variety of legal experience, including litigation experience. He has substantial community volunteer experience, including serving on the Community Advisory Board for the Chicago

Police Department. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James A. Shapiro

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Department, Calendar 31

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

James A. Shapiro was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. He is a solo practitioner who focuses on federal and state criminal defense matters, and occasionally on civil litigation. He has worked on similar matters as an associate or partner for a number of private law firms (1996-2007; 1985-1989). He has also been a Circuit Court Judge assigned to the Maywood court (2007- 2012), and an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office (1989-1995). He is a past president of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers (2007-2008), and has chaired several committees for the Chicago Bar Association. He has provided pro bono services for a number of organizations, including Amicus Poloniae (a CVLS-affiliated group, 2013-present) and the Center for Disability and Elder Law (1996-2006).

Judge Shapiro has been found Qualified for the Circuit Court by the Council in past evaluations. As a practitioner, he has had substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters, and in both trial and appellate court matters. He received praise from practitioners for his legal ability and for his diligence both as a practitioner and as a judge. He is also reported to have a professional demeanor in both capacities. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Terrence V. Sharkey

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division, Calendar 63

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1995; Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1999.

Evaluation

1998 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Terrence Sharkey was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1995. He left the bench in 1996 after serving in the First Municipal District. For the past year, he has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney doing felony prosecutions. He was also a prosecutor between 1986 and 1995. He was an FBI Special Agent between 1983 and 1986 and served as a Chicago police officer between 1971 and 1983. Mr. Sharkey was respected as a good judge and as a good prosecutor. He has a good temperament and is fair. The Council finds him Qualified.

Patricia O'Brien Sheahan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar D Motion Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Patricia O'Brien Sheahan was the Associate General Counsel of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, where she oversaw all litigation and claims made against her employer and its employees. From 1996 to 1999 she was a litigation associate with Baker & McKenzie in Chicago, working in the litigation and employment litigation practice groups. Judge Sheahan was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014 and is assigned to the Law Division. Judge Sheahan is considered to be a solid jurist with good legal ability and knowledge of the law. Lawyers say she understands even complex issues and has a calm demeanor on the bench. She is also praised for her courtroom management. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court:

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 27 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.

Diane M. Shelley

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar W Commercial Calendar Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Diane Moore Shelley was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984. Prior to becoming a judge, Diane Shelley was in private practice. She also served as a hearing officer for the City of Chicago Department of Revenue. She was the Head Assistant Attorney for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Judge Shelley was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006.

Since January 2017, she has been assigned to the Law Division, Commercial Calendar Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Previously she was assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section (2014-2017); the First Municipal District's Civil Jury Trial Section (2010-2014) and Forcible Entry and Detainer (2008-2010), and the Domestic Violence Court (2006-2008).

Judge Shelley is considered to possess good legal ability and knowledge. She is praised for her temperament, and for being well prepared. She is reported to make timely rulings that are fair to all parties. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Diane Shelley was in private practice. She also served as a hearing officer for the City of Chicago Department of Revenue. She was the Head Assistant Attorney for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Judge Shelley was elected to the Circuit Court in 2006. She was initially assigned to the Domestic Violence Division, and transferred to the First Municipal District in January 2010.

Respondents generally had a positive opinion of Judge Shelley, considering her "effective, efficient and professional." She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She appears to be handling her cases in a timely and professional fashion. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Diane M. Shelley was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1984. Since 1991, she has worked for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and is currently Head Assistant Attorney, and has handled complex cases in that position. Before that, she spent seven years in private practice, including six years as a solo practitioner. Ms. Shelley is a knowledgeable practitioner and is considered a zealous advocate for her clients. She is active in community affairs. There have been occasional questions about her temperament, but on balance, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patrick J. Sherlock

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar Q Commercial Calendar Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Patrick J. Sherlock was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007 and elected to the Court in 2008. 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 assignments include the First Municipal District where he heard post-judgment enforcement matters.

Judge Sherlock is reported to have a good temperament with good courtroom management skills. He is praised for treating all parties in his courtroom with respect and professionalism. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2006 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Qualified

Patrick Sherlock has practiced law since 1990. For the past 12 years he has handled a variety of primarily civil litigation as a solo practitioner. Prior to that, from 1990 until 1994, he was an associate at two different firms handling securities and commercial litigation matters. Mr. Sherlock is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has sufficient litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Athanasios (Tom) S. Sianis

Present Judicial Duties: Circuit Judge, Municipal Department, First District - Traffic Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Athanasios (Tom) S. Sianis was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2004. Since 2012, he has been Enforcement Division Chief of the Illinois Secretary of State Securities Department, as well as a Special Assistant Attorney General to prosecute fraud cases (2016-present). Previously, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney (2005-2012) and focused on felony, preliminary hearing, domestic violence, and child support enforcement matters.

Mr. Sianis is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience in both bench and jury matters, and is praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court

Rosa M. Silva

Present Judicial Duties
Circuit Judge, Municipal Department, First District - Traffic Section

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Rosa Maria Silva was admitted to practice in 2001. She is an Assistant Cook County Public Defender assigned to the Felony Trial Division. From 2001 to 2002 she represented clients in divorce and real estate matters. From 2002 to 2003 she served as an Assistant Will County Public Defender. She is very active in bar association and civic activities. She is reported to have good legal ability and is considered to be a hard-working defense counsel with good temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Darryl B. Simko

Present Judicial Duties
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 58
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2001; elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2005.

Evaluation

2005 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Darryl B. Simko was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. He currently sits as a Circuit Court Judge in the Traffic Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he served in the Civil Appeals Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and as a Law Clerk to Justice Charles E. Freeman. He has also clerked for Appellate Court Justices John M. O'Connor, Jr. and Francis S. Lorenz. He also served as Law Clerk to Judge Anthony J. Scottillo. From 1988 to the present, Judge Simko has served as an Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law.

Judge Simko is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. He is reportedly doing a good job in his current assignment. The Council is concerned about his lack of substantial trial court experience before he became a judge, but on balance the Council finds him Qualified.

September 2002 Appointment, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Darryl Simko was licensed as an attorney in Illinois in 1985. From 1985 to 1996, he served as a law clerk in progressively higher courts up through the state judiciary, culminating in 1992-96 with service to Justice Charles Freeman. Since 1996, Mr. Simko has worked for the Illinois Attorney General in the Criminal (and later, Civil) Appeals Bureau. By nearly all accounts, Mr. Simko has done well in each of his jobs as a lawyer, and is regarded as smart, even-tempered, ethical and diligent. He was appointed to fill a judicial vacancy and currently sits in Traffic Court where he has received good marks by lawyers who appear before him. While recognizing the candidate's many virtues, his one glaring weakness is a near absence of trial experience before taking the bench (he lists only one habeas corpus bench trial in federal district court). The candidate also appears to lack a professional background in administration that might compensate for this deficit. Despite the fact that Mr. Simko has been serving adequately in Traffic Court, he lacks sufficient trial experience in sophisticated and complex matters and we cannot be confident that this candidate will be capable of conducting the kind of complex trials that may face him in his next judicial assignment. For this reason, the Council finds Mr. Simko Not Qualified for Circuit Court at this time.

February 2001 Appointment, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Darryl Simko was licensed as an attorney in Illinois in 1985. From 1985 to 1996, he served as a law clerk in progressively higher courts up through the state judiciary, culminating in 1992-96 with service to Justice Charles Freeman. Since 1996, Simko has worked for the Illinois Attorney General in the Criminal (and later, Civil) Appeals Bureau. By nearly all accounts, Simko has done well in each of his jobs, and is regarded as smart, even-tempered, ethical and diligent. While recognizing the candidate's many virtues, his one glaring weakness is a near absence of trial experience (he lists only one habeas corpus bench trial in federal district court). The candidate also appears to lack a professional background in administration that might compensate for this deficit. Minus such experience, we cannot be confident that this candidate will be capable of managing a high-

volume courtroom or conducting a complex trial. For this reason, the Council cannot recommend Simko for the Circuit Court at this time.

John Anthony Simon

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department
District 1 - Traffic Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

John A. Simon was admitted to practice in 1985. He is active in pro bono activities, including work with the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Diversity Scholarship Foundation. He is a litigation partner in the Chicago office of Drinker Biddle & Reath where he represents clients in state and federal courts, appellate courts, and before government agencies. He also served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General from 1986-1993.

Mr. Simon is considered to have very good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience in a variety of more complex matters. He is praised for his temperament, his litigation skills, and for his integrity. He serves as a mentor to less experienced lawyers. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

David A. Skryd

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2004; elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007

Evaluation

2006 Evaluation for Associate Judge: Qualified

Hon. David A. Skryd was appointed Circuit Judge in 2004. From 1995 until his appointment, he was a

solo general practitioner. From 1991 to 1995, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 1986 until 1991, he was a partner in a general practice firm. From 1999 to 2000, he was the Township Attorney for Berwyn Township. He was admitted to practice in 1986. Judge Skryd is reported to be doing a good job on the bench. While the Council had some concerns about the level of Judge Skryd's experience before he took the bench, based upon his performance to date, the Council finds him Qualified for the position of associate judge.

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Not Qualified

David A. Skryd was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. Since 1995, he has been a solo general practitioner. From 1991 to 1995, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 1986 until 1991, he was a partner in a general practice firm. From 1999 to 2000, Mr. Skryd was the Township Attorney for Berwyn Township. Mr. Skryd is a 1986 graduate of IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Mr. Skryd is considered to have adequate legal ability and temperament. He has focused his practice in recent years on traffic and misdemeanor defense work, and is considered a capable practitioner in these areas. The Council, however, is concerned that Mr. Skryd does not have recent, substantial trial experience in sophisticated and complex areas of the law. In addition, there were questions raised about his candor during Mr. Skryd's evaluation interview. The Council finds Mr. Skryd Not Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Cara Lefevour Smith

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in 2019

Evaluation

James G. Fitzgerald Smith

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Third Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1989; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2002

Evaluation

November 2012 Retention Election, Illinois Supreme Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James Smith as an Assistant Corporation Counsel of Chicago and City Attorney and City Prosecutor of Des Plaines. Judge Smith was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1989 and elected in 1994. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 2002.

Judge Smith is well-prepared and mild-mannered on the bench. Attorneys with experience before Judge Smith note that he has a good reputation among appellate attorneys and is known for asking good questions during argument. He is a well-respected appellate justice. His opinions are well reasoned and well written. He is good on oral argument and is well respected within the appellate circle. He was criticized in the past for his temperament as a trial judge, but has received nothing but praise as an appellate judge.

Judge Smith is praised for his advocacy of the Settlement Committee. He receives praise for settling cases and for the quality of his opinions. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Illinois Appellate Court.

Levander Smith Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Levander Smith, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019, and was then elected in 2019 as a Cook County Associate Judge by the Circuit Judges. Before taking the bench, he was a litigation attorney at the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Previously he was supervisory regional counsel for DCFS (2011-2015) in St. Clair County, Illinois; Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in Missouri, Labor Division (2006-2011); associate at Cordell & Cordell, P.C. (2005); Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2003-2004); intermediate attorney in the St. Louis (Missouri) Family Court (2000-2003); and regional counsel and field regional counsel at DCFS in Cook County (1993-1999) and St. Clair County (1999-2000).

Judge Smith has substantial litigation experience and is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his trial skills. He is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Levander Smith, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. He is currently a litigation attorney at the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Previously he was supervisory regional counsel for DCFS (2011-2015) in St. Clair County, Illinois; Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in Missouri, Labor Division (2006-2011); associate at Cordell & Cordell, P.C. (2005); Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2003-2004); intermediate attorney in the St. Louis (Missouri) Family Court (2000-2003); and regional counsel and field regional counsel at DCFS in Cook County (1993-1999) and St. Clair County (1999-2000).

Mr. Smith has substantial litigation experience and is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his trial skills. He is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges

Evaluation Report: Qualified

Levander Smith, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. He is currently a litigation attorney at the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Previously he was supervisory regional counsel for DCFS (2011-2015) in St. Clair County, Illinois; Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in Missouri, Labor Division (2006-2011); associate at Cordell & Cordell, P.C. (2005); Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2003-2004); intermediate attorney in the St. Louis (Missouri) Family Court (2000-2003); and regional counsel and field regional counsel at DCFS in Cook County (1993-1999) and St. Clair County (1999-2000).

Mr. Smith has substantial litigation experience and is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his trial skills. He is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Tiesha L. Smith

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

2020 Election, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

Did not participate in the evaluation process

James E. Snyder

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar Y
Commercial Calendar Section

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007

Evaluation

2004 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

James E. Snyder was admitted to practice law in

Illinois in 1988. Since 2000, he has served as General Counsel to the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Between 1994 and 2000, he was a sole practitioner representing small businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations and local governments. During this time Mr. Snyder served as a Hearing Officer with the City of Chicago and as a City of Chicago Personnel Board Hearing Officer. From 1988 to 1991 he served as a staff attorney for the Chicago Housing Authority, working in forcible entry and detainer courtrooms. Mr. Snyder is described as a hard-working, knowledgeable practitioner with an excellent temperament. He has sufficient litigation experience and is reported to have good legal ability. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Irwin J. Solganick

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1986.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Irwin J. Solganick was elected to the bench in 1986. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. He has also served in the First Municipal District and the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Solganick was admitted to practice in 1972. Prior to election, he was an assistant state's attorney and also in private practice.

Judge Solganick is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and for his ability to grasp more complex issues that come before him. The Council is concerned that Judge Solganick can be short-tempered on the bench. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Irwin J. Solganick sits in the Law Division. He was originally elected to the bench in 1986 under circumstances that raised some questions. He has adequate legal ability and lawyers report that he is decisive. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention, Circuit Court: Qualified

Irwin J. Solganick, 50 sits in the Law Division. He was elected to the bench in 1986. He has adequate legal ability and his integrity and fairness is unquestioned. Lawyers report that he is an honest and patient judge who is not afraid to make decisions. He is praised by those winning and losing before him as being decisive. He runs a tight courtroom but can get angry if lawyers do not cooperate with his rules. Yet most lawyers overlook the occasional anger because they are pleased with his courtroom efficiency. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 1992 Retention, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge Solganick, 46, was elected to the Circuit Court in 1986. Since his election, he has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Prior to running for the bench, Judge Solganick was an Assistant State's Attorney, and he also worked in the law firm of former Alderman, County Democratic Chairman, and County Republican Chairman, Edward

Vrdolyak.

On the bench, Judge Solganick is reported to be a good judge. Most attorneys contacted say he is capable and fair, with adequate legal ability. A few attorneys claim that he is apparently bored in his position in the Domestic Relations Division, and is no longer diligent in his work.

Two incidents raise some questions about Judge Solganick's qualifications. First, Judge Solganick took the bench in 1986 under unusual circumstances. He overheard a conversation in a bar that Judge Sulski was not running for retention. That information was not yet publicly known. Judge Solganick went to his then-employer, Mr. Vrdolyak, and asked if it was true that Judge Sulski was planning to retire. Mr. Vrdolyak said he did not know, but encouraged Judge Solganick to run for the race. Mr. Vrdolyak helped Judge Solganick obtain the necessary petition signatures.

Judge Sulski filed his notice that he was not running for retention hours before the filing deadline for candidates who wished to succeed him. Two candidates, Judge Solganick and an Assistant State's Attorney who knew Judge Sulski and had learned of his plans, filed petitions. The other candidate subsequently withdrew his petitions, and Judge Solganick was left as the sole candidate. The General Assembly has subsequently amended the law to prevent a similar situation from recurring.

At his interview, Judge Solganick told us that he could understand why the Council and other judicial candidates might feel that his actions were inappropriate. He defended them as being within the law at the time, which they were.

Second, Judge Solganick's name came up in the trial of Judge David Shields, the former presiding judge of the Chancery Division, and Pat DeLeo, an attorney, who were convicted of federal criminal offenses arising out of Judge Shields' judicial position. During the trial, tapes were played of Judge Shields' and Mr. DeLeo's discussions in Judge Shields' chambers. The Government argued that Mr. DeLeo was in Judge Shields' chambers to bribe him. The defense argued, in part, that Mr. DeLeo was in Judge Shields' chambers discussing the possibility of reassigning their mutual friend, Judge Solganick, to the Chancery Division. There was absolutely no suggestion that Judge Solganick

was in any aware or involved in the corrupt activities for which Judge Shields and Mr. DeLeo were convicted.

Judge Solganick acknowledged in his interview that he was unhappy with his assignment to the Domestic Relations Division, and that he had mentioned to Mr. DeLeo, an acquaintance, that he would like to be assigned to the Chancery Division. Again, there is absolutely no suggestion that Judge Solganick has done anything illegal or unethical.

Judge Solganick's mode of gaining the bench, together with his conversation with Mr. DeLeo about judicial assignments, raise questions to some lawyers about Judge Solganick's freedom from political and institutional influences. Because all lawyers report that Judge Solganick has been competent and fair in his service on the bench, and there has been no suggestion that Judge Solganick has engaged in any improper conduct, the Council, on balance, finds him Qualified for retention.

1986 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Irwin S. Solganick is a former Assistant State's Attorney and is presently in private practice. The Council does not believe that he has demonstrated either the legal ability or the diligence necessary to be a judge on the Circuit Court.

The Council also has serious reservations about Mr. Solganick's candidacy in that he is seeking to fill the vacancy created by the withdrawal, within hours of the filing deadline, of the retention notice of Judge Robert Sulski. The timing of Judge Sulski's withdrawal, and the immediately subsequent filing of Mr. Solganick's petition, resulted in this judicial vacancy being the sole uncontested Democratic primary race for election to a city vacancy on the Circuit Court. The Chicago Council of Lawyers brought a motion before the Illinois Supreme Court seeking to reopen the filing period so that other candidates could file for the Sulski vacancy. The Illinois Supreme Court chose not to hear the case but made no decision on the merits. The Council has also filed actions before the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the Judicial Inquiry Board seeking an investigation of the circumstances which enabled Mr. Solganick to obtain an uncontested judicial candidacy.

The Council believes that the chain of events by which Mr. Solganick obtained this uncontested ballot position suggests that he lacks the requisite independence and freedom from political influence which are essential in a Circuit Court judge.

Patricia S. Spratt

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 64

Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

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

Christ Stanley Stacey

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court:

Qualified

Christ Stanley Stacey was admitted to practice in 1982. He is a sole practitioner focusing on civil litigation. He is exceptionally active in community affairs. Mr. Stacey is considered to have good legal ability and his praised as a solid practitioner with substantial litigation experience and good trial skills. He is reported to have a professional temperament, and his praised for his diligence and integrity. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Patrick T. Stanton

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division

Elected Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

March 2018 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Patrick Thomas Stanton was admitted to practice in 1993. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. Before taking the bench, Judge Stanton was a Member with Dykema Gossett. He has been in private practice throughout his career. Judge Stanton is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his litigation skills in both state and federal courts. He is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law, and is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Hon. Patrick Thomas Stanton was admitted to practice in 1993. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2017. Before taking the bench, Judge Stanton was a Member with Dykema Gossett. He has been in private practice throughout his career.

Judge Stanton is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his litigation skills in both state and federal courts. He is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about the law, and is

reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Ketki Shroff Steffen

Present Judicial Duties:
Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Elected Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Ketki Shroff Steffen was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015 and served until December 2016. She was a career Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County. She reports being lead counsel in 30 trials that have gone to a jury verdict and over 500 that have gone to a bench verdict. She has litigated 13 cases on appeal. Ms. Steffen is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. She enjoys a reputation as a trusted and experienced criminal law litigator. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Domenica A. Stephenson

Present Judicial Duties:
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007

Evaluation

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Domenica A. Stephenson was admitted to practice in 1987. From 1987 to 1991, she worked part-time as a prosecutor and part-time as a private civil practitioner in Indiana. In 1991, she joined the Cook County State's Attorney's office, where she practices today, handling felony criminal matters. Ms. Stephenson is regarded as having excellent knowledge of criminal law, with expertise in DNA and other scientific evidence. Adversaries regard her as a skilled attorney who is fair, professional, honorable, and cooperative. The Council finds Ms. Stephenson Qualified to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

Richard Anthony Stevens

Present Judicial Duties
Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 6F

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1999; elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001.

Evaluation

1998 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Richard Stevens was admitted to practice in 1982. He has spent his career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. From 1984 to 1992, he handled criminal prosecution in felony trial courtrooms. He is now Chief of the General Litigation unit where he supervises lawyers doing civil litigation. He is a well-respected attorney, both as a criminal law prosecutor and as a civil litigator. He has good legal ability and an excellent temperament, and he is considered to be fair in his dealings with opponents. The Council finds him Qualified.

Michael A. Strom

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Michael A. Strom has been in private practice since his admission to the bar in 1977. He is currently has a litigation practice with Strom & Associates. From 1997 to 2011 he was Staff Counsel to CNA while in private practice. He was a lawyer and then a partner with Schaffenegger, Watson & Peterson from 1978 to 1984. Mr. Strom has good legal ability and has been widely praised for his good temperament. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer on a variety of challenging cases. He is also involved in community activities such as the Chicago Coalition for Law-Related Education. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Michael A. Strom has been in private practice since his admission to the bar in 1977. He is currently has a litigation practice with Strom & Associates. From 1997 to 2011 he was Staff Counsel to CNA while in private practice. He was a lawyer and then a partner with Schaffenegger, Watson & Peterson from 1978 to 1984. Mr. Strom has good legal ability and has been widely praised for his good temperament. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer on a variety of challenging cases. He is also involved in community activities such as the Chicago Coalition for Law-Related Education. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Michael A. Strom has been in private practice since his admission to the bar in 1977. He is currently has a litigation practice with Strom & Associates. From 1997 to 2011 he was Staff Counsel to CNA while in private practice. He was a lawyer and then

a partner with Schaffenegger, Watson & Peterson from 1978 to 1984. Mr. Strom has good legal ability and has been widely praised for his good temperament. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer on a variety of challenging cases. He is also involved in community activities such as the Chicago Coalition for Law-Related Education. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Laura M. Sullivan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Felony Preliminary Hearings

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 preliminary hearings. She was first elected to the bench in 2002. Judge Sullivan was assigned to the bond court for an extended period of time and was voluntarily re-assigned at the time when Chief Judge Evans implemented bond court reforms.

She is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is reported to be well prepared and hard working. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Laura Marie Sullivan was admitted to practice in 1987 and has been a Cook County State's Attorney for her entire legal career. She has taken approximately 39 jury trials to verdict in her career. Ms. Sullivan is currently a supervisor in the Criminal Prosecutions Division of the office. Notwithstanding her current supervisory role, the candidate has first-chaired at least one major jury trial each year for the past five years. The candidate's significant involvement with the Rehabilitation Alternative Probation Program is of great significance and is to be commended. Her active role in, and enthusiasm for, the program illustrates a deep commitment to the judicial system and her ability/willingness to develop innovative ways to solve problems associated with the criminal justice system. Those familiar with her work are largely complimentary of her legal skills, fairness and integrity. The Council finds this candidate Qualified.

Marita C. Sullivan

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2016

Evaluation

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Marita Sullivan was admitted to practice in 1984. She is currently Senior Counsel for the ARDC doing litigation work. From 1984 to 1997 she served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General doing civil litigation and appeals in both state and federal courts. From 1997 to 2000 she was the

assistant to the director of the Helen Brach Foundation. She reports acting as lead counsel in 2 civil jury trials and 3 civil bench trials. She has handle eight appeals and has had an extensive motion practice during her years as a litigator. Ms. Sullivan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has a reputation of being exceptionally hard-working, well-organized, and diligent. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Sharon M. Sullivan

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, County Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1992.

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sharon Sullivan graduated from Loyola Law School in 1980 and was admitted to practice in 1980. She was elected to the bench in 1992 and presently sits in the Criminal Division in the Second Municipal District. Prior to her election Judge Sullivan was an assistant State's Attorney and had previously been in private practice as well as with Corporation Counsel in the Chicago Department of Law.

Judge Sullivan is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to have a good temperament and courtroom management skills. She is praised for her familiarity with current developments in the law. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 2004 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sharon Marie Sullivan sits in the Criminal Division in the Second Municipal District. She was elected to the bench in 1992 after a long career with the Chicago Department of Law. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability. Both prosecutors and defense counsel say that Judge Sullivan is a conscientious judge who has a good judicial temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

November 1998 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sharon Marie Sullivan, 43, sits in the Third Municipal District hearing both criminal and civil law cases. She was elected to the bench in 1992 after a long career with the Chicago Department of Law. Lawyers report that she has excellent legal ability. Both prosecutors and defense counsel say that Judge Sullivan is a patient, very fair, painstaking judge who has a good judicial temperament. Her integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

1992 Primary & General Elections – Circuit Court (Sorrentino Vacancy): Qualified

Sharon Sullivan, 36, graduated from Law school in 1980. She has worked since then almost exclusively as an Assistant Corporation Counsel, except for a brief period in private practice. As an Assistant Corporation Counsel, she has handled major state and federal court litigation. Attorneys give her high marks for legal ability, temperament, integrity and independence.

The Council would easily find Ms. Sullivan qualified for the Circuit Court, except for one incident. In 1991, Ms. Sullivan was asked by her former employer in private practice to assist him at the last minute in preparing for a trial of a personal injury case in the U.S. District Court in Milwaukee. Ms. Sullivan agreed to do so, despite her knowledge of a policy at the Corporation Counsel's Office barring her from having a private, paying legal practice.

Ms. Sullivan functioned as trial counsel for the plaintiff in the Milwaukee case. She did not notify her supervisor of her action in advance. She prepared for the trial over the weekend, took sick leave from the City and conducted the one-day trial in Milwaukee. Ms. Sullivan did not notify her supervisor of the action when she returned.

Ms. Sullivan subsequently filed an attorney's fee petition for compensation for her work in the Milwaukee case. The City learned of her participation from an opinion filed by the judge concerning the fee petition.

Ms. Sullivan acknowledged that she knew of the policy and that she failed to notify the City. She says that the money she earned from the case is being donated to charity.

The Council believes that it is a close question as to whether this one incident should prevent a filing of qualified for Ms. Sullivan. On balance, the Council believes that Ms. Sullivan is qualified. She must exercise more care in the future.

Susan Kennedy Sullivan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Elder Law & Miscellaneous Remedies and Probate Divisions

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election: Qualified

Judge Sullivan was elected to the bench in 2010. She is assigned to both the Elder Law and Probate Divisions. Before becoming a judge, she was a sole practitioner.

Judge Sullivan has taught Elder Law at DePaul

University College of Law since 1998.

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

November 2010 Retention Election: 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.

William B. Sullivan

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 60
Mortgage Foreclosure / Mechanics Lien Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 3016

Evaluation

November 2016 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

Shelley Sutker-Dermer

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1995; elected to the Circuit Court in 1996

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1995 and was elected in 1996.

Judge Sutker-Dermer is considered to have very good legal ability and respondents to this evaluation say she is as doing an excellent job as Presiding Judge. She is praised as being fair to those who are in her courtroom. She is described often as polite but no-nonsense on the bench and is praised for her courtroom management. Lawyers report that it is their perception that the Skokie Courthouse (Second Municipal District) runs efficiently. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Shelley Sutker-Dermer was appointed Circuit Judge in 1995 and elected to a full term in 1996. She is currently the Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division of the Second Municipal District, where she has been since 1996. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. She spent her entire career before becoming a judge as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Uniformly, lawyers contacted found her distinctively hard-working, diligent, alert, knowledgeable about the law, and in control of her docket. We find the candidate Well Qualified for retention.

Sanjay T. Tailor

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 9
General Chancery Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge, Circuit Court: Qualified

Sanjay Thakor Tailor graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1991 and was admitted to the bar later that year. Mr. Tailor has been a Cook County State’s Attorney since 1996 and is currently a deputy supervisor. For one year before that, he was in-house counsel in the law department of the First National Bank of Chicago. From 1991 until 1995, he was an associate at Chapman & Cutler. Mr. Tailor is the Director of the Indian-American Bar Association.

Mr. Tailor is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. His actual trial experience is limited, but he has been involved in sophisticated and complex litigation matters. He is considered a diligent, hard-working lawyer and is lauded for his community involvement. The Council finds Mr. Tailor Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Mary Jane Theis

Present Judicial Duties

Justice, Illinois Supreme Court, First District

Appointed Associate Judge in 1983; elected to the Circuit Court in 1988; appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1993; elected to the Illinois Appellate Court in 1994; appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2012 Election, Illinois Supreme Court: Highly Qualified

Justice Mary Jane Theis was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. She was elected as an Associate Judge in 1983 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1988. In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Justice Theis was assigned to the Chancery Division in 1993, and from 1988 to 1993 she was assigned to the Criminal Division. From 1983 to 1987, she served in the First Municipal District. Before taking the bench she served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Justice Theis has taught at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, Northwestern University School of Law, and John Marshall Law School. She was the author of “Recent amendment to Supreme Court Rule 304(b) and its impact on family law cases,” and Editor in Chief of “The Benchbook Project.” Justice Theis has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Judges Association, Catholic Lawyer of the Year from the Catholic Lawyers Guild, Celtic Lawyer of the Year from the Celtic Lawyers Society of Chicago, Mary Heftel Hooton Award from the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, and the Access to Justice Award from the Illinois State Bar Association.

Judge Theis is considered to have outstanding legal ability and has received accolades from her judicial performance in a variety of trial court arenas, in the Appellate Court, and as an appointed Supreme Court Justice. She is praised as a scholar who both teaches and publishes. Her integrity is unquestioned, and she has an excellent temperament. She was patient as both a trial judge and an appellate judge. She is fair and even-handed to all parties appearing before her. She is also praised for being exceptionally hard-working and

for opinions that are wellreasoned and well-written. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

November 2004 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Mary Jane Theis is currently sitting on the Appellate Court. She is considered to be an outstanding judge. Justice Theis worked as an Assistant Public Defender from 1974 to 1983. She was an Associate Judge in the First Municipal District from 1983 to 1988. She became a full Circuit Judge in 1988, was assigned to the Criminal Division for four years, served briefly in Chancery, and was appointed and then elected to the Appellate Court. She is described by virtually everyone who has appeared before her as very well prepared, fair, diligent, with very good legal ability, and an excellent demeanor. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for retention to the Appellate Court.

1994 Primary and General Elections, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Mary Jane Theis, 44, is currently sitting on the Appellate Court by appointment. She is considered to be an outstanding judge.

Judge Theis was admitted to practice in 1974 and worked as an Assistant Public Defender from 1974 to 1983. She was an Associate Judge in the First Municipal District from 1983 to 1988. She became a full Circuit Judge in 1988, was assigned to the Criminal Division for four years, served briefly in Chancery, and very recently was appointed to the Appellate Court.

In 1988 when we rated Judge Theis for the Circuit Court we described her as highly qualified, describing her as an outstanding judge with excellent legal ability and very good demeanor.

Over the years, Judge Theis has continued to perform at a very high level as a Judge. She is described by virtually everyone who has appeared before her as very well prepared, fair, diligent, with very good legal ability, and an excellent demeanor. She submitted written opinions from her period as a Chancery Judge which are well written and very clear. The Council finds her Highly Qualified for the Appellate Court.

1988 Primary and General Elections, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

As an associate judge, Judge Theis has been sitting in the First Municipal District since August 1983. Most of her assignments have been in the criminal branch courts hearing cases that range from felony preliminary hearings to misdemeanor jury and bench trials. She is an outstanding judge with extensive legal ability. Her judicial demeanor is universally praised by attorneys who practice before her, as well as by her colleagues on the bench. She is fair and impeccably honest and presents the reasons for her decisions in great detail. She shows respect for the attorneys appearing before her and for defendants, witnesses and victims. In addition to her skill on the bench, she has taught trial practice for a number of years at various Law schools in the area and is reputed to be an excellent teacher. Judge Theis' legal ability, fairness, independence and superior judicial demeanor make her highly qualified.

Sybil C. Thomas

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division
Teen Benchmark Call

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2003.

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Not Qualified

Sybil C. Thomas was admitted to practice in 1992. Since March 2001, she has been the Interim Director of Mediation at the Juvenile Court. From 1996 to 2001, she was a hearing officer in the Child Protection Division. From 1991 to 1996, she was a law clerk and then an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in the Criminal Prosecutions Division. Ms. Thomas is a 1991 graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has trained caseworkers in courtroom testimony skills at Loyola's Civitas Child Law Center. She has drafted a local rule concerning a child protection mediation pilot program that has been adopted by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Ms. Thomas is well regarded by lawyers who appear before her. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council, however, is concerned that she does not have sufficient trial experience in complex matters. The Council finds Ms. Thomas Not Qualified to serve in Circuit Court at this time.

Daniel O. Tiernan

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District, Traffic Section

Appointed as Circuit Judges by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Daniel O. Tiernan was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. He is an Investigator V at the Office of the Cook County Independent Inspector General, where he oversees investigations into fraud, waste, mismanagement, and criminal activity by employees of Cook County and vendors doing business with Cook County. Previously, he was a partner/owner at Delgado & Tiernan, P.C., where his practice focused on criminal defense, probate, real estate, and immigration (2007-2015). From 1995 to 2007 he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where for three years he served as first chair in a felony courtroom.

Mr. Tiernan is considered to have good legal ability and is respected as a very capable lawyer. He has had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters during the course of his career. He is reported to have a professional temperament, and is praised for being knowledgeable and for being willing to mentor other lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Daniel O. Tiernan was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. He is an Investigator V at the Office of the Cook County Independent Inspector General,

where he oversees investigations into fraud, waste, mismanagement, and criminal activity by employees of Cook County and vendors doing business with Cook County. Previously, he was a partner/owner at Delgado & Tiernan, P.C., where his practice focused on criminal defense, probate, real estate, and immigration (2007-2015). From 1995 to 2007 he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where for three years he served as first chair in a felony courtroom.

Mr. Tiernan is considered to have good legal ability and is respected as a very capable lawyer. He has had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters during the course of his career. He is reported to have a professional temperament, and is praised for being knowledgeable and for being willing to mentor other lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Perla Tirado

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Perla Tirado was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2005. Since 2016, she has served as the Supervising Attorney of Beyond Legal Aid, a nonprofit legal services provider, where she handles criminal defense, criminal records, traffic, immigration, removal defense, and family law matters. Previously she handled criminal defense, traffic, immigration, and domestic relations matters as a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Perla Tirado (2008-2016), as a Partner at TYT Law (2010), and as a Partner at Tirado Winters, LLP (2007-2008). She has also worked as a Contract Attorney for Genson & Gillespie, where she worked on a criminal case involving financial crimes and SEC violations (2007), as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender Office (2005-2007), and as Staff Attorney at the Cabrini Legal Aid Clinic (2005).

Ms. Tirado is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. She is reported to have good temperament and has substantial litigation experience in a variety of areas. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael P. Toomin

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 1980; elected to the Circuit Court in 1984

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, 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 became an Associate Judge in 1980 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1984. His previous judicial assignments include 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.

As a trial judge and as an Appellate Justice, Judge Toomin has been respected as an excellent judge. He has very good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for being exceptionally hard-working, and his rulings are considered well-reasoned and decisive. The Council, however, is concerned about reports regarding the way he has been administering his Division during the pandemic. Yet other reports are supportive of his role as a Presiding Judge, and many lawyers note the totality of his mostly very positive career as a jurist. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Hon. Michael P. Toomin, 64, was appointed to the bench in 1980 and elected to the Circuit Court in 1984. He has been in the Criminal Division since 1984, and has been a supervising judge there since 1994. From 1980 to 1984, he was assigned to the Second Municipal District, where he heard felony, misdemeanor, civil, and traffic cases. His first assignment was to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. From 1983 to 2001, he served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law. From 1982 to 2002, he was on the faculty of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He is uniformly regarded as a skilled jurist, with excellent legal knowledge and ability, integrity, and judicial temperament.

In 1996, the Illinois Supreme Court reversed a criminal conviction in a case presided over by Judge Toomin (*People v. Vargas*), holding that it was reversible error for the judge to have left the bench (however briefly) without taking a recess. Judge Toomin recognizes that he erred in doing this, and credibly states that it was an aberration in an otherwise stellar career as a judge. We agree, and find Judge Toomin Highly Qualified.

1996 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Michael P. Toomin, 58, has been a judge since 1980. He is currently a supervising judge in the

Criminal Division at 26th & California. Practitioners report that Judge Toomin is an outstanding jurist with excellent legal ability. He is considered to be thoughtful, fair, and of high integrity. Since 1983, Judge Toomin has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Northwestern University School of Law.

November 1990 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Toomin has been on the bench since 1980 and has been sitting in the Criminal Division since 1984. Attorneys speak of Judge Toomin in glowing terms, praising his preparation, knowledge of the law and fairness. His integrity is above reproach. He is one of the best judges in the Circuit Court.

1990 Primary & General Elections, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Michael P. Toomin has been a judge in the Criminal Division since 1984. He previously practiced in the Public Defender's Office and as a private practitioner. He is considered to be an outstanding judge with excellent legal ability and who is of high integrity, fair and thoughtful about the problems facing the Circuit Court. In 1986, the Council found him "highly qualified" for the Appellate Court. We maintain that position.

1986 Primary & General Elections, Appellate Court: Highly Qualified

Judge Toomin currently sits in the Criminal Division where he hears felony cases. He is an outstanding judge. His legal knowledge, diligence in researching the law, and ability to understand complex legal concepts are highly regarded. The Council also believes that he is fair and independent and treats lawyers and litigants with courtesy and respect. Judge Toomin is the type of person who has the superior intellect and legal experience to be highly qualified for the demanding job of appellate judge.

Daniel A. Trevino

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as a Associate Judge to the Circuit to the

Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Daniel Alexander Trevino was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1999. Mr. Trevino has spent his entire career at Hinshaw and Culbertson, where he has been a partner. Since 2007 this practice focuses on product liability, toxic exposure and wrongful death matters. Since 2011, Mr. Trevino has also served as a commissioner on the Illinois Medical District Commission (IMD). As one of two commissioners appointed by the Mayor, he helps govern the IMD along with six other members. This is an uncompensated four-year part-time position. Mr. Trevino is the president of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Mr. Trevino has also been the legal affairs director for the Edgebrook Community Association since 2007.

Mr. Trevino handles complex litigation matters and is considered a "go-to" person at his firm on legal questions. He is praised as having very good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable. Respondents praised his character and integrity. He is active in mentoring less experienced attorneys. He is reported to have an exceptional temperament – a strong advocate but always professional in his dealings with opposing counsel. He is also praised for his litigation skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

September 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Daniel Alexander Trevino was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1999. Mr. Trevino has spent his entire career at Hinshaw and Culbertson, where he has been a partner. Since 2007 this practice focuses on product liability, toxic exposure and wrongful death matters. Since 2011, Mr. Trevino has also served as a commissioner on the Illinois Medical District Commission (IMD). As one of two commissioners appointed by the Mayor, he helps govern the IMD along with six other members. This is an uncompensated four-year part-time position. Mr. Trevino is the president of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Mr. Trevino has also been the legal affairs director for

the Edgebrook Community Association since 2007.

Mr. Trevino handles complex litigation matters and is considered a “go-to” person at his firm on legal questions. He is praised as having very good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable. Respondents praised his character and integrity. He is active in mentoring less experienced attorneys. He is reported to have an exceptional temperament – a strong advocate but always professional in his dealings with opposing counsel. He is also praised for his litigation skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary S. Trew

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar 11

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Mary S. Trew was admitted to practice law in Michigan in 1981 and in Illinois in 1991. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme court in November 2010. Before taking the bench she had 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.

As a lawyer, Ms. Trew was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She had a variety of litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. She is dedicated to public service and had a reputation as a hard-working and extremely well-prepared lawyer. The council finds Ms. Trew qualified to serve in the circuit court.

Gerardo Tristan, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Gerardo Tristan Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before becoming a judge, he worked at Tristan & Cervantes as an associate, assisting the partners in their day-to-day legal obligations, focusing on labor, estate and business law. Then in 2003, Mr. Tristan began serving as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney.

Judge Tristan is considered to have good legal ability and had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters before becoming a judge. He is reported to have a good temperament and respondents praised his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Gerardo Tristan Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. He briefly worked at Tristan & Cervantes as an associate, assisting the partners in their day-to-day legal obligations, focusing on labor, estate and business law. Then in 2003, Mr. Tristan began serving as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney.

Mr. Tristan is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to have a good temperament and respondents praised his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Gerardo Tristan Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. He briefly worked at Tristan & Cervantes as an associate, assisting the partners

in their day-to-day legal obligations, focusing on labor, estate and business law. Then in 2003, Mr. Tristan began serving as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Mr. Tristan is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to have a good temperament and respondents praised his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

**September 2015 Associate Judges
Evaluation Report: Qualified**

Gerardo Tristan Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. He briefly worked at Tristan & Cervantes as an associate, assisting the partners in their day-to-day legal obligations, focusing on labor, estate and business law. Then in 2003, Mr. Tristan began serving as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Mr. Tristan is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to have a good temperament and respondents praised his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kathryn M. Vahey

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division

Elected as Judge to the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

**November 2018 Election, Circuit Court:
Qualified**

Kathryn M. Vahey was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1998. Since that time, she has worked as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she represents indigent clients charged in felony criminal cases. Since 2000, she has been assigned to the Fifth Municipal District Court in Bridgeview.

Ms. Vahey is considered to be a skilled trial attorney with good legal ability. She is described as having a good temperament, and is described as fair and reasonable. She is reported to be a zealous advocate for her clients. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Franklin Ulyses Valderrama

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Chancery Division, Calendar 3
General Chancery Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007.

Evaluation

**2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge,
Circuit Court: Qualified**

Franklin Ulyses Valderrama was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1988. He is currently a partner at Sanchez & Daniels, a firm specializing in insurance defense work, where he has been since 1993. Prior to that, he was associated with smaller firms engaged in personal injury litigation. He spent the year following his admission to the bar as a staff attorney for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Valderrama is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is well regarded as a solid practitioner with extensive litigation experience in complex matters. His community service is laudable. The Council finds Mr. Valderrama Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Rena Marie Van Tine

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2001.

Evaluation

**1996 Primary & General Elections, Circuit
Court: Qualified**

Rena Van Tine, 34, has been practicing law for 9 years. Since 1987, she has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, doing medical litigation defense work. For a year, she was an associate in private practice. Ms. Van Tine is a capable and experienced trial attorney. She is hardworking and fair, with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified.

James M. Varga

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1994.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Judge James Michael Varga was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978. Prior to becoming a judge, James M. Varga was a supervisor in the Medical Litigation Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, as well as a felony prosecutor. Mr. Varga also spent some time in private practice. Judge Varga was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994. Since 2002, he has been assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Previously he was assigned to the Law Division's Complex Litigation Case Management Section (1996-2002) and to the First Municipal District, where he heard Preliminary Hearings (1995) and Traffic (1994-1995) matters.

Judge Varga is considered to have good legal ability. He is well prepared and is praised for his courtroom management skills. Lawyers report that he does a good job with complex evidentiary issues, and lawyers say he is fair to all sides. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, James M. Varga was a supervisor in the Medical Litigation Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, as well as a felony prosecutor. Mr. Varga also spent some time in private practice. Judge Varga was elected to the

Circuit Court in 1994 and was initially assigned to the First Municipal District. He moved to the Law Division in 1995 and has served there since.

Responses indicate that Judge Varga puts considerable thought and effort into his judicial duties. He is generally regarded as diligent and knowledgeable. Judge Varga reports that he authors articles and lectures on issues of juries and verdicts. He is singled out for praise by respondents for his handling of jury selections. Respondents believe that his manner of organizing issues identified for trial prior to jury selection is helpful to both sides of the case.

Judge Varga is considered hard-working, with good legal ability and a commitment to doing his own research where necessary. Attorneys also noted that Judge Varga appears to consult with other judges in his division where appropriate or necessary. He is known to run a well-functioning courtroom and is known to be diligent and hard-working.

However, some lawyers report that Judge Varga has temperament issues. There is no suggestion that Judge Varga is biased or disfavors particular groups in his courtroom; rather, his temper is characterized as unpredictable and directed at attorneys, witnesses and litigants alike. It is of particular concern that Judge Varga does not limit his outbursts when witnesses and jurors are present. The Council notes that Judge Varga has reported to the Council that he is taking action to remedy his difficulties with temperament. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

James M. Varga, 47, has been a judge since 1994. He sits in the Law Division, Complex Litigation Case Management Section. Before becoming a judge, he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney doing defense of medical negligence cases. He has also been in private practice. Lawyers report that Judge Varga has good legal ability and, in general, has been a very good judge. He runs an efficient courtroom and is considered to have a good judicial temperament. The Council finds him Qualified

November 1994 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

James Michael Varga, 41, has been practicing law since 1978. He is a supervisor in the Medical Litigation Division of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He has also been a felony prosecutor. Mr. Varga has also been in private practice, specializing in personal injury work. Opposing counsel report that Mr. Varga is a very capable attorney. He is fair, hard-working and of high integrity. The Council finds him Qualified.

Gregory P. Vazquez

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Fourth Municipal District

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2008

Evaluation

2008 Evaluation for Associate Judgeship, Circuit Court: Qualified

Gregory Vazquez was admitted in 1977. He is currently in a private criminal defense practice. He was an Assistant State's Attorney from his admission until 1981. He reports that he has taken 35 criminal trials to a jury verdict and over 300 criminal trials to a bench verdict. Mr. Vazquez is reported to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. He is praised for his temperament and for his community service. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Raul Vega

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2002.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Raul Vega was in private practice. He was also a staff attorney for Alderman Luis V. Gutierrez of the 26th Ward. He serves as the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Violence Division. Before his current assignment Judge Vega had been sitting at the Domestic Relations Division since 2003. He was elected to the bench in 2002. Judge Vega has extensive knowledge of the law. He is reported to be fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court; 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.

2002 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Recommended

The candidate elected not to participate in the

evaluation process. The Council accordingly finds the candidate Not Recommended.

1999 Evaluations for Circuit Court: Not Recommended.

In April 1999, the Council found Mr. Vega Not Recommended for the position of Associate Judge.

Peter J. Vilkelis

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Child Protection Division, Calendar 13M

Appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Peter J. Vilkelis was admitted to practice in 1980. He is in private practice focusing on criminal defense work. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney between 1981 and 1990. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his professionalism. He has substantial experience in more complex legal matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Kenneth J. Wadas

Present judicial assignment

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1996.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He is reported to be fair to all those in his courtroom and is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Kenneth J. Wadas has been a judge in the Criminal Division since 1996. He was initially assigned to the Evening Narcotics Court. From 1998 to 1999, he was a floating judge. He currently hears felony trials, pretrial suppression motions, post-conviction matters, and probation violations. The investigation found Judge Wadas strongly recommended by everyone contacted for his temperament and ability to conduct his docket. Regarding his legal ability, he is described by those who practice before him as a student of the law. We find Judge Wadas Well Qualified for retention.

1996 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Qualified

Kenneth J. Wadas, 50, has been practicing law for 20 years. He is in private practice, doing criminal-

defense and appellate work for most of that time, together with a variety of civil litigation, including defense of federal civil rights cases. Since 1987, Mr. Wadas has also served part-time as the City Prosecutor for the City of Burbank. From 1976 to 1986, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, serving five years in the Felony Trial Division and five as the Chief of the Narcotics Bureau. Attorneys with whom he has worked, those who have opposed him in litigation, and judges before whom he practices are unanimous in praising Mr. Wadas' legal abilities, his even temperament and his fair-mindedness. The Council finds him Qualified.

Steven M. Wagner

Present judicial assignment

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Third Municipal District

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in 2012

Evaluation

2004 Evaluation for Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Steven M. Wagner has been practicing law since 1979. Mr. Wagner served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender for 15 years following his admission to the bar, but entered private practice in 1994. As a public defender, Mr. Wagner served as a supervisor with the Murder Task Force, and acquired substantial bench and jury experience in significant and sophisticated matters. Mr. Wagner is reported to have very good legal ability and temperament, and enjoys an excellent reputation as an outstanding attorney with a notably professional demeanor. The Council finds him Well Qualified.

Allen Price Walker

Present judicial assignment

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division, Calendar Z Motion Section

Appointed as Associate Judge to the Circuit Court in

2012

Evaluation

2012 Evaluation for Circuit Court: Qualified

Allen P. Walker was admitted to practice in 1987. He is a partner at Greene and Letts and before that was a senior associate in the litigation department at Greene and Letts (1994-1998). He serves on the board of directors of the Public Interest Law Initiative. He reports being lead counsel in 4 trials that have gone to a jury verdict and 25 that have gone to a bench verdict. Mr. Walker has a litigation practice that included personal injury matters, medical malpractice and product liability defense, and commercial litigation. He also has an active transactional practice. He is praised for his community service work. As a lawyer, he is reported to have good legal ability. He is considered to be well-prepared and has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Carl Anthony Walker

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, First Division

Elected to the Circuit Court in 2006; appointed to the Appellate Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Judge Carl Anthony Walker was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1992. Prior to becoming a judge, Carl Anthony Walker was in private practice and worked as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Chicago. Judge Walker was appointed and then elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2006. Judge Walker was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in May 2018. Prior to his recent appointment to the Appellate Court, he was assigned to the Law Division – Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. In addition, he was previously assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division (2009- 2013) and to the First

Municipal Division, in various Branch Courts (2009-2009; 2006), in the Forcible Entry and Detainer Section (2006), and Traffic Court (2006).

Judge Walker, as a trial judge, is praised for his legal ability. He prepares written opinions which are described as thorough, thoughtful, and accurate. He is also praised for his conduct in the courtroom and is reported to be fair to all parties. He is always well prepared and has a reputation as a solid, conscientious jurist. Judge Walker has a reputation of showing compassion to those before him, and of being committed to the well-being of the community. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Appellate Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Carl Anthony Walker was in private practice and worked as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Chicago. Judge Walker was appointed and then elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2006. He initially sat in the First Municipal District and was transferred to the Juvenile Division in 2009.

Interviewees generally had a favorable impression of Judge Walker. His respectful demeanor and investment in the welfare of the juveniles was noted by everyone. He is said to bring good insight to the bench, treating juvenile defendants as individuals. One attorney described him as “honest and conscious of his role in protecting the integrity of the court.”

The judge is described as aware of what’s going on with the children and concerned about parental involvement. He is “mild-mannered,” fair and predictable. “He is good at diffusing situations especially with bad family and parenting issues” and respectful of everyone in his courtroom. All three electronic survey respondents remarked on his patience, compassion, and courtesy to everyone in his courtroom. Judge Walker is considered to be knowledgeable, and respondents believe Judge Walker brings sufficient legal ability and impressive compassion to the Juvenile Division. He is characterized hard-working and very engaged in his cases. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

2006 Primary & General Elections, Circuit Court: Not Qualified

Carl Anthony Walker was admitted to practice in Illinois 1992. He has been a solo general practitioner since 1999. From 1992 to 1999 he was an associate and later a partner (1996-1999) in general practice firms. He has served as an administrative hearing officer with the City of Chicago since 1995. Mr. Walker is reported to have a good knowledge of the law in the areas in which he practices. His temperament is good and he is active in community activities. He is respected by his peers. The Council’s concerns with Mr. Walker’s candidacy have to do with the lack of complexity in his practice. He has had exposure to many areas of law, but lacks experience in complex matters. This does not allow Mr. Walker to demonstrate whether he has the ability to handle the more difficult cases that he will be called upon to judge as a Circuit Judge. He indicated during his judicial evaluation interview that he does not handle complex matters as part of his law practice. His answers to the supplementary questionnaire used as part of the evaluation process were cursory and did not demonstrate an appreciation of the complexities faced by Circuit Judges in many of the judicial assignments. The Council finds Mr. Walker Not Qualified at this time.

Debra B. Walker

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, Calendar E

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. 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 was elected to the Circuit Court I 2008 and is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division.

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. Most lawyers praised her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2008 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Debra B. Walker has been a lawyer since 1987. She has been in private practice throughout her career. Since 1996, she has been an associate at Clausen Miller, P.C., where her practice is focused on professional liability defense. She was the President of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois from 1998 to 1999. Ms. Walker is considered to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. She is highly regarded by other lawyers as being exceptionally diligent and hard working. She has a reputation of being very professional and always prepared. She is dedicated to public service. The Council finds Ms. Walker Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Ursula Walowski

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Ursula Walowski was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1994 to 2008, at which time she was elected to the bench. Judge Walowski is currently sitting in the Criminal Division. From 2009 to 2016, she was assigned to the Domestic Violence Division.

Judge Walowski is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. She is reported to have a good temperament and good courtroom management. The Council finds her Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

2006 Evaluation for Circuit Court: Qualified

Ursula Walowski has practiced law in Illinois since 1993. She has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since 1994. Before that she was

briefly an attorney for Bank One, for whom she had been an accounting clerk since 1987. Ms. Walowski is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has extensive litigation experience and enjoys a reputation of being fair and hard working. The Council finds her Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Elizabeth A. Walsh

Present Judicial Duties:

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 1

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

2020 Election for Circuit Court Judge: Qualified

Elizabeth A. Walsh was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2006. Since 2007, she has been an Attorney at Bruce Farrel Dorn & Associates, where she handles insurance defense cases. From 2006 to 2007, she was an Associate Attorney at Paul H. Wharton & Associates, where she defended personal injury actions.

Ms. Walsh is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and for her responsiveness to opposing counsel. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Neera Walsh

Present Judicial Duties:

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected Associate Judge by Circuit Judges in 2007

Evaluation

2002 Evaluations for Associate Judge: Well Qualified

Neera Lall Walsh was admitted the bar in 1989. She has been with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for her entire career and has been the Deputy Supervisor of the Community Prosecutions Division for the last four years. Ms. Walsh is a 1989 graduate

of IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law. She has taught Trial Advocacy at Chicago-Kent College of Law and at DePaul Law School.

Ms. Walsh is considered to have excellent legal ability and temperament. She is regarded as an outstanding prosecutor who is dedicated to fairness and public service. She is exceptionally hard-working and her integrity is unquestioned. She has extensive trial experience in sophisticated and complex matters. The Council finds Ms. Walsh Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Tyria B. Walton

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Municipal Department, District 4

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Court Judge by Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Hon. Tyria B. Walton was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Public Defender and a Grade IV Murder Task Force Attorney at the Law Office the Cook County Public Defender.

Ms. Walton is considered to have very good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She is praised for her trial skills, her diligence and for her integrity. She is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable and serves as a mentor to less experienced attorneys. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Well Qualified

Tyria B. Walton was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997. She serves as an Assistant Public Defender and a Grade IV Murder Task Force Attorney at the Law Office the Cook County Public Defender.

Tyria B. Walton is considered to have very good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She is praised for her trial skills, her diligence and for her integrity. She is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable and serves as a mentor to less experienced attorneys. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maureen Ward Kirby

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, County Division, Calendar 10

Elected Circuit Court Judge in 2008

Evaluation

2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Maureen Ward Kirby 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 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.

2008 Evaluation for Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Maureen Ward-Kirby has been a lawyer since 1989 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in October 2007. Judge Ward-Kirby currently sits in the First Municipal District, presiding in the Traffic Court. Before taking the bench, she was a partner with the firm of Bell Boyd & Lloyd. She is considered to have good legal ability with an excellent demeanor. She is praised for her

courtroom management skills. As a lawyer, she was involved in complex litigation matters and was considered to be a very good practitioner. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jeffrey L. Warnick

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, Second Municipal District and Law Division

Elected as an Associate Judge in 2009

Evaluation

November 2010 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jeffrey Warnick was admitted to practice in 1978. Since 1988 he has been a partner with Heytow & Warnick, handling insurance coverage, arson and fraud cases. From 1979 to 1988, he was Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, where he eventually became Supervisor of the Arson Unit. His first year in practice was spent as an associate, with the general practice firm of Laport Sorrentino, Ltd. Mr. Warnick is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Steven Gregory Watkins

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2014

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Steven G. Watkins was 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. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 2014. He is currently assigned to the Criminal Division.

Judge Watkins is considered to be doing a good job on the bench with sufficient legal ability and knowledge of the law. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Election, Circuit Court: 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.

Lynn Weaver-Boyle (formerly known as Lynn K. Weaver)

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Judge in 2020; appointed as Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Lynn K. Weaver was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, she was a partner at Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa, & Evinger, where she handled commercial litigation matters with a focus on contract, tort, product liability, and construction defects. Previously she was a partner at Grotefeld & Denenberg (1999-2007), and an Assistant State’s Attorney at the Cook County State’s Attorney Office (1990-1999), where she worked in the Felony Trial Division, as well as the Narcotics Unit and Gang Crimes Unit of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. She provides pro bono services for Wills for Heroes.

Judge Weaver is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial trial experience, particularly while an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, and has had litigation experience more recently, as well. She is a respected practitioner with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

May 2019 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lynn K. Weaver was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990. She is a partner at Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa, & Evinger, where she has worked since 2007. There, she handles commercial litigation matters with a focus on contract, tort, product liability, and construction defects. Previously she was a partner at Grotefeld & Denenberg (1999-2007), and an Assistant State’s Attorney at the Cook County State’s Attorney Office (1990-1999), where she worked in the Felony Trial Division, as well as the Narcotics Unit and Gang Crimes Unit of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. She provides pro bono services for Wills for Heroes.

Ms. Weaver is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial trial experience, particularly as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, but she has recent litigation experience more recently, as well. She is a respected practitioner with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Lynn K. Weaver was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990. She is a partner at Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa, & Evinger, where she has worked since 2007. There, she handles commercial litigation matters with a focus on contract, tort, product liability, and construction defects. Previously she was a partner at Grotefeld & Denenberg (1999-2007), and an Assistant State’s Attorney at the Cook County State’s Attorney Office (1990-1999), where she worked in the Felony Trial Division, as well as the Narcotics Unit and Gang Crimes Unit of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. She provides pro bono services for Wills for Heroes.

Ms. Weaver is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial trial experience, particularly as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, but she has recent litigation experience more recently, as well. She is a respected practitioner with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Andrea M. Webber

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Andrea M. Webber was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. She is an Assistant Public Defender at the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she currently serves in the Homicide Task Force Division. Previously, she served in the Felony Trial (2004-2014) and Traffic (2003-2004) Divisions. She has also worked for Kumlin and Fromm (2002-2003), where she handled personal injury and workers' compensation cases. She volunteers for Lawyers in the Classrooms, and in 2008 served as a judicial evaluations investigator for the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Ms. Webber is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial experience in complex matters and is praised as a solid practitioner with good trial skills. She is reported to have a good temperament and is considered exceptionally hard working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

Andrea M. Webber was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. She is an Assistant Public Defender at the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she currently serves in the Homicide Task Force Division. Previously, she served in the Felony Trial (2004-2014) and Traffic (2003-2004) Divisions. She has also worked for Kumlin and Fromm (2002-2003), where she handled personal injury

and workers' compensation cases. She volunteers for Lawyers in the Classrooms, and in 2008 served as a judicial evaluations investigator for the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Ms. Webber is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial experience in complex matters and is praised as a solid practitioner with good trial skills. She is reported to have a good temperament and is considered exceptionally hard working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Arthur W. Willis

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Pretrial Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Arthur W. Willis was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. He is an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where he represents indigent clients in felony matters.

Mr. Willis is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised by prosecutors, other defense counsel, and judges for the quality of his motion practice, research, and grasp of legal issues. He has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thaddeus L. Wilson

Present Judicial Duties

Supervising Judge, Circuit Court, Criminal Division

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2007 and reappointed to be a Circuit Judge in 2008

Evaluation

November 2016 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to being appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2007, Judge Wilson

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

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

November 2010 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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.

2007 Evaluation to fill Judicial Vacancy: Qualified

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.

Gregory J. Wojkowski

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Law Division
Trial Section

Elected to the Circuit Court in 1996.

Evaluation

November 2020 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Hon. Gregory Wojkowski worked at the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office in litigation for 16 years. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and is currently assigned to Law Division. Judge Wojkowski's previous judicial assignments included civil jury trials in the First Municipal District from 1998 until 2011.

Judge Wojkowski is reported to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. He is reported to be even-tempered and treats everyone in the courtroom fairly. He is also reported to be well prepared and punctual. The Council finds him Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2014 Retention Election, Circuit Court: 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.

November 2002 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Hon. Gregory J. Wojkowski was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He currently sits in the First Municipal District, Civil Trial Division. Before his current assignment, he served in the Housing Court and at the Traffic Center. Judge Wojkowski was

regarded by those interviewed as a hard worker with the necessary skills, integrity and temperament to handle his high volume assignment. He is considered fair and impartial. The Council finds Judge Wojkowski Qualified for retention.

1996 General Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Gregory J. Wojkowski, 40, has been practicing law for 16 years. He is the Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Litigation Division of the Chicago Department of Law. He has been a Lawyer with the Law Department since 1979 and has extensive litigation experience in state and federal court. He is described as bright, fair, and even tempered. The Council finds him Qualified.

Jeanne Marie Wrenn

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2018

Evaluation

November 2018 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Jeanne Marie Wrenn was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, she served as an Ethics Officer and EEO Officer for Pace. She has been there since 2012. She implements ethics training, internal investigations and advises clients on Illinois' revolving door law. Before that she worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where she prosecuted felon narcotics cases, and was then assigned to be the Legislative Liaison to the Illinois General Assembly.

Ms. Wrenn has bench and jury trial experience in less complex matters, but her work in the legislative arena and her current work as an Ethics Officer require detailed analysis and advocacy involving complex matters. She is praised for her work both as a prosecutor and a legislative analyst. She is reported to have very good legal ability and temperament. The Council balances relatively limited litigation experience against other experiences that demonstrate strong analytic

thinking. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

Present Judicial Duties

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District

Appointed Circuit Court Judge in 1994; elected to the Circuit Court in 1994.

Evaluation

November 2018 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Well Qualified

Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1977. Prior to becoming a judge, Kenneth Wright was in private practice as a sole practitioner. He is a former teacher and Associate Dean of the Joliet Junior College. Kenneth Wright was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1994 and elected the same year. He was initially assigned to the Municipal Division and later was transferred to the Probate Division. He presently serves as presiding judge of the First Municipal District.

Presiding Judge Wright is praised generally for his extensive legal knowledge and ability. He is especially noted for his innovations and ideas for new approaches which will allow the courts to be even more fair and effective. His "flex call" is a court call outside of normal business hours 27 through which pro bono lawyers can provide representation to otherwise unrepresented parties. Some lawyers commented that he focuses on improving the courts which should be one of the jobs of a presiding judge. He is praised for his compassionate and professional demeanor. He is exceptionally hard working. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

November 2012 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Prior to becoming a judge, Kenneth Wright was in private practice as a sole practitioner. He is a former teacher and Associate Dean of the Joliet Junior College. Kenneth Wright was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1994 and elected the same year. He was initially assigned to the Municipal Page 31 of 45

Division and later was transferred to the Probate Division. He presently serves as presiding judge of the First Municipal District.

Judge Wright received positive marks from practitioners in all categories with very few criticisms of his judicial performance. He is described as a “good lawyer” “who takes an interest in his cases” and “is well-versed in the law.” Respondents believe he moves through his call efficiently and is respectful of the practitioners appearing in front of him. Judge Wright is described as having a good, calm demeanor and purportedly “treats everyone with respect.”

As Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District, Judge Wright is responsible for overseeing the judicial schedule and has worked with the City of Chicago on improvements to the eviction call. Judge Wright has been active in promoting the center for conflict resolution, which has increased the efficiency of the First Municipal District by allowing easier cases to be resolved through mediation. He has also initiated a steering committee on which attorneys, clerks, judges, and the Sheriff worked together to streamline the special process server function. Many respondents praise his leadership.

Respondents say that Judge Wright was well-respected when he had a full-time call in the Probate Division. He was praised for his temperament and courtroom management. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

November 2006 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

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

November 2000 Retention Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., 59, has been a judge since

1994. He has been assigned to the Probate Division since 1995. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a sole practitioner. Lawyers report generally that Judge Wright has average legal ability but a good command of probate law. His integrity is unquestioned and has a good judicial temperament. The Council finds him Qualified.

James A. Wright

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Elected as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

James Wright was admitted to practice in 1989. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Wright was a certified public accountant. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. His present professional experience includes serving of counsel to the law firm of Altheimer & Gray, as an Assistant United States Attorney for three years, and working for more than three years as an attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He has also served for two years as Chief of Staff to the Chicago Board of Education. From 2003 to 2005 he served as the Inspector General for the Illinois Toll Highway Authority. Mr. Wright is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has a variety of legal experiences requiring in-depth analysis of complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

July 2015 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

James Wright was admitted to practice in 1989. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Wright was a certified public accountant. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. His present professional experience includes serving of counsel to the law firm of Altheimer & Gray, as an Assistant

United States Attorney for three years, and working for more than three years as an attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He has also served for two years as Chief of Staff to the Chicago Board of Education. From 2003 to 2005 he served as the Inspector General for the Illinois Toll Highway Authority. Mr. Wright is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has a variety of legal experiences requiring in-depth analysis of complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

March 2012 Primary Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

James Wright was admitted to practice in 1989. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Wright was a certified public accountant. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. His present professional experience includes serving of counsel to the law firm of Altheimer & Gray, as an Assistant United States Attorney for three years, and working for more than three years as an attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He has also served for two years as Chief of Staff to the Chicago Board of Education. From 2003 to 2005 he served as the Inspector General for the Illinois Toll Highway Authority. Mr. Wright is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has a variety of legal experiences requiring in-depth analysis of complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

William Yu

Present Judicial Duties

Associate Judge, Circuit Court, First Municipal District – Traffic Section

Appointed as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 2018

Evaluation

November 2017 Associate Judges Evaluation Report: Qualified

William Yu was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. He is counsel at Ulmer & Berne LLP, where he handles litigation, including consumer class

action claims and product liability matters on behalf of professionals, corporations, transportation companies, hospitals, and municipalities. Previously, he was a partner at Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, LLP (2014-2017); a partner and senior associate at Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP (2003-2013); an associate at Tribler, Orpett & Crone (1999-2003); an associate at French, Kezelis & Kominiarek (1997-1999); and an attorney/law clerk for the City of Chicago (1996-1997). His bar association activities include being a past president of the Asian American Bar Association of Chicago (2003-2004); regional governor of the Illinois Association of Korean Lawyers (2010); and a member of the executive committee of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening (1998). He has provided pro bono services for the Korean American Bar Association.

Mr. Yu is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience and is praised for his litigation skills. He is reported to have a good temperament. Overall, he is described as a solid practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maura McMahon Zeller

Present Judicial Duties

Judge, Circuit Court, Traffic Division

Elected as Circuit Court Judge in 2020

Evaluation

November 2020 Election, Circuit Court: Qualified

Maura McMahon Zeller was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. For the past 15 years she has been is an Attorney and Solo Practitioner at Maura McMahon Zeller, Attorney at Law, where she focuses on Child Representative, Guardian Ad Litem, and mediation matters. Prior to that, for ten years she served as an Assistant Public Guardian at the Office of the Public Guardian in Chicago, Illinois.

Ms. Zeller is considered to have good legal ability and she is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience, although her area

of practice is narrow. However, she is highly respected for her knowledge and for her skills, including her work in a Special Litigation Unit in the Office of the Public Guardian where her office filed Section 1983 civil rights actions on behalf of children who were injured or killed while in foster care. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.