

The Chicago Bar Association's  
**“JUDGE SMART” GUIDE**

*A Voter's Guide to Judicial Candidates*



Non-partisan Evaluations For Cook County Judicial Candidates  
Provided as a public service by The Chicago Bar Association

**Primary Election - March 20, 2018**

Downloadable/Printable Guides can be found at:  
[www.chicagobar.org/votejudges](http://www.chicagobar.org/votejudges)  
[m.chicagobar.org](http://m.chicagobar.org)

## CONTENTS

Introduction to CBA Judicial Evaluation Program . . . . .	2
History . . . . .	2
Scope & Purpose. . . . .	2
The Investigation Process . . . . .	3
The Hearing Process . . . . .	3
The Vote . . . . .	4
The Appellate Review Committee . . . . .	5
Reporting of Findings . . . . .	5
Summary of Findings for Circuit Court and Subcircuit Candidates . . . . .	6
Findings for Circuit Court Candidates . . . . .	7
Map of Cook County Judicial Subcircuits . . . . .	12
Findings for Cook County Subcircuit Candidates . . . . .	13

**Produced by The Chicago Bar Association Office of Public Affairs, 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 554-2000.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION'S JUDICIAL EVALUATION PROGRAM**

By Board resolution, the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) is the semi-autonomous committee of The Chicago Bar Association (CBA) that conducts evaluations of candidates for judicial offices and sitting judges seeking retention within Cook County. As a service to the public, The CBA reports the findings of the JEC for all elections. The evaluations are designed to inform the public and the courts of the qualifications, independence and integrity of judicial candidates. The CBA believes that the quality of the administration of justice in our courts is determined in large part by the quality of our judges.

### **History**

The CBA has a long history of judicial evaluation, dating before the turn-of-the-century, and taking many forms over the years -- from running a "Bar Ticket" in 1887 -- to the present comprehensive procedure adopted in 1976. At that time, a special committee of the Board of Managers, chaired by then CBA President John D. Hayes, recommended a total revamping of the process to minimize political and bar politics, and embrace the concepts of random selection of evaluators and investigators, and to assure the confidentiality of the process and sources.

The CBA Board of Managers regularly reviews and evaluates the procedures and operations of the JEC. The JEC's governing resolution and its guidelines were both revised in 1987. The current JEC governing resolution was amended on April 23, 2015.

### **Scope & Purpose**

Judicial candidates and sitting judges who participate in The CBA's screening process are evaluated on the basis of eight criteria: integrity, legal knowledge, legal ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, punctuality, and health factors.

By providing these findings, along with "The Statements of Reasons," The CBA helps inform and educate the public about the upcoming judicial contests in the general election.

The CBA's 200-member Judicial Evaluation Committee annually invests thousands of volunteer attorney hours in this thorough, comprehensive and diverse peer review process evaluating more than 300 candidates for appointive and elective judicial positions within Cook County. The evaluation process for the candidates in the general began in June 2017. The guidelines and standards developed by the 20,000-member CBA for rating judges have been adopted almost entirely by the American Bar Association as a model for local and state bar evaluation programs.

## **The Investigative Process**

The Committee's work begins when the candidate submits his or her completed questionnaire. The 16-page questionnaire for sitting judges, require the candidate to list personal, professional and judicial references and to provide the names of lawyers who have recently appeared before him or her. Candidates with fewer than four years on the bench are also asked to identify adversaries with whom they worked before taking the bench. Lawyer candidates are asked to provide detailed information about their jury and non-jury trial experiences, the names of five judges before whom they have appeared and a list of at least 20 lawyers who have represented adverse positions in matters handled by them.

All candidates are also asked to relate any present or recent health problems and to submit written authorizations signed by their doctors. Complaints against a candidate to the Attorney's Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the Judicial Inquiry Board are to be described, and relevant reports and correspondence submitted with the questionnaire. Criticism of professional misconduct, in any formal civil or criminal proceeding or in the media, must also be reported by the candidate.

The JEC obtained written materials dealing with the candidates' judicial performance from the major newspapers. In several cases, transcripts and other relevant, publicly available documents relating to official investigations of judges and court personnel were obtained from official sources.

The complete file was then assigned to a two-person investigation team. The investigators conducted personal interviews with the listed legal references. A specially assigned team of investigators reviewed the files of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and submitted to the investigators and the hearing panel a report on the information disclosed in those files. On completion of the interviews and a review of the file materials, the investigations team completed a comprehensive report regarding the qualifications of the candidate.

## **The Hearing Process**

Hearings were conducted on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings. Hearing division members were randomly assigned, in accordance with the JEC resolution, to either of two hearing rooms by a blind drawing for room assignment. Typically, 12 to 15 JEC members were assigned to each room. Only at that time did they learn which candidates they would be evaluating and who the other members of the panel were. Each member of the hearing panel was provided with a copy of the investigator's report, a copy of the completed questionnaire with all material submitted by the candidate, and copies of any other relevant documents including, in some cases, newspaper clippings and transcripts of court proceedings.

Each member and the candidate execute a written oath to keep the nature and content of the report, questioning, and hearing confidential.

The JEC included in its investigation all possible sources of information available to it. However, because the Committee cannot compel the production of evidence or the attendance of witnesses before it nor, understandably, expect disclosure by the authorities of evidence discovered in pending investigations, the JEC cannot be assured that it has uncovered all the evidence which, in the future, may lead to formal charges. Within its authority, the JEC develops the most complete record available and gives careful and thoughtful consideration to the available evidence.

A member of the Executive Committee chaired each hearing. The candidate was advised of the procedures to be employed at the hearing and then questioned at length by the chair in regard to abilities, experiences, perceived strengths and weaknesses and, where appropriate, specific problems disclosed in the investigation. The chair then invited questions from members of the hearing panel. The candidate was then given an opportunity to make any statement he or she chose in his or her own behalf. On excusing the candidate from the hearing room, the chair then opened the floor to discussion of the candidate's qualifications among the panel members. Only after the members had been given the opportunity to openly voice their opinions was the issue of the finding of the JEC put to a vote.

### **The Vote**

The hearing panel members voted by secret ballot and were asked to rate the candidate as "Highly Qualified," "Qualified" or "Not Recommended." The JEC's governing resolution provides that to be found "Highly Qualified," the candidate must receive that rating on 80% of the ballots. To be found "Qualified" the candidate must receive a favorable rating on 60% of the ballots. The failure of a candidate to receive 60 percent affirmative vote results in a finding of "Not Recommended." Each hearing panel member was also asked for written comments on the candidate's qualifications, areas worthy of commendation and areas of needed improvement. Following a tabulation of the vote, the chair reviewed and capsulized the written comments in preparing the statement of reasons given in support of the Committee's finding.

## **The Appellate Review Committee**

On July 12, 1990, The Chicago Bar Association's Board of Managers adopted procedures establishing a separate Appellate Review Committee to act independently from the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC).

The new Appellate Review Committee was recommended by a special committee appointed by past president Chester L. Blair. Made up of 30 lawyers, the committee hears appeals only from candidates who receive a "Not Recommended" rating from the JEC.

The candidate may request a re-evaluation by the appellate committee only on the basis that he or she believes that errors or omissions were made in the original screening process.

The Resolution adopted by the CBA's Board of Managers provides that:

A re-evaluation shall only be ordered on a determination that the Judicial Evaluation Committee's Hearing Division's finding was clearly erroneous. A re-evaluation shall not be ordered solely because the Appellate Review Panel disagrees with the Judicial Evaluation Committee's findings.

The Appellate Review Committee's authority will be limited to directing that the candidate be given a new hearing by the JEC or denying the appeal.

Prior to the formation of the new Appellate Review Committee, all appeals were handled within the JEC. These new appellate procedures only apply to candidates evaluated by the JEC after July 12, 1990.

## **Reporting of Findings**

The CBA has always reported its JEC findings to the public for all elective judicial positions.

On February 19, 1987, The CBA Board of Managers amended the JEC governing resolution to provide publication of "Statements of Reasons" for all such elective positions and specified appointive positions, such as associate judgeships.

## **THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION FINDINGS FOR COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT AND SUBCIRCUIT VACANCIES**

On February 28, 2018, The Chicago Bar Association released the results of independent screenings for the 110 judicial candidates seeking Cook County Circuit Court positions in the March 20, 2018 primary election.

Of the 110 candidates seeking election for Circuit Court Positions, 93 were screened by the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the CBA. The JEC has found 20 of those candidates “Highly Qualified”, 56 “Qualified” and 34 “Not Recommended”. The 16 candidates who declined to participate in the JEC screening process, were found automatically “Not Recommended” according to JEC governing bylaws. One (1) candidate was found “Not Recommended” pursuant to the rules of the Judicial Evaluation Committee because she was a member of the committee when she decided to run for judicial office.

**NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR EACH CIRCUIT AND SUBCIRCUIT COURT CANDIDATE.**

**FINDINGS FOR COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT VACANCIES**

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Brewer Vacancy)**

**ORAN F. WHITING**

**QUALIFIED**

Oran F. Whiting is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Whiting was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in insurance defense, commercial litigation, aviation, and healthcare law. Mr. Whiting has vast experience in litigation and transactional work and enjoys a reputation for fairness and compassion.

**KATHRYN MALONEY-VAHEY**

**QUALIFIED**

Kathryn Maloney-Vahey is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Maloney-Vahey was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998 and has served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender for her entire career. Ms. Maloney-Vahey has extensive experience in both criminal and mental health law. Ms. Maloney-Vahey has excellent writing skills and is highly regarded for her outstanding temperament, diligence, legal knowledge and ability.

**JOHN MAHER**

**QUALIFIED**

John Maher is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Maher was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and is currently serving as Deputy Supervisor, Gang Crimes Unit, at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office. Mr. Maher has extensive jury trial experience and possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Clay Vacancy)**

**KATHALEEN THERESA LANAHAN**

**QUALIFIED**

Kathaleen T. Lanahan is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Lanahan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and has served as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney for 23 ½ years. Ms. Lanahan has extensive jury and non-jury trial experience. Ms. Lanahan is well regarded for her work ethic, fine demeanor, fairness, knowledge of the law, and legal ability.

**JONATHAN CLARK GREEN**

**QUALIFIED**

Jonathan Clark Green is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Green was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1986 and is currently Senior Counsel in the Federal Civil Rights Litigation Division in the City of Chicago’s Law Department. Mr. Green is well rounded in the law and has had extensive experience in complex legal matters. Mr. Green is hardworking, passionate about the law, and well regarded by his peers and adversaries for his outstanding demeanor, knowledge of the law and legal ability.



**MICHAEL I. O'MALLEY**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Michael I. O'Malley is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. O'Malley was admitted to practice law in 2005 and has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for 10 ½ years. Mr. O'Malley is currently assigned to the Civil Division, but has had criminal bench and jury trial experience and experience in handling financial crimes. Mr. O'Malley is a CPA and prior to his admission to the bar worked in the banking industry. Mr. O'Malley is knowledgeable and has good practice experience. The Committee believes that additional practice experience will better prepare him for service as a circuit court judge.

**LORI ANN ROPER**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Lori A. Roper is "Not Recommended" for the office of Associate Judge. Ms. Roper was admitted to the practice of law in Illinois in 1994. Ms. Roper has a fine demeanor and is a skilled lawyer. However, the candidate failed to disclose a number of creditor lawsuits against her, as well as detailed listings of bench trials.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Dooling Vacancy)**

**ATHANASIOS (TOM) SIANIS**

**QUALIFIED**

Athanasios (Tom) Sianis is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Sianis was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2004 and served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Mr. Sianis is currently serving as Director of Enforcement for the Illinois Securities Department. Mr. Sianis has substantial trial and administrative law experience and is well regarded for his legal knowledge, diligence, integrity, and calm demeanor.

**TIMOTHY JOHN LEEMING**

**QUALIFIED**

Timothy John Leeming is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Leeming was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1986 and served in private practice until 1988 when he became a Cook County Assistant Public Defender. Mr. Leeming has extensive civil, criminal, and appellate practice experience. Mr. Leeming has tried many complex cases and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, work ethic, legal ability, and calm demeanor.

**CORRI DIANE FETMAN**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Corri Diane Fetman declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Egan Vacancy)**

**ROSA MARIA SILVA**

**QUALIFIED**

Rosa Marie Silva is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Silva was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and is currently serving as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender in the Felony Trial Division. Ms. Silva has had extensive criminal trial experience and possesses the requisite legal knowledge, ability, and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Dunford Vacancy)**

**THOMAS F. MCGUIRE**

**QUALIFIED**

Thomas F. McGuire is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. McGuire was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and is a sole practitioner concentrating in criminal defense and transportation law. Mr. McGuire has extensive experience in criminal law and is highly praised for his work ethic, fine temperament, knowledge of the law, and legal ability.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Flanagan Vacancy)**

**AMANDA MOIRA PILLSBURY**

**QUALIFIED**

Amanda Moira Pillsbury is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Pillsbury was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2004 and has served as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney since her admission. Ms. Pillsbury is currently assigned to the Felony Trial Division and has extensive jury and bench trial experience. Ms. Pillsbury has a calm demeanor and possesses the legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**PRESTON JONES, JR.**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Preston Jones, Jr. is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Jones was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and is currently serving as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender assigned to the Homicide Task Force at the Criminal Court. Mr. Jones has extensive trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, work ethic, and outstanding temperament.

**KEELY PATRICIA HILLISON**

**QUALIFIED**

Keely Patricia Hillison is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Hillison was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1985 and has concentrated her practice in personal injury and insurance defense matters. Ms. Hillison has trial and appellate experience and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal experience, diligence, and calm demeanor.

**IOANA SALAJANU**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Ioana Salajanu is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Salajanu was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and is currently practicing law with a small firm concentrating her practice in corporate Law, commercial real estate, and intellectual property matters. Although Ms. Salajanu has been practicing law for 17 years, the scope of her practice and court experience is limited. At this point in her career, Ms. Salajanu does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal experience to effectively serve as a judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Hartigan Vacancy)**

**CECILIA A. HORAN**

**QUALIFIED**

Cecilia A. Horan is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Horan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and is currently a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson. Ms. Horan has worked with the Hinshaw firm her entire career and concentrates in complex tort litigation and insurance defense matters. Ms. Horan is well versed in the law and has had substantial litigation experience. Ms. Horan is active in the legal profession and possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**KEITH L. SPENCE**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Keith L. Spence is “Not Recommended” for the office of Associate Judge. Mr. Spence was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1999 and is currently a sole practitioner concentrating in family law, criminal and real estate law. Mr. Spence’s failure to disclose personal litigation along with concerns about his diligence, punctuality, knowledge of the law, and legal ability resulted in a “Not Recommended” finding. Mr. Spence needs to address these concerns.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Jordan Vacancy)**

**CLARE QUISH**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Clare Quish is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Quish was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in June 2016. Judge Quish served as a law clerk for Justice Mary Jane Theis for 6 ½ years before entering private practice where she handled civil litigation and appeals. Judge Quish has served in the Circuit Court’s Traffic and Municipal Divisions and has efficiently presided over both bench and jury trials. Judge Quish is hardworking, diligent, and well regarded for her knowledge of the law and excellent temperament.

**JERRY BARRIDO**

**QUALIFIED**

Jerry Barrido is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Barrido was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1999 and is currently serving as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender in the Juvenile Justice Division. Mr. Barrido has extensive experience in criminal and juvenile law and has tried numerous bench and jury cases. Mr. Barrido is hardworking and well regarded for his knowledge of the law, diligence, and fairness.

**PATRICK DANKWA JOHN**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Patrick Dankwa John declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (McGinnis Vacancy)**

**BRIAN TERRENCE SEXTON**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Brian Terrence Sexton is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Sexton was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and served as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney for 30 years before entering private practice. Mr. Sexton has extensive court experience and has tried many complex criminal cases. Mr. Sexton is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal experience, and excellent demeanor.

**PETER MICHAEL GONZALEZ**

**QUALIFIED**

Peter Michael Gonzalez is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Gonzalez was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and is a sole practitioner concentrating in criminal defense matters. Mr. Gonzalez has extensive trial and bench experience and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**BRADLEY TROWBRIDGE**

**QUALIFIED**

Bradley Trowbridge is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Trowbridge was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and for the past 12 years has served as a sole practitioner concentrating in family law. Prior to opening his own law firm, Mr. Trowbridge worked in the field of legal aid and served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Mr. Trowbridge has had many bench trials and a small number of jury trials. Mr. Trowbridge is well regarded for his integrity and excellent demeanor and possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Rooney Vacancy)**

**JACK J. HAGERTY**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

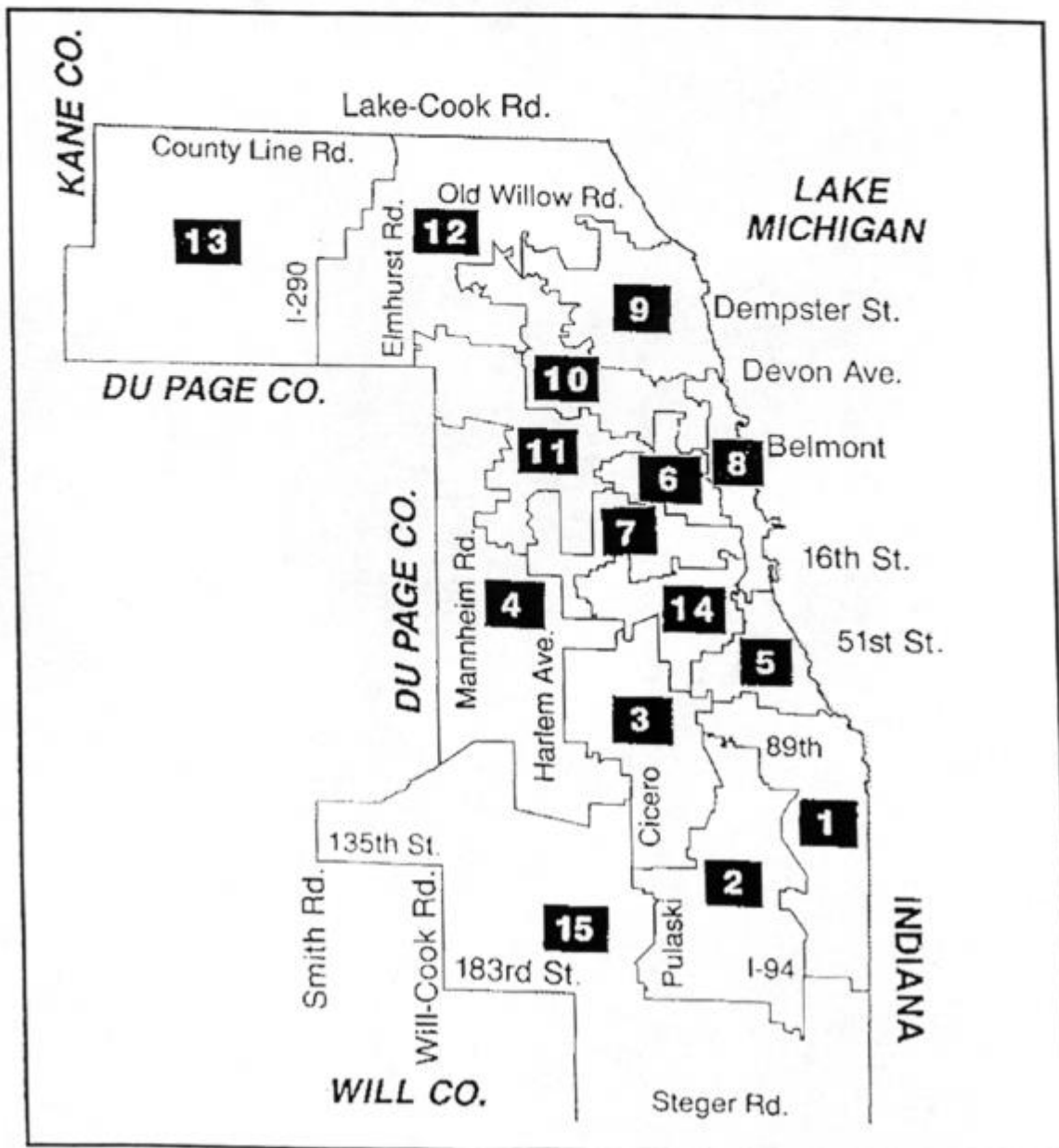
Jack J. Hagerty is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Hagerty was admitted to practice law in 1990 and is currently practicing with a large law firm concentrating in complex civil litigation matters in state and federal court. Mr. Hagerty is highly regarded by his colleagues and adversaries for his diligence, knowledge of the law, outstanding temperament, and commitment to community.

**MABLE TAYLOR**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Mable Taylor is “Not Recommended” for the office of Associate Judge. Ms. Taylor was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and since her admission has been a sole practitioner concentrating in criminal, personal injury, wrongful death, workers’ compensation, probate, election, and family law matters. Ms. Taylor does not possess the requisite legal knowledge to effectively serve as an Associate Judge.

# COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



## FINDINGS FOR COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT COURT VACANCIES

### FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (1<sup>ST</sup> Subcircuit Hambright, Jr. Vacancy)

**LITRICIA PAYNE**

**QUALIFIED**

Litricia Payne is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Payne, who is a resident of Cook County, was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and is currently a supervisor in the felony division of the Will County Public Defender’s Office. Ms. Payne has extensive trial experience and has personally tried 44 criminal jury trials. Ms. Payne played a major role in the expansion of alternate treatment programs for defendants with mental health and substance abuse issues. Ms. Payne is thoughtful and well regarded for her knowledge of the law, extensive experience, and excellent demeanor.

**ERIKA L. ORR**

**QUALIFIED**

Erika L. Orr is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Orr was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998 and served in public accounting for 11 years concentrating on international tax matters. Since 2011, Ms. Orr has practiced law as a solo practitioner concentrating in adoption, matrimonial and domestic violence matters. Ms. Orr is intelligent, articulate, and well regarded for her integrity and calm demeanor. Ms. Orr possesses the requisite legal knowledge and ability to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

### FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>ND</sup> Subcircuit Lampkin Vacancy)

**TIANA ELLIS BLAKLEY**

**QUALIFIED**

Tiana Ellis Blakley is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Blakely was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2004 and is currently serving as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender in the 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal District. Ms. Blakely has extensive jury and bench trial experience and has handled complex cases involving scientific and medical evidence. Ms. Blakely is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal ability, and calm demeanor.

**FREDRICK H. BATES**

**QUALIFIED**

Fredrick H. Bates is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Bates was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and concentrated his practice in labor and employment law. For the last fifteen years, Mr. Bates has served as a full-time Hearing Officer for several government agencies. Mr. Bates presides over complex employment cases and other substantial matters and is well regarded for his legal knowledge and ability. Mr. Bates possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>nd</sup> Subcircuit Laws Vacancy)**

**WILLIAM H. LAWS**

**QUALIFIED**

William H. Laws is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Laws was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and is engaged in solo practice concentrating in criminal law. Mr. Laws has extensive trial experience in both the state and federal court and is well regarded for his legal knowledge, legal ability, fine demeanor, and calm temperament.

**ADRIENNE ELAINE DAVIS**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Adrienne Elaine Davis is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Davis was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and has served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender for 22 years. Ms. Davis has extensive criminal trial experience and has tried many complex cases. Ms. Davis is passionate about the law and is highly regarded for her legal knowledge, legal ability, and outstanding demeanor.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>nd</sup> Subcircuit Rhodes Vacancy)**

**TOYA T. HARVEY**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Toya T. Harvey is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Harvey was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender until March 3, 2017, when she was appointed to the Circuit Court. Judge Harvey is currently assigned to the First Municipal Division where she presides over Forcible Entry and Detainer cases. Judge Harvey efficiently manages a very busy call and does an excellent job in explaining the court process to pro se litigants. Judge Harvey is hardworking, compassionate, and well regarded for her knowledge of the law, trial experience, and outstanding temperament and demeanor.

**TIESHA SMITH**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Tiesha Smith declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>nd</sup> Subcircuit Turner, Jr. Vacancy)**

**TRAVIS RICHARDSON**

**QUALIFIED**

Travis Richardson is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Richardson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal and civil litigation. Mr. Richardson has extensive trial and court experience and is also active in community service. Mr. Richardson possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**IESHIA GRAY**

**QUALIFIED**

Ieshia Gray is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Gray was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2002 and is currently working as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender. Ms. Gray has extensive court and trial experience and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal ability, and fine temperament.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>nd</sup> Subcircuit Willis Vacancy)**

**DEBRA A. SEATON**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Debra A. Seaton is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Seaton was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1986. Judge Seaton’s experience includes service as an Assistant Public Defender in Kane County and Cook County and as a private practitioner concentrating in criminal law for approximately 10 years. Judge Seaton was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017 and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law and legal experience.

**SHEREE D. HENRY**

**QUALIFIED**

Sheree D. Henry is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Henry was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and served for 18 years as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender and four years with the Public Guardian’s Office. Ms. Henry is well regarded for her integrity, calm demeanor, legal knowledge, and passionate advocacy on behalf of her clients.

**UBI O’NEAL**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Ubi O’Neal declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (2<sup>nd</sup> Subcircuit Turner Vacancy)**

**DEVLIN J. SCHOOP**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Devlin J. Schoop is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Schoop was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and clerked for a U.S. District Court Judge for two years before entering private practice. Judge Schoop was appointed to the bench in 2015 and is dedicated to the law and to the legal profession. Judge Schoop is hardworking and well regarded for his knowledge of the law, extensive legal experience, and skills.

**ARTHUR WESLEY WILLIS**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Arthur Wesley Willis declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.



**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (3<sup>rd</sup> Subcircuit Delehanty Vacancy)**

**PATRICK STANTON**

**QUALIFIED**

Patrick Stanton is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Stanton was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and clerked for a federal judge for one year. Since 1996, Mr. Stanton has worked at a national law firm handling a variety of commercial litigation cases. Mr. Stanton possesses a fine temperament and demeanor and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, punctuality and diligence.

**MICHAEL HAYES**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Michael Hayes declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**KEVIN PATRICK CUNNINGHAM**

**QUALIFIED**

Kevin Patrick Cunningham is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Cunningham was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal, real estate and personal injury matters. Mr. Cunningham served as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney until entering private practice in 2001 and since 2007 he has served as prosecutor for the Village of Oak Lawn. Mr. Cunningham has considerable civil and criminal trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law and legal ability.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (4<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Davy Vacancy)**

**DAVID NAVARRO**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge David Navarro is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Navarro was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Navarro served as Supervisor of Professional Responsibility in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office and for eight years as Chief of the Public Integrity Section in the Illinois Attorney General’s office. Judge Navarro has extensive jury and non-jury trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, excellent temperament, work ethic, and commitment to public service.

**CAROLINE JAMIESON GOLDEN**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Caroline Jamieson Golden is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Golden was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in civil rights, government and municipal liability. Ms. Golden has extensive practice experience and has tried many complex civil and criminal matters. Ms. Golden is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, extensive legal experience, and professional demeanor.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (4<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Riley Vacancy)**

**JOHN O'MEARA**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

John O'Meara is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. O'Meara was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in medical malpractice, complex litigation, government law, and construction negligence matters. Mr. O'Meara has extensive trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, integrity, calm demeanor, and excellent temperament.

**ELIZABETH CIACCIA-LEZZA**

**QUALIFIED**

Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Ciaccia-Lezza was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and has served a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney for her entire career. Ms. Ciaccia-Lezza is assigned to the Sex Crime/Internet Crimes Against Children Unit at the Criminal Court. Ms. Ciaccia-Lezza has extensive trial experience in prosecuting Internet cases and teaches federal government law enforcement officials about her area of expertise. Ms. Ciaccia-Lezza is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal and trial skills, and excellent demeanor.

**DANNY COLLINS**

**QUALIFIED**

Danny Collins is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Collins was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in workers' compensation, administrative hearings, and appeals. Mr. Collins has an excellent demeanor and possesses the requisite depth and breadth of experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**MARTIN D. REGGI**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Martin D. Reggi is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Reggi was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and is currently engaged in private practice. Mr. Reggi has a varied general practice that includes administrative, real estate, traffic and criminal law matters. Mr. Reggi does not possess the legal knowledge, ability, practice experience, and diligence required to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Banks Vacancy)**

**RHONDA SALLEE**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Rhonda Sallee declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**H. YVONNE COLEMAN**

**QUALIFIED**

H. Yvonne Coleman is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Coleman began her career as a prosecutor in Louisiana and after relocating to Chicago was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988. Ms. Coleman has had a varied career serving on the staff of the National

Labor Relations Board, Executive Director of the Community Law Project, an administrative hearing officer, general counsel of the Chicago Superintendent Police Review Authority, and in the appeals division of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Since 2004, with a two year interruption, Ms. Coleman has been a solo practitioner concentrating her practice in employment and labor law matters. Ms. Coleman is well regarded for her legal experience, integrity, calm and engaging demeanor, and her commitment to the law.

**GINO BETTS**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Gino Betts declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**GWENDOLYN D. ANDERSON**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Gwendolyn D. Anderson declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Jones Vacancy)**

**MARIAN EMILY PERKINS**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Judge Marian Emily Perkins is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Perkins was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney and as staff attorney with the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. Judge Perkins entered private practice in 1998 and concentrated her practice largely in criminal matters. Judge Perkins was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017 and is currently assigned to Traffic Court. While Judge Perkins is recognized for her integrity and excellent temperament, concerns about the depth of her legal knowledge and judicial ability resulted in a "Not Recommended" finding.

**JENETIA MARSHALL**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Jenetia Marshall declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**DAVID L. KELLY**

**QUALIFIED**

David L. Kelly is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kelly was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in civil and criminal matters. Mr. Kelly is active in bar and community work and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal experience, integrity, fine temperament, and excellent demeanor.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Washington, II Vacancy)**

**ROBERT F. HARRIS**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Robert F. Harris is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Harris was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and has served his entire career in the Cook County Public Guardian's office. Mr. Harris was appointed to lead the Public Guardian's office in 2004 and continues to serve with distinction as Cook County's Public Guardian. Mr. Harris is well regarded for his knowledge of the law and extensive legal ability that includes both jury and non-jury trial experience. Mr. Harris is also highly regarded for his dedication to public service, work ethic, integrity, and outstanding demeanor and temperament.

**SHAY T. ALLEN**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Shay T. Allen is "Not Recommended" for the office of Associate Judge. Mr. Allen was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2005 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal and civil matters. At this stage of his career, Mr. Allen does not possess sufficient practice experience to effectively serve as a judge. Also, Mr. Allen needs to address concerns about his punctuality and tardiness.

**MARY MELCHOR**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Mary Melchor is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Melchor was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992 and has limited practice experience. Ms. Melchor worked as an associate from 1992-94; CHA from 1994-98; served as an associate at a defense law firm from 1998-2000; solo practitioner from 2000-2002; served as Chief Deputy Clerk in the Maybrook Court 2002-2003; associate clerk of the County Bureau from 2003-2005; and since 2005 as Inspector General for the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Ms. Melchor is well regarded for her integrity, outstanding demeanor and people skills. However, Ms. Melchor's practical knowledge of the law, current court rules and procedures, coupled with her very limited practice experience would make it difficult for her to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (6<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Chevere Vacancy)**

**DAVID C. HERRERA**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

David C. Herrera is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Herrera was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and serves as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Mr. Herrera is currently assigned to a felony trial call in Bridgeview. While Mr. Herrera possesses the requisite experience to serve as a judge, serious concerns about his temperament earlier in his career and candor about these concerns resulted in the "Not Recommended" finding.

**KENT DELGADO**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Kent Delgado is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Delgado was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017. Judge Delgado is currently assigned to the Probate Division. Judge Delgado has extensive civil

and criminal trial experience and is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, and dedication to public service.

**SEAN P. KELLY**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Sean P. Kelly is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kelly was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006 and is currently serving as a DuPage County Assistant State’s Attorney. While Mr. Kelly is intelligent and diligent, additional practice experience would better prepare him to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (6<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Cooke Vacancy)**

**EDWARD J. UNDERHILL**

**QUALIFIED**

Edward J. Underhill is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Underhill was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1984 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in commercial litigation, appellate practice, and arbitration matters. Mr. Underhill has extensive litigation experience in complex commercial cases and is well regarded for his legal knowledge, work ethic, and commitment to public service.

**CHARLES “CHARLIE” BEACH**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Charles “Charlie” Beach is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Beach was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017. Judge Beach is well regarded by lawyers who appear before him for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, diligence, and compassion.

**ANDREA MICHELLE WEBBER**

**QUALIFIED**

Andrea Michelle Webber is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Webber was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2002 and is currently working as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender assigned to the Homicide Task Force. Ms. Webber has extensive court experience and has tried many complex cases. Ms. Webber is well regarded by the judges before whom she has appeared and by opposing counsel for her knowledge of the law and legal experience.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (6<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Lopez Cepero)**

**LINDA PEREZ**

**QUALIFIED**

Linda Perez is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Perez was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and has served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender since her admission to the bar. Ms. Perez has had varied assignments in the Public Defender’s Office including probation, juvenile justice, traffic and specialty courts. Ms. Perez is well regarded for her excellent demeanor and possesses the requisite depth and breadth of legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**STEPHANIE MILLER**

**QUALIFIED**

Stephanie Miller is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Miller was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1999 and is serving as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, First

Chair, in the Felony Trial Division at the Leighton Criminal Court. Ms. Miller has extensive trial and court experience and is well regarded for her knowledge of law and legal ability. Ms. Miller is dedicated to public service and is actively engaged in community and bar association work.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (8<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Fabri Vacancy)**

**JAMES (JAMIE) SHAPIRO**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

James (Jamie) Shapiro is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Shapiro was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1985 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in civil litigation and criminal defense matters. Mr. Shapiro was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2007 and served on the bench until 2012. Mr. Shapiro has extensive practice experience and is highly regarded for his knowledge of civil and criminal law.

**STEPHEN J. FELDMAN**

**QUALIFIED**

Stephen J. Feldman is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Feldman was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal defense and transportation law. Mr. Feldman possesses the requisite knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**ROBIN DENISE SHOFFNER**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Robin Denise Shoffner is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Shoffner was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1990 and was appointed to the bench in 2014. Judge Shoffner is currently assigned to the Fourth Municipal District. Judge Shoffner possesses the requisite legal ability to serve as a Circuit Court Judge and is working to address concerns about her legal knowledge and temperament.

**JOHN CHRISTOPHER BENSON**

**QUALIFIED**

John Christopher Benson is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Benson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal and civil rights law. Mr. Benson has extensive practice experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, integrity, and temperament.

**BONNIE C. MCGRATH**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Bonnie C. McGrath declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (8<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Liu Vacancy)**

**LINDSAY HUGE**

**QUALIFIED**

Lindsay Huge is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Huge was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and has served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender his

entire career. Mr. Huges is currently assigned to the Appellate Post Conviction Unit and has written more than 137 appellate briefs and personally argued 13 cases in the Illinois Appellate Court. Mr. Huges has had bench and jury trial experience in a wide variety of criminal cases. Mr. Huges possesses a fine demeanor and temperament and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law and legal ability.

**MICHAEL A. FORTI**

**QUALIFIED**

Michael A. Forti is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Forti was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and has experience in both the private sector and government. Mr. Forti is an experienced lawyer well regarded for his judgment, fine demeanor, and temperament.

**CYRUS HOSSEINI**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Cyrus Hosseini declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**ATHENA FARMAKIS**

**QUALIFIED**

Athena Farmakis is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Farmakis was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and has worked as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney for her entire career. Ms. Farmakis has served as a Supervisor in the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Division and then as Supervisor of Preliminary Hearings in the Criminal Court. Ms. Farmakis has extensive trial experience and is well regarded for her work ethic, knowledge of the law, and legal ability.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (8<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Pethers Vacancy)**

**JEANNE MARIE WRENN**

**QUALIFIED**

Jeanne Marie Wrenn is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Wrenn was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and served for almost ten years as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney. Ms. Wrenn also served as the Ethics and EEO officer for PACE and as General Counsel of the National Safety Council. Ms. Wrenn is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, excellent legal ability, and outstanding temperament.

**MYRON F. MACKOFF**

**QUALIFIED**

Myron F. Mackoff is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Mackoff was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and served in the Illinois Attorney General’s office for eight years before entering private practice. Mr. Mackoff has bench and jury trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of civil and criminal law, legal ability, and even temperament.

**RISHI AGRAWAL**

**QUALIFIED**

Rishi Agrawal is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Agrawal was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998 and is currently engaged in private practice. Mr. Agrawal has

experience in both civil and criminal law and possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as an Associate Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (10<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit O'Neill Burke Vacancy)**

**STEPHANIE SALTOUROS**

**QUALIFIED**

Stephanie Saltouros is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Saltouros was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney for 12 years before entering private practice. Ms. Saltouros has substantial felony and misdemeanor trial experience. Ms. Saltouros is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, integrity, fine temperament, diligence, work ethic, good communication skills and punctuality.

**GWYN E. WARD BROWN**

**QUALIFIED**

Gwyn E. Ward Brown is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Brown was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and has served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender for 26 years. Ms. Brown has extensive experience in post-convictions and appeals and possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**LORRAINE MURPHY**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Lorraine Murphy is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Murphy was admitted to practice law in 2003 and is serving as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney in the Felony Trial Division at the George N. Leighton Criminal Court. Ms. Murphy was serving as a member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee when the committee began its investigative work for candidates running in the March 2018 primary. Ms. Murphy’s “Not Recommended” finding is based on Rule 17.5 of the Judicial Evaluation Committee’s governing resolution, which reads in pertinent part “...a candidate’s participation in the evaluation shall be deemed to have occurred if the candidate is still a member of the committee on the date investigation files are first distributed to investigation teams for other judicial candidates in the same primary or general election.”

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (10<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Suriano Vacancy)**

**COLLEEN REARDON DALY**

**QUALIFIED**

Colleen Reardon Daly is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Daly was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and served for 13 years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney before entering private practice six years ago. Ms. Daly has extensive experience in handling felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile law cases. In addition, Ms. Daly has administrative law experience before the Police Review Board. Ms. Daly has a passion for the law and is well regarded for her fine temperament and knowledge of civil and criminal law.



**NOREEN PATRICIA CONNOLLY**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Noreen Patricia Connolly declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**GERALD CLEARY**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Gerald Cleary is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Cleary was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and was appointed to the bench in 2015. Judge Cleary is currently assigned to the Chancery Division's Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section. Judge Cleary is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, diligence, and outstanding temperament.

**JILL ROSE QUINN**

**QUALIFIED**

Jill Rose Quinn is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Quinn was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in bankruptcy, probate, and real estate law. Ms. Quinn has extensive practice experience and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal ability, integrity, and outstanding demeanor and temperament.

**THOMAS J. GABRYSZEWSKI**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Thomas J. Gabryszewski is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Gabryszewski was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1990 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in personal injury matters. Mr. Gabryszewski has limited experience in handling complex matters and does not possess the requisite legal knowledge and practice experience to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (11<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Kennedy Vacancy)**

**JOANNE F. ROSADO**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Joanne F. Rosado is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Rosado was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender from 2002-2017. Ms. Rosado was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2017 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. Judge Rosado is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, judicial ability, diligence, and outstanding temperament.

**SCOTT J. FRANKEL**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Scott J. Frankel is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Frankel was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal and civil rights law. Mr. Frankel has extensive practice experience in handling complex cases in both the federal and state courts. Mr. Frankel is highly regarded by his colleagues, adversaries, and judges before whom he has appeared for his knowledge of the law and legal ability.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (12<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Maki Vacancy)**

**DAVID STUDENROTH**

**QUALIFIED**

David Studenroth is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Studenroth was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal matters. Mr. Studenroth has extensive trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, diligence, and excellent temperament.

**ALAN M. JACOB**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Alan M. Jacob declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**JOEL CHUPACK**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Joel Chupack is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Chupack was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1982 and is currently practicing with a small firm concentrating in real estate, probate, and civil litigation. Mr. Chupack has extensive practice experience and is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal scholarship, legal ability, and excellent temperament. Mr. Chupack, who is actively involved in the legal profession, has published numerous legal articles and is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars.

**CARMINE TROMBETTA**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Carmine Trombetta is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Trombetta was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in traffic and personal injury matters. At this stage of his career, Mr. Trombetta does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal knowledge and experience to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**THOMAS RAYMOND MOLITOR**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Thomas Raymond Molitor declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association’s governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (13<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Crane Vacancy)**

**GARY WILLIAM SEYRING**

**QUALIFIED**

Gary William Seyring is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Seyring was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1978 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in family law, real estate, business law, and wills, trusts and estates. Mr. Seyring has commercial litigation experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of probate, tax and

family law. Mr. Seyring is actively involved in community service and highly regarded by the judges before whom he has appeared.

**SUSANNE GROEBNER**

**QUALIFIED**

Susanne Groebner is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Groebner was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and is currently serving as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney in the Third Municipal District. Ms. Groebner has tried many complex cases and is well respected by judges and lawyers for her knowledge of the law, outstanding trial skills, fine demeanor and temperament.

**KETKI SHROFF STEFFEN**

**QUALIFIED**

Judge Ketki Shroff Steffen is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Steffen was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and was first appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010. Judge Steffen served on the bench for two years and presided over traffic, civil and criminal domestic violence cases. From 2013 to November 2015, she served as an Administrative Law Judge Arbitrator for the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission. Judge Steffen was reappointed to the Circuit Court in 2015 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District where she presides over forcible detainer cases. Judge Steffen is diligent and highly regarded her knowledge of the law, judicial ability, and integrity.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (13<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Lawrence Vacancy)**

**DANIEL PATRICK FITZGERALD**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Daniel Patrick Fitzgerald is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Fitzgerald was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and is currently senior in-house counsel for a large corporation. Mr. Fitzgerald has worked as an in-house counsel for twelve (12) years and represents the company in a variety of civil litigation matters. Mr. Fitzgerald’s prior legal experience includes: serving as a law clerk to a Cook County Chancery Court Judge (2 years); Chicago’s Office of Inspector General (3 years); General Counsel, Illinois Racing Board (3 years); and Assistant Illinois Attorney General (6 years). While Mr. Fitzgerald has had a broad range of experience, his court and trial experience is limited. He does not possess the depth and breadth of legal knowledge and practice to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**MICHAEL P. GERBER**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Michael P. Gerber is “Highly Qualified” for the office Circuit Court Judge. Judge Gerber was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender for four years and as a Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney for 32 years before his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2016. Judge Gerber is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, judicial ability, commitment to fairness, and excellent temperament.

**SHANNON P. O'MALLEY**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Shannon P. O'Malley declined to participate in the Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) screening process and, therefore, according to The Chicago Bar Association's governing resolution for the JEC, is automatically found NOT RECOMMENDED.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (13<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit O'Donnell Vacancy)**

**CHRISTINE SVENSON**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Christine Svenson is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Svenson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in family law, employment law, election law, and workers' compensation matters. Concerns about Ms. Svenson's knowledge of the law, legal ability, and practice experience were raised in the wake of harsh criticism that she received from the Illinois Appellate Court for not following the Appellate Court Rules in a recent appeal that she was handling. Ms. Svenson does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal knowledge and practice experience to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**SAMUEL J. BETAR, III**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Judge Samuel J. Betar, III is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Betar was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and has served as a judge since 1998. Judge Betar has mentored new judges and has spoken at the state judicial conference. Judge Betar is actively involved in community service and is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, effective management of his courtroom, and outstanding temperament.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (14<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Garcia Vacancy)**

**MARINA AMMENDOLA**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Marina Ammendola is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Ammendola was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in personal injury and medical malpractice matters. Ms. Ammendola also receives appointments as a guardian ad litem in a variety of contexts. Ms. Ammendola has extensive trial experience and is highly regarded by her peers and the judges before whom she appears for her knowledge of the law, advocacy skills, fine temperament, diligence, and professionalism. Ms. Ammendola is a former school teacher and is active in charitable organizations that benefit many child-related issues.

**BEATRIZ A. FRAUSTO-SANDOVAL**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Frausto-Sandoval was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2005 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in immigration law. While Ms. Frausto-Sandoval has a fine

temperament; at this stage of her career, she does not possess the depth and breadth of practice and court experience to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (15<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Scully, Jr. Vacancy)**

**ASHONTA RICE-AKIWOWO**

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

Ashonta Rice-Akiwowo is “Not Recommended” for the office of Associate Judge. Ms. Rice was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2005 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in family law, juvenile law, and social security. Ms. Rice is dedicated, articulate, intelligent, and possesses a fine demeanor and temperament. However, at this stage of her career, Ms. Rice’s practice experience is limited and additional substantive practice experience would better prepare her for service as an Associate Judge.

**MICHAEL B. BARRETT**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Michael B. Barrett is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Barrett was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in workers’ compensation, personal injury, wills, trusts and estate matters. Mr. Barrett has extensive trial and practice experience and has handled many complex cases. He is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, excellent legal ability, diligence, and outstanding demeanor.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (15<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit Zelezinski Vacancy)**

**KARLA MARIE FIAONI**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

Karla Marie Fiaoni is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Fiaoni was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and is currently in private practice concentrating in criminal defense and domestic relations matters. Ms. Fiaoni has extensive trial and practice experience and is highly regarded for her integrity, excellent demeanor, knowledge of the law, and legal ability.

**ANTHONY SWANAGAN**

**QUALIFIED**

Anthony Swanagan is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Swanagan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and has practiced in a variety of settings including private practice for three years, corporate in-house counsel for ten years managing litigation, and for a period of time, serving as General Counsel. For the past fifteen years, Mr. Swanagan has served as a clerk to various Justices of the Illinois Appellate Court and for a U.S. District Court Judge. Mr. Swanagan is well regarded by his peers, supervisors and co-workers for his knowledge of the law and legal skills. Mr. Swanagan is a good lawyer and his extensive in-house experience in managing corporate litigation and experience as a law clerk to Justices of the Illinois Appellate Court and for a U.S. District Court Judge give him the depth and breadth of experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**SCOTT MCKENNA****QUALIFIED**

Scott McKenna is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. McKenna was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and is a partner in a small law firm concentrating in civil litigation and insurance defense. Mr. McKenna has extensive practice experience and is well regarded by his peers for his knowledge of the law and legal ability.



THE  
CHICAGO  
BAR  
ASSOCIATION

Provided As A Public Service of  
The Chicago Bar Association

321 S. Plymouth Ct.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-554-2000

*Paid for by The Chicago Bar Association 2018 Judicial Evaluation Fund.  
A copy of the CBA Report is on file with State Board of Elections.*