

Judicial Evaluations from the Chicago Council of Lawyers for those Judicial Races on the November 2024 Ballot which are Contested

Cook County Circuit Court – Countywide (on all ballots)

Vacancy of the Hon. James P. Flannery

Pablo F. deCastro (Democrat) – Qualified

Pablo F. deCastro was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. Since 2012, he has been a solo practitioner in the Law offices of Pablo deCastro, where he focuses on criminal defense. He also handled criminal defense cases as a partner at Rascia and deCastro (2007-2012) and as an associate attorney at Serpico, Novelle, Petrosino and Rascia (2000-2012). Previously (1994-2000), he had been an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. He is a member of numerous bar associations and legal societies, including the American Bar Association, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Criminal Justice Act Panel, and the Northern District of Illinois Criminal Justice Act Panel, where he serves on the Attorney Selection Panel.

Mr. deCastro is considered to have good legal ability and to be a zealous advocate for his clients. He is praised for his temperament and is active in pro bono matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Tien H. Glaub (Republican) -- Not Recommended

Tien H. Glaub did not participate in the judicial evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended

Cook County Circuit Court

12th Subcircuit

Vacancy of the Hon. Grace G. Dickler

Alon Stein – Qualified

Alon Stein was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. Since 2013, he has been the Owner and Managing Attorney of Stein Legal Offices, where he focuses on commercial litigation but also handles constitutional matters and employment/wages litigation. Previously, he handled civil litigation, commercial litigation, and appeals as Of Counsel (2013-2017) for The Nathanson Law Firm and as an Associate (2004-2013) and Of Counsel (2013-2015) for Kamensky Rubinstein Hochman & Delott, LLP. From 2002 to 2004, he was an Associate at Blau & Bonavich, where he represented customers suing their brokers in arbitration and plaintiffs in employment actions. He is a member of several bar associations, including the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association.

Mr. Stein is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters in both state courts and before administrative agencies. He is praised for his litigation skills and for his diligence. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maria McCarthy (Republican) -- Qualified

Maria McCarthy worked early in her career for Freeborn & Peters in Chicago where she defended companies in civil litigation. But she worked as an assistant state’s attorney in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office for 30 years. From 2009 to 2019, she was Supervisor of the Third Municipal District. Prior to holding that position, she was the Supervisor of the Homicide/Sex Unit in Chicago, the Supervisor of the Domestic Violence Division and was a Deputy Supervisor in the Traffic Division. She subsequently worked as the First Assistant in the Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office, where she supervised the Criminal and Civil Bureaus. In 2022, she was appointed Special Prosecutor in murder cases that are pending in Will County.

Maria McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in both criminal and civil matters. She is reported to have a very good temperament and is praised for her litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Cook County Circuit Court

12th Subcircuit

Vacancy of the Hon. Marguerite Quinn

Hon. Frank Andreou (Democrat) -- Qualified

Judge Frank Andreou was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. He currently presides over Calendar D (motion call) in the Law Division of the Cook County Circuit Court where he hears cases involving commercial litigation, medical and professional malpractice, toxic tort, product

liability, auto liability, defamation, and other cases. He previously handled traffic and misdemeanor cases before moving to the Law Division. Prior being sworn in as an Associate Judge in January 2020, he worked in private practice for 20 years and for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office from 1995-1999.

Judge Andreou is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his ability to have a thorough grasp of the issues being argued before him. He is praised for his fairness and his professional temperament. He is also reported to be punctual and always prepared. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Pamela Curran Smith (Republican) -- Qualified

Pamela Curran Smith was admitted to practice in 2006. She is a partner with a small law firm doing criminal defense and personal injury litigation. She has substantial litigation experience. She is considered to have good legal ability, and is praised for her litigation skills. She is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Cook County Circuit Court

12th Subcircuit

Vacancy of the Hon. Andrea M. Schleifer

James Costello (Democrat) -- Qualified

James Costello was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2007. He has spent his career as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where since 2019 he has served in the Special Prosecutions Bureau, Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit (he is currently First Chair). He has also served in the Felony Trial Division (2016-2019), the Felony Review and Preliminary Hearings Unit (2013-2016), the Misdemeanors/Traffic/Preliminary Hearings Units at the Markham courthouse (2009-2013), and Criminal Appeals in the Daley Center (2007-2009).

Mr. Costello is considered to have good legal ability and is especially praised for his temperament. He is reported to be knowledgeable and fair with lawyers and litigants. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Matthew Jay Taylor (Republican) -- Qualified

Matthew Jay Taylor was admitted to practice in 2004 and has always practiced as a sole practitioner. He was a suburban police officer for 10 years prior to becoming a lawyer and currently works at the College of DuPage Suburban Law Enforcement Academy. He is the village prosecutor for 3 municipalities. His law practice includes real estate, probate, misdemeanor defense, child custody issues, and work in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court.

Mr. Taylor is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to have good temperament. He is praised for his knowledge of the law and for always being prepared. He has substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He is a well respected practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Cook County Circuit Court

18th Subcircuit

Cook County Circuit Court

18th Subcircuit

Converted from the Associate Judgeship of James Linn

John Hock (Democrat) -- Qualified

John Hock was admitted to the Florida bar in 2007. He has been with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office since 2022 and is assigned to the Special Litigation Unit where he manages a caseload of serious felony cases. He did civil litigation in Florida from 2007 to 2009. He then worked until 2011 for the Will County Public Defender's Office. From 2011 to 2013, he worked for a private law firm doing civil litigation, and from 2013 to 2022 he worked for the Lake County Public Defender's Office. He is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Lynn Terese Palac (Republican) -- Qualified

Lynn T. Palac was admitted to practice in 1999 and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for 10 years before she left that office to do criminal defense work. She also is employed by Catholic Charities where she provides training in domestic violence and domestic relations cases.

Lynn T. Palac is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.