



THE
CHICAGO
BAR
ASSOCIATION

Green Guide

To Judicial Candidates in Cook County

The Chicago Bar Association's Evaluations
Of Judicial Candidates Running for Office
In the March 18, 2014 Primary Election

Provided as a public service of The Chicago Bar Association

CONTENTS

Introduction to CBA Judicial Evaluation Program.	3
History	3
Scope & Purpose	3
The Investigation Process	4
The Hearing Process	4
The Vote	5
The Appellate Review Committee	5
Reporting of Findings	6
Summary of Findings for Illinois Appellate Court Candidates.	7
Findings for Appellate Court Candidates	7
Summary of Findings for Circuit Court and Subcircuit Candidates	9
Findings for Circuit Court Candidates	9
Map of Cook County Judicial Subcircuits	15
Findings for Cook County Subcircuit Candidates	16

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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 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 Chicago Bar Association 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 Association's 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 December 2010.

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 seeks to help inform and educate the public about the upcoming judicial contests in the general election.

The Association'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 primary candidates began in June 2013. The guidelines and standards developed by the 22,000-member Chicago Bar Association 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, requires 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 less 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 Committee 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 Committee's resolution, to either of two hearing rooms by a blind drawing for room assignment. Typically, 18 to 20 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 and questioning and hearing confidential.

The Judicial Evaluation Committee 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 Committee cannot be assured that it has uncovered all the evidence which, in the future, may lead to formal charges. Within its authority, the Committee 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 Committee 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 Judicial Evaluation Committee or denying the appeal.

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

Reporting of Findings

The Association 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 ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT CANDIDATES**

On February 19, 2014, The Chicago Bar Association released its findings for the **six** candidates running to fill the Gordon, Murphy and Steele vacancies on the Illinois Appellate Court in the March 18 primary. The JEC has found **1** of those candidates **Highly Qualified**, **3 Qualified** and **2 Not Recommended**.

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR EACH APPELLATE COURT CANDIDATE.

FOR JUDGE OF THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT (GORDON)

SHELDON (SHELLY) A. HARRIS (D)

QUALIFIED

Justice Sheldon A. Harris is “Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Justice Harris was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1966 and was engaged in private practice until 2000 when he was appointed a Circuit Court Judge. In 2010, Justice Harris was assigned to the Illinois Appellate Court. Justice Harris is hardworking, experienced, and well regarded for his knowledge of the law.

SUSAN KENNEDY SULLIVAN (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Susan Kennedy Sullivan is “Not Recommended” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Sullivan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and was elected a Circuit Court Judge in 2010. Judge Sullivan is currently assigned to both Traffic Court and the Elder Law Division of the Circuit Court. Judge Sullivan has an excellent demeanor and temperament. However, Judge Sullivan’s judicial experience is limited and it was felt that more experience on the bench would better prepare her for service on the Illinois Appellate Court.

FREDDRENNA M. LYLE (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Freddrenna M. Lyle is “Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Lyle was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011. Judge Lyle is currently assigned to the First Municipal District’s Traffic Center. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Lyle served as a Chicago Alderman for 13 years and was engaged in the private practice of law. Her practice experience included both civil and criminal litigation, appellate practice, and transactional work. Judge Lyle is well regarded for her integrity and excellent demeanor.

FOR JUDGE OF THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT (MURPHY)

DAVID ELLIS (D)

QUALIFIED

David W. Ellis is “Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Mr. Ellis was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and has experience in complex commercial litigation, legislative drafting, and appellate practice. Mr. Ellis has excellent writing skills and has authored ethical opinions, briefs, and legal memoranda used in the legislative process. Mr. Ellis is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, analytical skills, and even temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT (STEELE)

SHARON ODEN JOHNSON (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Judge Sharon Oden Johnson is “Not Recommended” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Johnson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2010. Judge Johnson is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and hears parentage and child support cases. Judge Johnson is intelligent, motivated, and diligent. While the Committee was impressed with the quality of Judge Johnson’s work in her present assignment, more judicial experience, ideally in some other judicial assignments, is needed to better prepare her for service on the Appellate Court.

JOHN B. SIMON (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Justice John B. Simon is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Justice Simon was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1967 and had a distinguished career in government and in private practice before being appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2012. Justice Simon has a passion and enthusiasm for the law and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Appellate Court. Justice Simon is hardworking, diligent, and committed to the justice system.

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

On February 19, 2014, The Chicago Bar Association released the results of independent screenings for the judicial candidates seeking Cook County Circuit Court positions in the March 18 primary election.

Of the **67** candidates seeking election for Circuit Court positions the JEC has found **7** of those candidates **Highly Qualified**, **46 Qualified** and **14 Not Recommended**. Of those 14, **7** were found automatically “Not Recommended” because they declined to participate in the evaluation process. This is a requirement of the JEC governing bylaws.

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 (ARNOLD)

BRIDGET ANNE MITCHELL (D)

QUALIFIED

Bridget A. Mitchell is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Mitchell was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1981 and has extensive civil trial practice experience. Ms. Mitchell concentrates her practice in personal injury, wrongful death and dental malpractice and is a frequent speaker at bar association continuing legal education seminars. Ms. Mitchell is hardworking and well respected for her integrity, knowledge of the law, legal ability, and outstanding demeanor.

ALFRED M. SWANSON, JR. (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Alfred M. Swanson, Jr. is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Swanson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1982 and was appointed a Circuit Court Judge in 2010. Prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court, Judge Swanson concentrated his practice in litigation, tort and product liability, and general defense work. Judge Swanson has extensive civil litigation experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, work ethic, and fine judicial temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (BURKE)

MARITZA MARTINEZ

NOT RECOMMENDED

Maritza Martinez is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Martinez was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and was previously evaluated and found “Qualified.” Based on newly discovered information involving Ms. Martinez’s conduct in a court proceeding, the candidate was re-evaluated. Ms. Martinez’s poor judgment and lack of candor resulted in a “Not Recommended” finding.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (CONNORS)

KRISTAL RIVERS (D)

QUALIFIED

Kristal Rivers is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Rivers was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and engaged in private practice for approximately ten years before becoming an Assistant Attorney General. Ms. Rivers handles civil commitments of sexually violent persons and has a good background in both civil and criminal law. Ms. Rivers is passionate and enthusiastic about the justice system and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

PETER J. VILKELIS (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Peter Vilkelis is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Vilkelis was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney for nine years prior to entering private practice where he concentrated his practice in criminal defense work for 21 years. Judge Vilkelis was appointed to the bench in 2011 and is currently assigned to the Child Protection Division where he presides over abuse, neglect, and dependency child welfare cases. Judge Vilkelis is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, work ethic, and outstanding demeanor and temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (EGAN)

DANIEL J. KUBASIAK (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Daniel Kubasiak is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Kubasiak was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1981 and concentrated his practice in corporate and tax matters. Judge Kubasiak was appointed to the bench in 2012 and is currently assigned to Traffic Court in the First Municipal Division. Judge Kubasiak is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, diligence, and even

temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (PHELPS FELTON)

PATRICIA O'BRIEN SHEAHAN (D)

QUALIFIED

Patricia O'Brien Sheahan is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Sheahan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and was engaged in private practice as an Associate in a large law firm before becoming Associate General Counsel of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Ms. Sheahan has a wide range of practice experience and supervises and handles litigation for the Rehabilitation Institute. Ms. Sheahan possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (HOWSE, Jr.)

CAROLINE KATE MORELAND (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Caroline Kate Moreland is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Moreland was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for 14 years before becoming a judge. Judge Moreland is well respected and possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (LOWRANCE)

THOMAS JOSEPH CARROLL (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Thomas Joseph Carroll is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Carroll was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and was appointed a judge in September 2011. Judge Carroll is currently assigned to Traffic Court and has received favorable reviews from lawyers appearing in his court. Judge Carroll has a fine temperament and possesses the legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (McDONALD)

CYNTHIA Y. COBBS (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Cynthia Y. Cobbs is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge

Cobbs was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and served as a law clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Cobbs held a number of administrative positions in the courts before becoming Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. In 2011, Judge Cobbs was appointed a Circuit Court Judge and is currently assigned to a trial courtroom in the First Municipal Division. Judge Cobbs received favorable reviews from lawyers who have appeared before her and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

LINDA L. MASTANDREA (D)

QUALIFIED

Linda L. Mastandrea is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Mastandrea was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and concentrates her practice in disability and administrative Law. Ms. Mastandrea has extensive experience as a Special Education Hearing Officer and as a Hearing Officer for Chicago’s Building Board of Appeals. Ms. Mastandrea is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal ability, diligence, and fine demeanor.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (NEVILLE, JR.)

CAROLYN JOAN GALLAGHER (D)

QUALIFIED

Carolyn Joan Gallagher is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Gallagher was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1982 and is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in real estate, litigation, and financial institution law. Ms. Gallagher has litigation and extensive appellate practice experience. Ms. Gallagher is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal experience, and fine temperament.

WILLIAM B. RAINES (D)

QUALIFIED

William Raines is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Raines was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1993 and is engaged in the private practice of law concentrating in criminal defense. Mr. Raines has a wealth of life experience and is well regarded for his professionalism and even temperament.

PATRICIA S. SPRATT (D)

QUALIFIED

Patricia S. Spratt is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Spratt was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and concentrates her practice in business and commercial litigation and green initiative programs. Ms. Spratt is well regarded by her peers and by the judges before whom she has appeared. Throughout her career, Ms. Spratt has been actively involved in public service work. Ms. Spratt has a

fine temperament and possesses the depth and breadth of legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

MARY ALICE MELCHOR (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED**

Mary A. Melchor is “Not Recommended” for the office of Associate Judge. Ms. Melchor was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992 and is currently serving as Inspector General (IG) in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Before becoming Inspector General in 2005, Ms. Melchor served as Chief Deputy Clerk 2002-2003 and as Associate Clerk of County Bureau from 2003-2005. Ms. Melchor’s practice experience prior to that included: associate at a small firm (1992-1993); Senior Attorney for the Chicago Housing Authority (1994-1998); associate at an in-house insurance defense firm (1998-2000); and as a solo practitioner from (2000-2002). Ms. Melchor does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal knowledge and experience to serve as an Associate Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (REYES)

STEPHEN J. FELDMAN (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Stephen J. Feldman is “Not Recommended” 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, driving under the influence, traffic violations and civil matters. Mr. Feldman is also serving as an adjunct professor and a part-time Hearing Officer in the Illinois Secretary of State’s Department of Administrative Hearings. At this stage of his career, Mr. Feldman lacks the depth and breadth of legal experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

DIANA ROSARIO (D)

QUALIFIED

Diana Rosario is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Rosario was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and since 1991 has served as a lawyer in the City of Chicago’s Department of Family & Support Services. Ms. Rosario’s legal experience includes: litigation management, contract negotiations, and civil rights matters. Ms. Rosario has a broad base of legal knowledge and possesses an excellent demeanor and temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (HILL VEAL)

ANDREA MICHELE BUFORD (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Andrea Buford is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Buford was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1986 and had broad legal experience before being appointed to the bench in 2013. Judge Buford is currently assigned to Traffic

Court in the First Municipal Division. Judge Buford is well regarded for her integrity, knowledge of the law, excellent demeanor, and administrative skills.

JAMES PATRICK CRAWLEY (D)

QUALIFIED

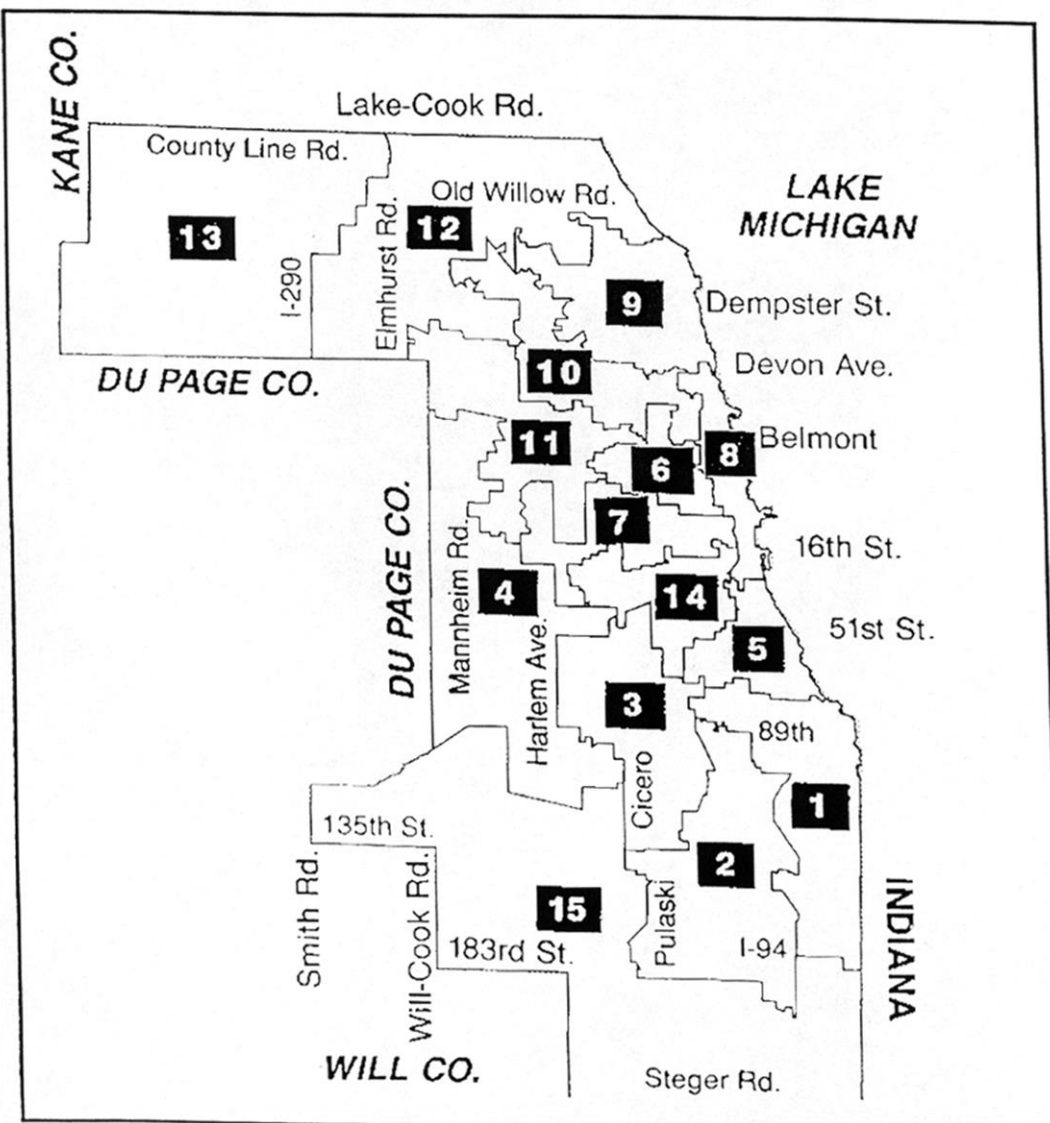
James P. Crawley is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Crawley was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1990 and is a solo practitioner concentrating in medical malpractice, personal Injury, and products liability law. Mr. Crawley is hardworking and has extensive practice experience. Mr. Crawley is well regarded for his dedication to the law and his integrity.

KELLY MALONEY KACHMARIK (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Kelly Maloney Kachmarik is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Kachmarik was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2001 and has worked for a private law firm concentrating in civil litigation since 2006. Prior to 2006, Ms. Kachmarik worked in a large accounting firm and as manager of a corporate service consulting firm. Ms. Kachmarik is also a certified hearing officer for two suburban villages. Ms. Kachmarik is bright, articulate, and has a fine demeanor. Ms. Kachmarik’s legal experience is limited and, at this stage of her career, she does not possess the depth and breadth of practice experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



FINDINGS FOR COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT COURT VACANCIES

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 2 – O’NEAL)

NYSHANA K. SUMNER (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED*

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found “Not Recommended” under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

STEVEN G. WATKINS (D)

QUALIFIED

Steven G. Watkins is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Watkins was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and concentrates his practice in criminal, civil litigation, and real estate law. Mr. Watkins is well rounded in the law and has tried a number of complex murder cases. Mr. Watkins is well regarded for his knowledge of the law and legal ability. Mr. Watkins is also involved in community service.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 3 - DONNELLY)

LAUREN BROUGHAM GLENNON (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED*

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found “Not Recommended” under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

TERRENCE J. MCGUIRE (D)

QUALIFIED

Terrence J. McGuire is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. McGuire was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and has been a solo practitioner his entire career. Mr. McGuire concentrates his practice in real estate, estate planning and probate law and served as an Administrative Law Judge for the City of Chicago for 15 years and for Cook County in the Department of Administrative Hearings for three years. Mr. McGuire is well rounded in the law and has had considerable experience as an Administrative Law Judge. Mr. McGuire possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 4 – BILLIK JR.)

BRIAN JOSEPH STEPHENSON (D)

QUALIFIED

Brian J. Stephenson is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Stephenson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and is currently in private

practice concentrating in civil and criminal law. Mr. Stephenson is an experienced practitioner with varied litigation experience. Mr. Stephenson has a fine temperament and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

JOHN J. MAHONEY (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

John J. Mahoney is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Mahoney was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1984 and is currently serving as Deputy Supervisor of the Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Mr. Mahoney has extensive criminal trial experience and has handled many complex cases. Mr. Mahoney is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, fine demeanor, and temperament.

JAMES J. RYAN (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED *

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found “Not Recommended” under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

DANIEL LAWRENCE PETERS (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Daniel L. Peters is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Peters was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1991 and was appointed to the bench in 2011. Judge Peters is assigned to the Circuit Court’s Fifth Municipal District and presides over misdemeanor and traffic calls in the Bridgeview Court. Judge Peters has a calm demeanor and possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

MAUREEN MASTERSON PULIA (D)

QUALIFIED

Maureen Masterson-Pulia is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Masterson-Pulia was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and has served as an arbitrator for the past ten years in the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission. Ms. Masterson-Pulia manages a large caseload and has handled hundreds of contested hearings. Ms. Masterson-Pulia is highly regarded by lawyers who appear before her for her fairness and knowledge of the law.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 4 – MULHERN)

MARTIN D. REGGI (D)

QUALIFIED

Martin Reggi is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Reggi was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1980 and served as an Assistant State’s Attorney for five years before entering private practice. Mr. Reggi has a general practice with an emphasis on DUI, criminal law, and administrative hearings before the Secretary of State’s office. Mr. Reggi is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, and fine temperament.

JOHN MICHAEL ALLEGRETTI (D)

QUALIFIED

John Michael Allegretti is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Allegretti was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995 and is currently the General Counsel for the Cook County Treasurer’s Office. In addition, Mr. Allegretti has had private practice and corporate practice experience and has served as an Administrative Law Judge. Mr. Allegretti has extensive experience in tax matters and is well regarded by his peers. Mr. Allegretti possesses the depth and breadth of legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

**FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 7 –
HARDY-CAMPBELL)**

ROBERT D. KUZAS (D)

QUALIFIED

Robert D. Kuzas is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kuzas was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1989 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal law and personal injury matters. Mr. Kuzas has both criminal and civil jury trial experience and is well regarded by opposing counsel and the judges before whom he appears. Mr. Kuzas has an outstanding temperament and possesses the depth and breadth of experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 7 – TAYLOR)

JUDY RICE (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Judy Rice is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Rice was admitted to practice law in 1988 and served in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Cook

County State's Attorney's office from 1988-1989 and as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago (1989-90). Ms. Rice has held a number of positions with the City of Chicago: Director of Administrative Adjudication (1990-1992); Managing Deputy Director, Department of Revenue (1992-1993); Revenue Director (1993-1995); Executive Assistant to the Mayor (1995-1996); Commissioner, Department of Water (1996-1999); Chicago City Treasurer (2000-2006); and Deputy Chief of Staff (2006-2007). In 2007, Ms. Rice joined the Harris Bank, where she is currently Senior Vice-President, Head of Community Affairs & Economic Development. Ms. Rice has had a successful career in the government and corporate sectors, but has not engaged in the practice of law since 1990. While Ms. Rice possesses a fine demeanor and temperament, her knowledge of the law and overall practice experience is limited and falls short of the CBA's guidelines for a minimum of twelve years as a practicing attorney.

OWENS J. SHELBY (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED*

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found "Not Recommended" under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

MARIANNE JACKSON (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Marianne Jackson is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Jackson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1973 and was appointed an Associate Judge in 1997. Judge Jackson is currently assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division's Child Protection Department. Judge Jackson effectively manages her courtroom and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law and outstanding demeanor and temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 9 – GOLDBERG)

JERRY A. ESRIG (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Jerry A. Esrig is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Esrig was admitted to practice law in 1978 and has been in private practice for 35 years. Mr. Esrig has extensive experience in personal injury, commercial, and construction litigation. Mr. Esrig is well regarded by his peers and the judges he has appeared before for his knowledge of the law and legal ability. Mr. Esrig has served as an adjunct professor and NITA instructor and is involved in various civic activities.

MEGAN ELIZABETH GOLDISH (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Megan Elizabeth Goldish is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms.

Goldish was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1997 and is currently a supervisor in the Cook County State's Attorney's office at the George Leighton Criminal Court. Ms. Goldish has extensive criminal jury and bench trial experience. Ms. Goldish has also tried many murder cases and is well regarded by the judges before whom she has practiced for her knowledge of the law, legal ability, and even temperament. Ms. Goldish is actively involved in public service and various charitable organizations.

NATHAN BENJAMIN MYERS (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED*

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found "Not Recommended" under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 9 –MEYER)

ANJANA HANSEN (D)

QUALIFIED

Anjana Hansen is "Qualified" to serve as a Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Hansen was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998 and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for 12 years. During that time, she also served a four-year term as an Alderman in Evanston. Ms. Hansen is currently a solo practitioner and administrative law judge for the City of Evanston. Ms. Hansen is intelligent and possesses an excellent demeanor and outstanding people skills. Ms. Hansen has broad experience in both civil and criminal matters and although she lacks complex trial experience, she is hardworking, diligent, and possesses the requisite legal knowledge and experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

THOMAS PETER KOUGIAS (D)

QUALIFIED

Thomas Peter Kougiias is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kougiias was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal defense work. Mr. Kougiias served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1991-2012 and has extensive criminal trial experience. Mr. Kougiias is well regarded by his adversaries and the judges before whom he appears. Mr. Kougiias possesses the requisite legal knowledge, experience, and qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

MONICA A. FORTE (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED**

Monica A. Forte is "Not Recommended" for the office of Associate Judge. Ms. Forte was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in commercial litigation, civil litigation, and banking law. Ms.

Forte does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal ability and practice experience to serve as an Associate Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 9 –PRESTON)

MICHAEL FRANCIS OTTO (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge Michael F. Otto is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Otto was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1998. Judge Otto practiced in a large law firm until his appointment to the bench in 2012. Judge Otto is a bright, articulate, and conscientious judge who has grown significantly since his appointment to the bench.

ABBEY FISHMAN ROMANEK (D)

QUALIFIED

Abby Fishman Romanek is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Romanek was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1987 and served as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General before entering private practice. Ms. Romanek is experienced in both criminal and civil law and is well regarded by her peers for her legal knowledge and excellent demeanor. Ms. Romanek is also actively involved in community work.

MICHAEL ALAN STROM (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Michael Alan Strom is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Strom was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1977 and concentrates his practice in civil litigation, plaintiffs’ personal injury and workers’ compensation law. Mr. Strom has extensive litigation and trial experience and is well regarded for his knowledge of the law and outstanding temperament. Mr. Strom has made a substantial commitment to community service initiatives through the organized bar.

BRIAN ALEXANDER (D)

QUALIFIED

Brian E. Alexander is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Alexander was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1976 and is currently engaged in the sole practice of law concentrating in civil, family, and real estate law. Mr. Alexander is a part-time legislative assistant to a state senator and is frequently appointed by the Circuit Court to represent children in domestic relations proceedings. Mr. Alexander has an excellent demeanor and temperament and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

THOMAS M. CUSHING (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Thomas M. Cushing is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Cushing was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and is currently Of Counsel concentrating his practice in general, business, and civil litigation. Mr. Cushing has extensive litigation experience in both criminal and civil law. Mr. Cushing is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, and outstanding temperament. Mr. Cushing has been involved in community activities and community service throughout his career.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 10 – “A”)

ANTHONY C. “TONY” KYRIAKOPOULOS (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Judge Anthony C. “Tony” Kyriakopoulos is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Kyriakopoulos was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1990 and was appointed a Circuit Court Judge in 2010. Judge Kyriakopoulos is currently assigned to the Circuit Court’s Chancery Division. Judge Kyriakopoulos is well regarded by those who appear before him for his legal knowledge, excellent temperament, and fine demeanor.

KATHERINE A. O’DELL (D)

QUALIFIED

Katherine A. O’Dell is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. O’Dell was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and concentrates her practice in property taxation matters. Ms. O’Dell has a high-volume caseload with significant practice experience before tribunals such as the Board of Review. Ms. O’Dell is articulate and well regarded for her fine demeanor and knowledge of the law.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 11 – “A”)

GINA A. CRUMBLE (D)

QUALIFIED

Gina A. Crumble is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Crumble was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and is currently a supervisor in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in the Juvenile Justice Bureau. Ms. Crumble has handled complex cases in the Juvenile Court and is well regarded for her legal knowledge, ability, and fine demeanor. Ms. Crumble is committed to public service.

JOANNE F. ROSADO (D)**QUALIFIED**

Joanne F. Rosado is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Rosado was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2002 and since her admission has served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Ms. Rosado is assigned to the Felony Trial Division and has tried many murder jury trials and numerous bench trials. Ms. Rosado is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, extensive legal experience, and fine demeanor.

SCOTT MICHAEL KOZICKI (D)**QUALIFIED**

Scott Michael Kozicki is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kozicki was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1999 and is currently serving as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Mr. Kozicki has been assigned to the Forensic Science Unit for the past eight years and specializes in DNA, fingerprints, historical cell site tower analysis, and other complex evidentiary and expert witness issues. Mr. Kozicki has considerable trial and court experience and has been involved in numerous high profile and complex criminal cases. Mr. Kozicki is well regarded for his knowledge of the law, integrity, and excellent demeanor.

PAMELA MCLEAN MEYERSON (D)**QUALIFIED**

Pamela McLean Meyerson is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Meyerson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and has concentrated her practice in civil litigation, appeals and business law. Ms. Meyerson has considerable trial experience and is well regarded by her adversaries and by the judges before whom she has appeared. Ms. Meyerson is serving as chair in the Cook County Arbitration Program and is also an instructor for the University of Chicago’s Legal Clinic. Ms. Meyerson possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 12 –JORDAN)**JAMES PAUL PIECZONKA (R)****NOT RECOMMENDED**

James Pieczonka is “Not Recommended” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Pieczonka was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in Taxation, Real Estate and Condominium Law. Mr. Pieczonka’s practice and court experience is limited. Mr. Pieczonka held a real estate broker’s license from 2004-2007 and was actively involved as a broker during this period. The candidate owns a number of properties that are currently in foreclosure and is personally involved in several residual court actions. Mr. Pieczonka needs to gain

additional practice experience and resolve these financial responsibility concerns before reapplying to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

SAMUEL BAE (D)

QUALIFIED

Samuel Bae is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Bae was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1999 and concentrates his practice in personal injury and domestic relations. Mr. Bae is well regarded by his peers and the judges before whom he appears for his knowledge of the law and fine temperament. Mr. Bae is actively involved in community service and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

RALPH EUGENE MECZYK (D)

QUALIFIED

Ralph Eugene Meczyk is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Meczyk was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1977 and has extensive civil and criminal trial experience. Mr. Meczyk is well regarded for his legal knowledge and ability.

JAMES EDWARD HANLON, JR. (D)

QUALIFIED

James Edward Hanlon, Jr. is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Hanlon was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1984 and worked as an associate and partner at a large Chicago law firm concentrating in commercial litigation. In 2000, Mr. Hanlon became an equity partner at another large firm where he worked until 2007. From 2007-2009, Mr. Hanlon was engaged in the solo practice of law concentrating in commercial litigation and criminal misdemeanor matters. In 2009, Mr. Hanlon became Director of Client Services for Novus Law, LLC, where his duties included e-discovery, document review, and management analysis. Mr. Hanlon is well rounded in the practice of law and has considerable experience in complex commercial litigation matters. Mr. Hanlon has a fine temperament and possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

JAMES L. KAPLAN (D)

QUALIFIED

Judge James L. Kaplan is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Kaplan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1971 and was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010. Judge Kaplan is thoughtful, possesses a good demeanor, and has performed well on the bench.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 13 – IOSCO)

JOHN CURRY (R)

QUALIFIED

John Curry is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Curry was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1978 and concentrates his practice in civil, business and commercial litigation. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Curry served as an Assistant State’s Attorney and in the Department of Justice. Mr. Curry has complex litigation experience and is well regarded by his peers for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, and fine temperament.

GARY W. SEYRING (R)

QUALIFIED

Gary W. Seyring is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Seyring was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1978 and has practiced in a small firm or as a solo practitioner for 35 years. Mr. Seyring, who is also a Certified Public Accountant, concentrates his practice in probate, estate planning, real estate, and general business matters. Mr. Seyring has an even temperament and is well regarded by his peers for his knowledge of the law. Mr. Seyring is also involved in pro bono and public service work.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 15 – DOODY JR.)

PATRICK KEVIN COUGHLIN (D)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Patrick Kevin Coughlin is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Coughlin was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1996 and has served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney for seventeen years. Mr. Coughlin is currently Deputy Chief of the State’s Attorney’s Narcotics Prosecution Bureau at the Criminal Court. Mr. Coughlin has a fine demeanor and temperament and is highly regarded for his knowledge of the law, extensive trial and court experience, and policy/legislative work.

JOHN S. FOTPOULOS (D)

QUALIFIED

John Spyros Fotopoulos is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Fotopoulos was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000 and is engaged in private practice concentrating in criminal defense, personal Injury, and workers compensation. Mr. Fotopoulos has considerable trial experience and has tried a number of difficult cases. Mr. Fotopoulos has an excellent demeanor and possesses the requisite legal knowledge and ability to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

DIANA EMBIL (D)**QUALIFIED**

Diana L. Embil is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Embil was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and served as a clerk for the Illinois Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court. For the last 15 years, Ms. Embil has worked for the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is currently Associate Regional Counsel for Region 5. Ms. Embil is well regarded for her integrity, good temperament, legal knowledge, and experience.

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY (Subcircuit 15 – STERBA)**MICHAEL B. BARRETT (D)****QUALIFIED**

Michael B. Barrett is “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 plaintiffs’ personal injury and workers’ compensation matters. Mr. Barrett has extensive trial and court experience. Mr. Barrett is well regarded by his peers and by the judges he appears before for his knowledge of the law, legal ability, and fine temperament.

SONDRA DENMARK (D)**NOT RECOMMENDED***

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found “Not Recommended” under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

CHRIS LAWLER (D)**QUALIFIED**

Judge Chris Lawler is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Lawler was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988 and practiced law for 25 years concentrating in insurance defense and plaintiffs’ personal injury work. Judge Lawler had extensive bench and trial experience before his appointment to the Circuit Court in 2013. Judge Lawler is currently assigned to a pro se litigation call and serves as a floating judge when needed in other courts. Judge Lawler is well regarded for his legal knowledge, fine demeanor and temperament, and commitment to excellence. Judge Lawler is also involved in educational and charitable organizations.

MARY BETH DUFFY (D)**QUALIFIED**

Mary Beth Duffy is “Qualified” for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Duffy was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992 and has served for the past seventeen years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. Ms. Duffy was recently

promoted to Deputy Supervisor in the State's Attorney's Domestic Violence Division. Ms. Duffy has extensive criminal trial experience along with some civil experience and is well regarded by her peers and by the judges before whom she appears. Ms. Duffy possesses all the requisite qualifications to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

ROBBIN PERKINS (D)

NOT RECOMMENDED*

The candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found "Not Recommended" under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

*Indicates the candidate did not participate in the evaluation process and was automatically found "Not Recommended" under the Judicial Evaluation Committee bylaws.

**Pursuant to Section 27.4 of the JEC Resolutions and Procedures, a candidate who has been evaluated and found "NOT RECOMMENDED" for the office of Associate Judge and who shall within two years of such a finding be a candidate for Circuit Judge shall be found "NOT RECOMMENDED" without hearing.



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Chicago, IL 60604
312-554-2000

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