

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

General Election
November 5, 2024

Downloadable/Printable Guides can be found at:
www.chicagobar.org/votejudges

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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 from 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 guidelines were amended November 19, 2015. The current JEC governing resolution was amended on August 19, 2021.

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 guidelines and standards developed by the 17,000-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 weeknight evenings. Hearing division members were randomly assigned, in accordance with the JEC resolution, to hearings. Typically, 12 to 15 JEC members were assigned to hearing. Each member of the hearing panel was provided with the investigator's report, the completed questionnaire with all material submitted by the candidate, and 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 on their 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 the candidate 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.

**CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE FINDINGS FOR
NOVEMBER 5, 2024 JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION**

The Chicago Bar Association’s Judicial Evaluation Committee released its findings for judicial retention candidates on November 4, 2024. Candidates participating in the JEC screening process received a finding of “Qualified” or “Not Recommended.” Of the 78 judges on the ballot, the JEC found two Illinois Appellate Justices “Qualified,” and 75 Circuit Court judges “Qualified,” to be retained by Cook County voters. One Circuit Court judge was found “Not Recommended.”

The results for retention candidate evaluations and findings are as follows:

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT

QUALIFIED

David W. Ellis
Thomas E. Hoffman

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

QUALIFIED

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Martin S. Agran | Daniel R. Degnan |
| Robert F. Bartkowitz | Kent Delgado |
| Michael B. Barrett | John H. Ehrlich |
| Tiana Ellis Blakely | Kathy M. Flanagan |
| Tommy Brewer | Ellen L. Flannigan |
| Mary Margaret Brosnahan | Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval |
| Maura Slattery Boyle | Terry Gallagher |
| Daniel Patrick Brennan | Celia Louis Gamrath |
| Carl B. Boyd | William G. Gamboney |
| Joel Chupack | Peter Michael Gonzalez |
| Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza | Ieshia Gray |
| Michael R. Clancy | Jack Hagerty |
| H. Yvonne Coleman | Robert Harris |
| Kevin Patrick Cunningham | Toya T. Harvey |
| Colleen Reardon Daly | Elizabeth Mary Hayes |
| Adrienne Elaine Davis | Cecilia Ann Horan |

Carol M. Howard
Lindsay Huges
Lionel Jean-Baptiste
Preston Jones, Jr.
Martin C. Kelley
Kathaleen Theresa Lanahan
Kimberly D. Lewis
Stuart F. Lubin
Aicha Marie MacCarthy
Jill C. Marisie
Diann Karen Marsalek
Thomas F. McGuire
Scott McKenna
Mike McHale
Michael Tully Mullen
James Patrick Murphy
David R. Navarro
Ramon Ocasio III
Karen Lynn O'Malley
Erika Orr
Linda Perez
Paul S. Pavlus

Marian Emily Perkins
Clare Joyce Quish
Cynthia Ramirez
Erica L. Reddick
Mary Colleen Roberts
Joanne F. Rosado
Stephanie Saltouros
Beatriz Santiago
Regina Ann Scannicchio
Debra A. Seaton
James "Jamie" Shapiro
Tom Sam Sianis
Rosa Maria Silva
Kathryn Maloney Vahey
James M. Varga
Carl Anthony Walker
Andrea Michelle Webber
Arthur Wesley Willis
Jeanne Marie Wrenn

NOT RECOMMENDED

Lisa Ann Marino

Judge Lisa Marino has been found "Not Recommended" for retention as a Circuit Court. Judge Marino was admitted to practice in 1988 and was elected as a judge in 2012. She has been sitting in the First Municipal District, Housing Section, since 2016. Significant concerns about Judge Marino's knowledge of the law, temperament, and diligence resulted in the "Not Recommended" finding.

Shannon O'Malley

Judge Shannon O'Malley has been found "Not Recommended" for retention as a Circuit Court Judge. Judge O'Malley was admitted to practice law in 1992. He was in private practice prior to becoming a Judge in 2018 and being assigned to the First Municipal District. In May 2019, Judge O'Malley was transferred to the Child Protection Division where he currently presides.

Judge O'Malley did not seem to understand the seriousness of the issues raised by the Committee, answering with flip responses. Judge O'Malley blamed others for his assertion, for tax purposes, that his principal residence is in Will County while, for election purposes, saying he resides in Cook County. His responses to the Committee's questions were short, vague, and evasive. The Committee found Judge O'Malley's credibility severely lacking and his integrity highly questionable. His prior criminal history and sheer number of ARDC complaints are also very concerning. Significant concerns were also raised regarding Judge O'Malley's lack of knowledge of the law, diligence, case and courtroom management, and legal ability. While the Committee appreciated his candor about his lack of excellence, he seems satisfied to be "not bad." These reasons resulted in Judge O'Malley's "Not Recommended" finding.

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. is "Not Recommended" for retention as a Circuit Court Judge. Judge Wright was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1977 and has served as a judge since 1994. Judge Wright serves as the Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District.

Judge Wright has a strong record of service and an impressive career as a Cook County judge for over 30 years. However, it was concerning to the Committee that a sitting Cook County judge has had a driver's license for over 40 years that lists a Will County address and that he obtained a homeowner's exemption on property he owns in Will County, attesting that it was his primary residence. While Judge Wright explained that these were innocent mistakes, the Committee is concerned that his failure to comply with basic law requiring him to update his driver's license together with his application for a homeowner's exemption in another county suggests an intent to secure unfair gain or advantage. Judge Wright also has taken inconsistent positions with regard to his primary residence, which raises diligence issues for the Panel. While we acknowledge that Judge Wright was apologetic and remorseful, for the above stated reasons we must find him "Not Recommended" for retention.

THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION FINDINGS FOR ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT VACANCIES

On October 2, 2024, The Chicago Bar Association released the results of independent screenings for the judicial candidates seeking election to the Illinois Supreme Court in the November 5, 2024 general election.

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR THE SUPREME COURT CANDIDATE

FINDINGS FOR THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT VACANCY

FOR JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT – BURKE VACANCY

JOY VIRGINIA CUNNINGHAM

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Justice Joy V. Cunningham is “Highly Qualified” for Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Cunningham was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1982. She has served with distinction at every level of the judiciary. Justice Cunningham is highly respected for her legal knowledge and ability, unquestioned integrity and outstanding temperament.

**THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION FINDINGS FOR ILLINOIS
APPELLATE COURT VACANCIES**

On October 2, 2024, The Chicago Bar Association released the results of independent screenings for the judicial candidates seeking election to the Illinois Appellate Court in the November 5, 2024, general election. Of the four candidates, all were screened by the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the CBA. The JEC has found the four candidates “Highly Qualified.”

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

FINDINGS FOR THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT VACANCIES

FOR JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT - Connors Vacancy

MARY LANE MIKVA

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Judge Mary Jane Mikva is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Mikva was admitted to practice law in 1980. She is a Circuit Court judge who has been assigned to the First District Appellate Court. Judge Mikva brings excellent legal knowledge and experience from her private practice, public service, and judicial careers. She is well versed in both criminal and civil law. She exhibits great diligence and a strong work ethic. She is well regarded both by peers and attorneys who appear before her for integrity, her legal ability and judgment, as well as her fine demeanor and temperament.

FOR JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT - Cunningham Vacancy

CYNTHIA Y. COBBS

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Justice Cynthia Cobbs is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Justice Cobbs was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988. Justice Cobbs has over 20 years of Appellate experience as a judge and with the Administrative Offices of Illinois Courts. She has the highest rate of disposition of cases in her division and a very high affirmance rate for the decisions she has authored. Justice Cobbs has an excellent reputation among her peers and counsel appearing before her for oral argument. She is active in the profession and in the community and is a tremendous asset to the Illinois judiciary.

FOR JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT - Delort Vacancy

CELIA LOUISE GAMRATH

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Judge Celia Gamrath is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Gamrath was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994. Judge Gamrath has almost three decades of experience as an appellate clerk, and as an appellate lawyer in private practice, including 13 years as a judge. She has demonstrated that she is a capable and fair judge in difficult assignments and is highly regarded for her legal knowledge, preparedness, temperament and work ethic by the attorneys who appear before her.

FOR JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT - O'Neill Burke Vacancy

CARL ANTHONY WALKER

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Judge Carl Walker is “Highly Qualified” for the office of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Walker was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992. Judge Walker has been sitting as a judge since 2006 and has been sitting by assignment on the Appellate Court since 2018. He is well-regarded for his legal research and writing skills, his thoughtful questions at oral argument, his willingness to listen to all sides and his knowledge of the law. Judge Walker is highly qualified for the position of Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court.

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

On October 2, 2024, The Chicago Bar Association released the results of independent screenings for the 45 judicial candidates seeking Cook County Circuit Court positions in the November 5, 2024, general election. Of the 45 circuit court candidates running, 45 were screened by the CBA's Judicial Evaluation Committee. Of those 45, the JEC rated two as "Highly Qualified", 36 as "Qualified," and seven as "Not Recommended."

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 CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - FLANNERY VACANCY

PABLO F. DECASTRO (D)

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Pablo F. DeCastro's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

TIEN H. GLAUB (R)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Pursuant to section 34, rule 27.4 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted that Tien H. Glaub's prior finding of NOT RECOMMENDED shall stand.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - GAUGHAN. VACANCY

CORINNE C. HEGGIE

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Corrine C. Heggie's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - HABERKORN VACANCY

SARAH JOHNSON

QUALIFIED

Sarah Johnson is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Judge. Ms. Johnson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006. She is currently in private practice concentrating in civil litigation defense. The candidate is well regarded by both bar and bench with respect to her diligence, her temperament, and her ability to litigate medical malpractice.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - HUBBARD VACANCY

DEIDRE M. DYER

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Deidre M. Dyer's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - MARAS VACANCY

ARLENE Y. COLEMAN-ROMEO

NOT RECOMMENDED

Arlene Y. Coleman-Romeo 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 CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - MITCHELL VACANCY

NEIL COHEN

QUALIFIED

Judge Neil Cohen is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Cohen was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1976. He served as an Associate Judge from 2009 through 2022 when he was appointed a Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court. He currently sits in General Chancery. There, he is respected for his knowledge of the law and diligence in his work habits. He is well respected for his legal ability, integrity, and judicial experience. However, he is faulted for his unpredictable temperament. The committee is persuaded that he is committed to improving his temperament sufficiently to find him qualified to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - MURPHY VACANCY

EDWARD JOSEPH UNDERHILL

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Edward Joseph Underhill's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - PROPES VACANCY

DEBJANI 'DEB' DESAI

QUALIFIED

Debjani Desai is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Desai was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2008. She is currently the General Counsel for the Illinois Office of the Controller. Prior to that she was an administrative law judge at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. She began her career as an Assistant State's Attorney, first in the Child Protection and Enforcement Unit and then prosecuting cases in the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit. Ms. Desai is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, diverse legal experience, and excellent demeanor.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - RAINES VACANCY

JENNIFER PATRICIA CALLAHAN

QUALIFIED

Jennifer Patricia Callahan is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Callahan was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006 and is currently engaged in private practice concentrating in insurance defense, criminal law, and administrative law matters. Ms. Callahan also serves as an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Prior to entering private practice Ms. Callahan served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for 11 years. Ms. Callahan has an excellent temperament and demeanor and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law and legal ability.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - SULLIVAN VACANCY

JAMES S. MURPHY-AGUILU

QUALIFIED

James Murphy-Aguilu is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Murphy-Aguilu was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006. He has experience in both civil and criminal litigation from his time in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and in private practice. He is currently the Inspector General for the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Mr. Murphy-Aguilu is well regarded for his legal experience, diligence and calm demeanor.

FOR JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY - WALKER VACANCY

CHLOE GEORGIANNA PEDERSON

QUALIFIED

Chloe Georgianna Pedersen is "Qualified" to serve as a Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Pedersen was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2007. Ms. Pedersen has approximately 15 years of legal experience in a variety of public and private sector roles. She currently serves as a partner and chair of the Labor and Employment Law Practice for her Chicago law firm. Adversaries and judicial references respect and praise Ms. Pedersen for her legal knowledge and ability, her honesty, and her pleasant demeanor. Ms. Pedersen is very involved in activities for the benefit of her community and for the legal profession in Illinois.

3RD SUBCIRCUIT - ADAMS BROSNAHAN VACANCY

LUCY VAZQUEZ-GONZALEZ

NOT RECOMMENDED

Lucy Vazquez is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Judge. Ms. Vazquez was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2009. She is currently a solo practitioner concentrating in family law and immigration. At this stage of her career, Ms. Vazquez does not possess sufficient practice experience to effectively serve as a judge. Also, Ms. Vazquez needs to address concerns about her punctuality and tardiness.

3RD SUBCIRCUIT - HARMENING VACANCY

PAT HEERY

NOT RECOMMENDED

Pat Heery is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Heery was admitted to practice law in December 2010. Mr. Heery has practiced law in Cook County for less than eight years, has no recent experience in court, and has not handled or tried a case in a Cook County or local federal courtroom during his career. His training and experience as an attorney in the Marine

Corps will serve him well, but the Committee did not believe he had sufficient familiarity with court rules or experience or expertise yet to manage a court call, handle a wide variety of cases, or preside over a trial of a civil case.

4TH SUBCIRCUIT - FELICE VACANCY

MICHAEL M. CHVATAL

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Michael M. Chvatal's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

4TH SUBCIRCUIT - KING VACANCY

PHILIP FOWLER

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

4TH SUBCIRCUIT - MALONEY VACANCY

KOULA A. FOURNIER

QUALIFIED

Kyriakoula (Koula) A. Fournier is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Judge. Ms. Fournier was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2000. Ms. Fournier has been a Cook County State's Attorney for 22 years. She is currently assigned to the Criminal Appeals Division. Past assignments included positions in the Juvenile Division, Narcotics Bureau, Preliminary Hearings Unit, and Felony Trial Division. Ms. Fournier also has volunteered her time to several philanthropic organizations and is the former President of the Hellenic Bar Association. Ms. Fournier has considerable experience at both the trial and appellate level and is well regarded for her knowledge of the law and fine temperament.

5TH SUBCIRCUIT - LEWIS VACANCY

YOLANDA HARRIS SAYRE

QUALIFIED

Yolanda Sayre is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Sayre was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1995. Since 1997, Ms. Sayre has served as an Attorney for the Education and Training Division for the Chicago Police Department. In that role, Ms. Sayre is responsible for drafting materials for training police personnel on criminal, civil, and juvenile procedure. Ms. Sayre is also a hearing officer for the Cook County Board of Elections and has conducted over 50 hearings for the Board of Elections. Since 1996, Ms. Sayre has also maintained a general practice and has handled a wide variety of legal matters. Ms. Sayre possesses the legal knowledge, experience, and ability to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

7TH SUBCIRCUIT - SOLGANICK VACANCY

OWENS J. SHELBY

QUALIFIED

Owens "Joe" Shelby is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Shelby was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2007 and is currently serving as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, Second Chair, in the Felony Trial Division in the 4th Municipal District. Mr. Shelby has handled several felony and misdemeanor trials and has had some juvenile and civil experience.

8TH SUBCIRCUIT - COLLINS-DOLE VACANCY

LOVELEEN AHUJA

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Loveleen Ahuja's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

10TH SUBCIRCUIT - MCWILLIAMS VACANCY

CAROLINE GLENNON-GOODMAN

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

10TH SUBCIRCUIT - WOJKOWSKI VACANCY

JAMES V. MURPHY

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

11TH SUBCIRCUIT - FINLEY COLLINS VACANCY

DAWN GONZALEZ

QUALIFIED

Dawn M. Gonzalez is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Gonzalez was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1994 and has focused her practice on insurance coverage and insurance defense litigation. She is also active in bar associations and community organizations. Ms. Gonzalez is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, legal experience, integrity, diligence, and excellent demeanor.

11TH SUBCIRCUIT - DALEO VACANCY

AUDREY VICTORIA COSGROVE

QUALIFIED

Audrey Victoria Cosgrove is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Cosgrove was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1990 and has served as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender and in private practice. Ms. Cosgrove is currently serving as Deputy Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Labor. Ms. Cosgrove is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, diverse practice experience, and fine demeanor.

12TH SUBCIRCUIT -DICKLER VACANCY

ALON STEIN (D)

QUALIFIED

Alon Stein is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Stein was admitted to practice law in 2002 and is currently in private practice. He has experience in a wide variety of legal matters in numerous jurisdictions. The candidate is well-regarded for his significant trial experience, fine demeanor and excellent temperament.

MARIA MCCARTHY (R)

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Maria McCarthy is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. McCarthy was admitted to practice law in 1989. Ms. McCarthy served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney for nearly 20 years, where she had more than 65 jury trials, 500 bench trials, and handled 25 appeals. After retiring from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, she served for two years as the First Assistant to the Winnebago County State's Attorney. Currently, Ms. McCarthy has her own law firm handling criminal matters. Additionally, for nearly 20 years, she has taught trial advocacy at two law schools, criminal law and procedure at a community college, and constitutional law to police officers. Ms. McCarthy is highly regarded for her knowledge of the law.

12TH SUBCIRCUIT - QUINN VACANCY

FRANK J. ANDREOU (D)

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Frank J. Andreou's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

PAMELA CURRAN SMITH (R)

QUALIFIED

Pamela Curran Smith is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Smith was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2006. Ms. Smith is in private practice and has a wide range of practice experience. She is well-regarded for her legal experience and knowledge, high integrity, and good communication skills. Ms. Smith has the requisite experience to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

12TH SUBCIRCUIT - SCHLEIFER VACANCY

JAMES "JACK" COSTELLO (D)

QUALIFIED

James "Jack" Costello is "Qualified" to serve as a Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Costello was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2007 and has been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney since that time. Mr. Costello has significant trial experience and is well-regarded for his diligence, legal ability and experience, and excellent demeanor.

MATTHEW TAYLOR (R)

NOT RECOMMENDED

Matthew Taylor is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Taylor was admitted to practice law in 2004. His practice includes criminal law, real estate law and estate planning. Although Mr. Taylor has been practicing law for 19 years, the scope of his practice and court experience is limited. At this point in his career, Mr. Taylor does not possess the requisite depth and breadth of legal experience to effectively serve as a judge.

13TH SUBCIRCUIT - BETAR, III VACANCY

RALPH E. MECZYK

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Ralph Meczyk's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

13TH SUBCIRCUIT - SHROFF STEFFEN VACANCY

MARY SEVANDAL COHEN

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

14TH SUBCIRCUIT - O'HARA VACANCY

GRISELDA VEGA SAMUEL

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Griselda Vega Samuel's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

14TH SUBCIRCUIT - PIERCE VACANCY

STEPHANIE KATHRYN MILLER

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Stephanie Kathryn Miller's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

15TH SUBCIRCUIT - DEMACOPOULOUS VACANCY

LUCIANO "LOU" PANICI, JR.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Luciano Panici, Jr. is "Not Recommended" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Panici was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2009. His practice includes being a Village prosecutor and hearing officer, defending municipalities in civil litigation, representing criminal defendants in lower-level felony and misdemeanor matters, personal injury plaintiff's work and Secretary of State reinstatement hearings. Mr. Panici lacks significant complex litigation experience. At this stage in his career, his limited experience would make it difficult to effectively serve as a Circuit Court Judge.

15TH SUBCIRCUIT - TOOMIN VACANCY

JOHN A. FAIRMAN

QUALIFIED

John Abbrev Fairman is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Judge. Mr. Fairman was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2004 and is engaged in private practice. Mr. Fairman is a seasoned practitioner with experience in both civil and criminal law. Mr. Fairman is active in bar association and community activities. Mr. Fairman has an excellent demeanor and temperament and possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as a Judge.

16TH SUBCIRCUIT - FLOOD VACANCY

PEDRO FREGOSO, JR.

QUALIFIED

Pedro Fregoso is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Fregoso was admitted to practice law in 2005. He is currently in private practice. He has considerable litigation experience, including in complex civil litigation. Mr. Fregoso is well regarded for his fine demeanor and temperament.

16TH SUBCIRCUIT - GRIFFIN, JR. VACANCY

CECILIA ABUNDIS

NOT RECOMMENDED

Cecilia Abundis 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.

17TH SUBCIRCUIT - AGUILAR VACANCY

RIVANDA DOSS BEAL

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

17TH SUBCIRCUIT - FLAHERTY VACANCY

LLOYD JAMES BROOKS

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Lloyd James Brooks's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

18TH SUBCIRCUIT - LINN VACANCY

JOHN HOCK (D)

QUALIFIED

John Hock is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Judge. Mr. Hock was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2009. He is an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County currently working on post-conviction matters. He previously served as a public defender. Mr. Hock is well regarded by his peers and judges before whom he has appeared for his even temperament, integrity, and work ethic.

LYNN TERESE PALAC (R)

QUALIFIED

Lynn Palac is "Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Palac was admitted to practice law in 1999. Ms. Palac has been practicing law in Cook County for 25 years and has significant litigation and trial experience, primarily in criminal cases. Ms. Palac is well regarded by judges and opposing attorneys for her legal knowledge, pleasant demeanor, and work ethic. She is also praised for her community involvement.

18TH SUBCIRCUIT - GOTTAINER EDIDIN VACANCY

JEFFREY G. CHRONES

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 34 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for Jeffrey G. Chrones's current Circuit Court Judge candidacy.

19TH SUBCIRCUIT - SENECHALLE, JR. VACANCY

BRIDGET COLLEEN DUIGNAN

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Bridget Duignan is "Highly Qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Duignan was admitted to practice law in 2004. The majority of her practice has been spent in a firm specializing in litigation, specifically personal injury related to sexual assault. She is the Second Vice-President of the ISBA and volunteers to assist those in need with legal services. Ms. Duignan is very highly respected by judges, colleagues, and adversaries for her legal knowledge and ability.

20TH SUBCIRCUIT - BUDZINSKI VACANCY

NADINE JEAN WICHERN

QUALIFIED

Pursuant to section 31 of The Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee's Governing Resolution, The Executive Committee has voted to issue a "Qualified" rating for your current Judge candidacy.

Provided As a Public Service
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Chicago, IL 60604
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