



Chicago Council
OF LAWYERS
Chicago's public interest bar association

JUDICIAL SCREENING RATINGS
2026 PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 17, 2026

The Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening evaluates judicial candidates. The Alliance is comprised of: Arab American Bar Association (AABAR); Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area (AABA); Black Men Lawyers' Association (BMLA); Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago (BWLA); Chicago Council of Lawyers (CCL); Cook County Bar Association (CCBA); Decalogue Society of Lawyers (DSL); Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois (HBA); Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI); Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA); Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association (LAGBAC); Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA); and Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) working collaboratively to improve the process of screening judicial candidates in Cook County, Illinois. To view each association's ratings please visit www.voteforjudges.org or www.chicagocouncil.org.

This chart consists of the Chicago Council's evaluations only.

Ratings Key:

HQ	Highly Qualified		HR	Highly Recommended
WQ	Well Qualified		R	Recommended
Q	Qualified		NR	Not Recommended
NQ	Not Qualified		¹	Not Evaluated Through No Fault of the Candidate
Candidates Who Do Not Participate in the Alliance's Evaluation Process Are rated "NR"				

Judicial candidates are rated by the Alliance members based on detailed information supplied by candidates, a background check by trained lawyers/investigators, and interviews of each candidate. Ratings reflect the Alliance's opinion of whether candidates have the necessary qualifications for judicial service or ascension to a higher office and are not a reflection of the candidates' abilities as lawyers or judges.



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Illinois Appellate Court – (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. Thomas E. Hoffman	C C L
Judith C. Rice	Q
Cook Circuit Court – Countywide (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. Kathleen Marie Burke	C C L
Steven Q. McKenzie	Q
Cook Circuit Court – Countywide (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. Cynthia Y. Cobbs	C C L
Luz Maria Toledo	Q
Linda Sackey	Q
Cook Circuit Court - Countywide (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan	C C L
Ashonta C. Rice	Q
Michael Cabonargi	WQ



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Cook Circuit Court - Countywide (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. William Hooks	C C L
Ava George Stewart	Q

Cook Circuit Court - Countywide (all ballots) Vacancy of the Hon. Paul Karkula	C C L
D'Anthony "Tony" Thedford	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 1 st Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Robert Balanoff	C C L
Radiance Ward	WQ
Natalie L. Howse	NR



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Cook Circuit Court – 1 st Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Carl A. Walker	C C L
Ashley Greer Shambley	Q
Ginger Odom	Q
Tiffany N. Brooks	NR

Cook Circuit Court – 3 rd Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Thomas W. Murphy	C C L
John Carroll	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 3 rd Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Patrick J. Sherlock	C C L
Martin Douglas Reggi	Q
Rachel Marrello	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 5 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Dominique C. Ross	C C L
Stephanie S. Kelly	Q



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Cook Circuit Court – 8 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Celia L. Gamrath	C C L
Kathleen Cunniff Ori	Q
Elizabeth Christina Dibler	Q
Garson Fischer	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 8 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Mary L. Mikva	C C L
Lester Finkle	Q
Dan Balanoff	NQ
Katherine Carole Morrison	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 11 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Pamela McLean Meyerson	C C L
Jarrett Knox	Q
John R. Carrozza	Q



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Cook Circuit Court – 11 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Mary Colleen Roberts	C C L
Kim Przekota	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 13 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. John Curry	C C L
Robert “Bob” Groebner	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 13 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Martin C. Kelley	C C L
Brittany Michelle Pedersen	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 13 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Thomas J. Kelley	C C L
William F. Kelley	Q



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Cook Circuit Court – 13 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Shannon P. O’Malley	C C L
Dan Naranjo	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 16 th Subcircuit vacancy of the Hon. Callie L. Baird	C C L
Julian Sanchez Crozier	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 16 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Patricia Mendoza	C C L
Jessica Karina Velez	NQ



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Cook Circuit Court – 17 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Lloyd J. Brooks	C C L
Natalia Moore	NR
Meridth Hammer	NQ

Cook Circuit Court – 17 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. James R. Carroll	C C L
Amari Dawson	NR
Bianca B. Brown	Q
Andre' Thapedi	NR

Cook Circuit Court – 18 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Frank J. Andreou	C C L
Sam Bae	Q



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Cook Circuit Court – 18 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Jeffrey G. Chrones	C C L
Juan Ponce de Leon	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 19 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. John A. Fairman	C C L
Sara McGann	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 19 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Michael J. Kane	C C L
Monica Somerville	Q
John Harkins	NR
Dave Condron	Q

Cook Circuit Court – 20 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. David E. Haracz	C C L
Michael J. Zink	Q



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Cook Circuit Court – 20 th Subcircuit Vacancy of the Hon. Stephanie K. Miller	C C L
Jon Stromsta	Q
Belle Katubig	Q

Please visit www.voteforjudges.org or www.chicagocouncil.org for more information

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Per Alliance Guidelines Section IV " <i>Minimum Years of Experience</i> ", Any Candidate With Less Than Ten Years Of Experience Shall Be Rated "NR"				

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