



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS – COOK COUNTY

2018 GENERAL ELECTION

SHOULD THIS JUDGE BE RETAINED?

Illinois Supreme Court – First District

JUSTICE ANN M. BURKE - YES

Justice Burke currently sits on the Illinois Supreme Court. She was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2006 and elected to a ten-year terms in 2008. She was licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1983, after spending many years as a physical education instructor with the Chicago Park District. While with the Park District she was co-founder for the Special Olympics, first held in 1968; she was also appointed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People. She previously served as a judge with the Illinois Court of Claims, and as special counsel to the governor for Child Welfare Services. She was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1995, and elected in 1996. She is the recipient of numerous awards.

Attorneys highly respect her for her legal knowledge and ability. She is always well-prepared, well-organized, respectful, and professional. She is active in efforts to reform the criminal justice system, currently focusing on the bail system, and is a leader of the Judicial Advisory Council.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Ann M. Burke qualified for retention as a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court – First District.

Illinois Appellate Court – First District

JUSTICE MARGARET STANTON MCBRIDE - YES

Justice McBride sits on the Appellate Court. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1977, she was an assistant state’s attorney for the majority of her career before being appointed to the circuit court in 1987. She was elected in 1990, retained in 1996 and elected to the Appellate Court in 1998. She was retained in 2008. As a circuit court judge, she served in many divisions, including Traffic, Criminal, Law, and Chancery before becoming presiding judge of the Third District (Rolling Meadows) in 1997. As an appellate court justice, she has been appointed or elected to various committees including the Illinois Courts Commission and the Executive Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court Judicial Performance Committee. She participates in Moot Court and Trial Advocacy programs and presents at seminars.

Attorneys who have argued before her praise her for having an excellent grasp of the law and the facts, being very principled and committed to justice. She is prepared, efficient and polite but direct.

For the 2018 General Election, The Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride qualified for retention as a justice for the Illinois Appellate Court – First District.

Circuit Court of Cook County

MARTIN S. AGRAN - YES

Judge Agran currently sits in the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows) in the Municipal Department, where he hears mainly general civil matters, and acts as Acting Presiding Judge in the absence of the Presiding Judge. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994, and retained three times since. His previous assignments have included Juvenile Justice, Law and Chancery. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1972, he worked as an assistant state's attorney and private criminal defense attorney before becoming a judge.

Attorneys report that he is prepared and up-to-date, and opinions about his legal knowledge by the vast majority of attorneys contacted ranged from very good to excellent; some attorneys disagree with his interpretation of pleading requirements in small claims cases. He is professional and reported to have great character.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Martin S. Agran qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

THOMAS R. ALLEN - YES

Judge Allen is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2010 and elected in 2012. Before transferring to Chancery in 2012, his previous assignments included the Probate and Traffic Divisions.

According to attorneys interviewed during the investigation process, Judge Allen's strongest assets are his desire to make practical decisions, his preparation and his patience with pro se litigants. He also gets good marks for integrity and character, and he strives for fair rulings. Some attorneys criticize his practice of issuing quick rulings from the bench, especially with more complex issues. There was a split among some attorneys' views as to his legal knowledge regarding complex matters, with some describing him as not good with complex issues, while others indicating he does have a decent knowledge of the law, understands the issues and is a good judge.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Thomas R. Allen qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

LARRY G. AXELROOD - YES

Judge Axelrood currently sits in the Trial Section of the Law Division, where he hears jury trials. He has been a judge since 2005, when he became an associate judge, and was elected to the Circuit Court in 2012. His previous assignments include the Law Division, the Criminal Division in the Second Municipal District (Skokie), the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows) and the First Municipal District. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1985, he worked as an assistant state's attorney and a private criminal defense attorney before joining the bench. He is on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Judges Association and speaks at seminars.

Attorneys report that he has a good grasp of both criminal and civil litigation and concepts, treats all litigants fairly, is fair and balanced with a cordial and warm demeanor.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Larry G. Axelrood qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

RONALD F. BARTKOWICZ - YES

Judge Bartkowicz is currently assigned to the Law Division, Individual General Calendar Section. He became an associate judge in 1985, was elected to the Circuit Court in 1994, and has been retained three times since. His previous assignments have included the Law Division, Jury Trial section and the First Municipal District Trial section. After admission to the Illinois bar in 1965, he spent twenty years as an attorney with the CTA. He has been involved with moot court and mock trial programs with various local law schools and the Chicago Public Schools.

He is considered to be extremely competent and treats all with respect. He runs an efficient courtroom, is calm and professional, and works very hard.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Ronald F. Bartkowicz qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CARL B. BOYD - YES

Judge Boyd currently sits in the Sixth Municipal District (Markham), Felony Division. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991 and worked as a general practitioner before his election to the Circuit Court in 2012. His previous judicial assignments include the First Municipal District; first Traffic and then Civil, and as a swing judge in the Sixth Municipal District.

Attorneys report that he runs his courtroom efficiently, is considered thorough and knowledgeable with high integrity. He is praised for his temperament, demeanor and punctuality.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Carl B. Boyd qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

DANIEL PATRICK BRENNAN - YES

Judge Brennan is currently assigned to the Chancery Division, Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995 and worked as chief counsel for the Cook County Sheriff until his election to the Circuit Court in 2006. He was retained in 2012. He was previously assigned to the First Municipal and Sixth Municipal (Markham) Districts.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Daniel P. Brennan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

TOMMY BREWER - YES

Judge Brewer is the presiding judge of the Sixth District (Markham). He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1976 and spent several years as a special agent with the FBI. Later he worked as an assistant state's attorney in Cook County, and as an assistant attorney general in Massachusetts before holding several position with the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, including Director of Enforcement. From 1996 until his appointment to the circuit court in 2010, he was in private practice. He was subsequently elected in 2012.

For the most part, attorneys reported that he is hard-working and knowledgeable with a good demeanor.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Tommy Brewer qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MARY MARGARET BROSNAHAN - YES

Judge Brosnahan currently sits as a Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2000, and has been retained twice since. Licensed to practice law in 1986, she was a career assistant state's attorney before her election as a judge. Her initial assignment was in the First Municipal District.

Attorneys consider her to be well-prepared, punctual and respectful to all parties. Her thoughtful and thorough rulings reflect on her excellent knowledge of criminal law.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Mary M. Brosnahan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MICHAEL R. CLANCY - YES

Judge Clancy has been assigned to the Pretrial Division of the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since September 2017 as part of a revamp of Bond Court. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011 and elected in 2012, with previous assignments in First Municipal and Domestic Violence. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989 and worked as an assistant state's attorney and a private criminal defense attorney until his appointment to the bench. He sits on the Board of Directors of the West Suburban Bar Association.

Attorneys reported that he has very good legal knowledge, and issued thoughtful rulings. He researched the law and has a good temperament. Some criticism surfaced soon after his move to the Pretrial Division, when a report issued by the Coalition to End Money Bond about the changes ordered by the Chief Judge to bond court questioned whether he and other judges were fully implementing the changes. No attorneys interviewed, however, made negative comments about this issue.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Michael R. Clancy qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MATTHEW E. COGHLAN - YES

Judge Coghlan is assigned to the Criminal Division, Leighton Criminal Courthouse. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987, and was a career assistant state's attorney until his election to the circuit court in 2000. He has been retained twice, and was previously assigned to First Municipal, sitting Traffic, Domestic Violence and Central Bond Court.

He received positive reviews for his legal knowledge, diligence and punctuality. He is currently one of several named defendants in a federal civil rights case alleging wrongful acts as a prosecutor in a case of wrongful conviction. The matter is still currently pending. Attorneys also gave mixed and conflicting opinions on his sensitivity to diversity, with some alleging that he treats minority defendants and attorneys differently, while others stated that he treats all the same. Attorneys did report that he follows the law, and does not hesitate to acquit any defendant when there is insufficient evidence, which they also report is not true of all judges.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Matthew E. Coghlan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

DANIEL R. DEGNAN - YES

Judge Degnan currently sits in the Probate Division, Adult Guardianship. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2011 and elected in 2012; his previous assignments include Traffic and Domestic Relations. He has been licensed in Illinois since 1995 and immediately prior to his appointment, was the Executive Director of the Cook County Pension Fund; he also worked for the Cook County Treasurer and as a private practitioner.

Attorneys consider him to be thoughtful, thorough, hard-working, and a quick study. He is extremely knowledgeable and sensitive to diversity. A few attorneys questioned his legal acumen early in his judicial career, but more recent comments were favorable.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Daniel R. Degnan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

GRACE G. DICKLER - YES

Judge Dickler is currently the Presiding Judge of Domestic Relations, a post she has held since 2011. She has been licensed in Illinois since 1978, and worked for the Legal Assistance Foundation, as a private practitioner, as an immigration judge, and as an administrative law judge for the Illinois Human Rights Commission before becoming an associate judge in 1988. She was elected to the circuit court in 2006, was retained in 2012, and has spent the majority of her career in Domestic Relations. Earlier this year, she received the Pillars of Justice Award from the Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice.

She is known to be an even-handed judge who treats all fairly and has an excellent knowledge of the law. She has high integrity, and has implemented many changes and reforms in the Domestic Relations Division, including establishing rules for financial mediation in domestic cases.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Grace G. Dickler qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JOHN H. EHRLICH - YES

Judge Ehrlich has been assigned to the Law Division – Motion Section since 2014. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1988, spent six years as a corporate litigator, and then moved to the Corporation Counsel’s office, becoming Deputy Corporation Counsel in the Torts Division. He was elected to the circuit court in 2012; was initially assigned to Traffic Court, and then Chancery, hearing mortgage foreclosure cases. Attorneys praise him for being smart, with wide-based knowledge. He issues well-reasoned orders and opinions and has handled complex matters.

Some attorneys believe he favors the defense, due to his broad views on tort immunity, but most consider him impartial. Additionally, there were some mixed views expressed on his temperament; while the majority of attorneys consider him calm and even-tempered, a few described him as being at times dismissive with a short fuse.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. John H. Ehrlich qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

KATHY M. FLANAGAN – YES

Judge Flanagan is currently the Supervising Judge of Law Division – Motion Section. She was licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1979. She worked in private practice, both as a solo and with several firms, until her election to the circuit court in 1988. She has been retained four times and spent many years assigned to Domestic Relation.

She is considered to be very informed on the law, punctual and prepared. She applies the law and rules rigorously. Attorneys were, however, split on her temperament. Some describe her as a fair and efficient judge who will not hesitate to call out attorneys when justified; others see her as at times unduly harsh with inflexible deadlines that are unreasonably short.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Kathy M. Flanagan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

ELLEN L. FLANNIGAN – YES

Judge Flannigan is currently assigned to Domestic Relations. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1988, she was in private practice doing commercial and insurance defense until her election to the circuit court in 2006. She was retained in 2012 and was previously assigned to Traffic and Domestic Violence.

She is seen as even-keeled, courteous and efficient, with a lot of experience with pro se litigants. Attorneys report that she has an excellent perspective on the process and effects of her decisions, and many attorneys praised her for her legal knowledge, integrity, and well-reasoned rulings.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Ellen L. Flannigan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

PETER FLYNN - YES

Judge Flynn has been assigned to Chancery since 2002. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1969, he was in private practice doing civil law before being appointed to the circuit court in 1999. He was subsequently elected in 2000, and retained twice since then. Before moving to Chancery, he was assigned to the Law Division – Commercial Calendar. He taught Illinois Civil Procedure for many years at The John Marshall Law School.

Attorneys report that he is very thorough, smart and conscientious. He is good at legal analysis and issues thoughtful, thorough decisions.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Peter Flynn qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JOHN T. GALLAGHER - YES

Judge Gallagher is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District (Bridgeview) where he hears misdemeanor cases. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988; from 1987 to 1992, he was a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps of the United States Navy. He then worked at several different firms until 1996 when he opened a solo practice. He was elected to the circuit court in 2012.

Attorneys report that he has good legal knowledge and ability, is diligent, and takes the time to understand the issues and evidence. He is calm, patient and a good courtroom manager.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. John T. Gallagher qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

WILLIAM G. GAMBONEY – YES

Judge Gamboney is currently assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1977, he had experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney before being elected to the circuit court in 2012. Previous assignments include the Juvenile Justice Division and First Municipal. He is a member of various bar and judicial organizations.

He received favorable remarks for his legal knowledge, diligence and work ethic; he listens to all parties and is respectful to all.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. William G. Gamboney qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CELIA L. GAMRATH – YES

Judge Gamrath is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1994, she clerked for the appellate court before engaging in private practice. She was appointed to the circuit court in 2010, then elected in 2012. Her previous assignments include Domestic Relations and Traffic Court. She is active with several bar associations, the Illinois Judicial Association and The John Marshall Law School. She writes and speaks at seminars and is the recipient of several awards.

She is well-respected by attorneys practicing before her, and received high marks for her legal knowledge. She is well-prepared, very fair and patient.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Celia L. Gamrath qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CATHERINE M. HABERKORN – YES

Judge Haberkorn has been assigned to the Criminal Department, Second District (Skokie) since 2000, hearing Chicago felony cases. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981 and spent thirteen years as an assistant state’s attorney before her election to the circuit court in 1994. She has been retained three times, and was previously assigned to the Criminal Felony Trial Division, Night Narcotics and to the Juvenile Delinquency Division (now Juvenile Justice).

While some attorneys report that punctuality is not her strength, she otherwise gets praised for her legal knowledge and ability, her fairness and the genuine interest she shows in the substance abuse and mental health treatment and progress of defendants appearing before her.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Catherine M. Haberkorn qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

ELIZABETH M. HAYES - YES

Judge Hayes is currently assigned to the Municipal Department in the Fifth District (Bridgeview) where she hears domestic violence cases. Licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1986, she worked as a hearing officer, a staff attorney for the Chief Judge, an arbitrator for Cook County, and as an assistant public defender, before her election to the circuit court in 2012. She was previously assigned to First Municipal and the Sixth District (Markham).

Attorneys state that she arrives early and stays late, has a good demeanor, and is well-prepared with a good understanding of the law.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Elizabeth M. Hayes qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CAROL M. HOWARD - YES

Judge Howard has been assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse since 2009. After starting her legal career in Wisconsin and working in the state of Washington, she was licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1986. She then served as an assistant public defender until her election to the circuit court in 2006. Retained in 2012, she was previously assigned to First Municipal; she has lectured and instructed on Trial Practice.

Attorneys were somewhat mixed in their evaluation of her legal knowledge. While most described her a competent and having good legal knowledge and the ability to handle complex cases, some disagreed. Some of those who disagreed stated that at times she issues convoluted decisions not always totally based on the law. She does make herself familiar with the law, listens to the evidence and is even-keeled.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Carol M. Howard qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MOSHE JACOBIUS - YES

Judge Jacobius is the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975, and joined the Attorney General's Office, becoming head of the Workers' Compensation and General Law Division. Appointed to the circuit court in 1991, he was elected in 1994 and retained three times since then. He is the recipient of numerous awards from several bar associations.

Attorneys speak highly of his legal knowledge, describing him as a judge knowledgeable in the law who issues clear rulings. He is diligent, well-prepared and impartial.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Moshe Jacobius qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

LIONEL JEAN-BAPTISTE - NO

Judge Jean-Baptiste is assigned to Domestic Relations. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1991, he was in private practice before his election to the circuit court in 2012. He was previously assigned to First Municipal. He is a member of several bar associations and has received some community awards.

While he is generally considered to have a good temperament, attorneys raised concerns over the depth and breadth of his legal knowledge, his diligence and his courtroom management skills. They report, in general, that he needlessly continues matters ready for a hearing, does not wish to conduct trials, doesn't always follow the law, and appears to mediate cases from the bench.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Lionel Jean-Baptiste not qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

PAUL A. KARKULA - YES

Judge Karkula is currently assigned to the County Division. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1980 and was the corporation counsel for the Town of Cicero before entering private practice, focusing on construction and real estate law. He was appointed to the circuit court in 1999, elected in 2000, and retained 2006 and 2012. His previous assignments include First Municipal and Chancery (Mortgage Foreclosure).

His current assignment involved hearing a broad range of cases, including tax, mental health, and election law matters. While he is considered to have good legal knowledge, and to be impartial and fair, some attorneys raised concerns over his demeanor and possible lack of understanding at times to respondents in Mental Health Court. He is otherwise reported to be even-tempered and patient.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Paul A. Karkula qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MARTIN C. KELLEY - YES

Judge Kelley is currently assigned to the Third District (Rolling Meadows), hearing non-jury civil matters. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993 and practiced civil litigation until his election to the circuit court in 2012. He was initially assigned to First Municipal, and in the Third District has also presided in Mental Health, Veterans and Parentage Court.

Attorneys praise him for his knowledge of the law and civil procedure, his diligence, integrity, and his ability to give all a fair hearing.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Martin C. Kelley qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

PAMELA LEEMING – YES

Judge Leeming is currently assigned to the Fourth District (Maywood) hearing felony cases. She has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1990 and was an assistant public defender until her appointment to the bench in 2009. After being reappointed in 2012, she was elected to the circuit court in 2012, and in her previous assignments she heard preliminary hearings, misdemeanors and traffic cases. She has volunteered with various organizations.

She received positive comments for her legal knowledge, balanced temperament, preparedness, and her thoughtful rulings.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Pamela Leeming qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

KIMBERLY D. LEWIS – YES

Judge Lewis is assigned to the Child Protection Division. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2001, and worked both as an assistant state’s attorney and a private practitioner before being elected to the circuit court in 2012. She previously served in First Municipal. She is a member of various bar and judicial associations, given continuing legal education presentations, and has received some awards.

She is considered to be professional, with a good understanding of the law. Attorneys report that she is sensitive to the respondents appearing before her, and that her primary interest is the best interests of the child.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Kimberly D. Lewis qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

STUART F. LUBIN – YES

Judge Lubin is assigned to Juvenile Justice. After being admitted to the Illinois bar in 1974, he was an assistant public defender until his appointment to the circuit court in 1991. He was elected to the circuit court in 1994 and has been retained three times.

He has vast experience as a litigator and a judge, and attorneys report that his legal knowledge and ability are exceptional. While he has a no nonsense demeanor on the bench, he is fair and extremely diligent.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Stuart F. Lubin qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

AICHA M. MACCARTHY – YES

Judge MacCarthy is currently assigned to the Probate Division. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1997, she worked for the Corporation Counsel’s Office, the Chicago Housing Authority and as a sole practitioner handling civil and criminal matters until her election to the circuit court in 2012. She was assigned to Probate in 2013 after previous assignments in Traffic and Non-Jury Civil.

Attorneys report that she has gained considerable, substantive experience in Probate, and she has a good grasp of the law and the ability to handle different calls. She is very professional and balances the needs of the disabled person with the desires of the family.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Aicha M. MacCarthy qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

EDWARD M. MALONEY – YES

Judge Maloney is assigned to First Municipal, Felony Preliminary Hearings. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1978 and was in private practice before his election to the circuit court in 2012. He has served in various other assignments in First Municipal.

He is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable about cases, deliberate, respectful, and punctual. Attorneys call him most capable at doing his job.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Edward M. Maloney qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MARCIA MARAS – YES

Judge Maras is assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section. She has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1982, was appointed to the circuit court in 1999, elected in 2000, and retained twice since then. Before her appointment, she was a law clerk for the Appellate Court; an assistant state’s attorney; an associate with different law firms; and finally, special counsel and chief deputy to the Cook County Assessor. Before joining the Law Division, she was assigned to the County Division and First Municipal. She has been a speaker at New Judges Training and has participated in Moot Court with the Chicago Public Schools.

Attorneys praise her for her analytical and thoughtful rulings, her high character, her positive temperament, and her diligence. She is highly regarded by both litigants and fellow judges.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Marcia Maras qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

LISA A. MARINO – YES

Judge Marino is dually assigned to First Municipal, Housing Section and Chancery, Mortgage Foreclosure. She has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1988 and had experience as both an assistant state’s attorney and a private practitioner before her election to the circuit court in 2012. Her prior assignments include Juvenile Justice, Traffic and Mortgage Foreclosure. She is a past president of the Justinian Society and a member of the Illinois State Bar Association Assembly.

Attorneys describe her as doing a good job with the cases she handles. Many pro se litigants appear before her and she treats them with respect and fairness.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Lisa A. Marino qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JILL C. MARISIE – YES

Judge Marisie is the acting presiding judge of the Third Municipal District (Rolling Meadows). She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990 and after three years as an assistant state’s attorney, she entered private practice. She was elected to the circuit court in 2006 and retained in 2012. After one year in First Municipal, she went to the Third District. She has been the recipient of awards from several suburban bar associations and The John Marshall Law School.

While she handles administrative duties for the Third District, she continues to hear cases in specialty courts. Attorneys report that she is very smart with strong legal knowledge. In Veteran’s Court she has shown a talent for dealing with people who are disadvantaged in the system. Her integrity and diligence have been described as beyond reproach.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Jill C. Marisie qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

DIANN K. MARSALEK – YES

Judge Marsalek has been supervising judge of the Traffic Section of First Municipal since 2014. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1990, she worked for the Illinois Attorney General and as chief counsel for the Department of Corrections until her appointment to the circuit court in 2011. She was subsequently elected in 2012 and held different assignments within First Municipal before assuming her current role. Earlier in 2018, she received the President’s Award from the Advocates Society.

Her current position involves mainly administrative duties. Attorneys report that she is diligent with strong legal knowledge.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Diann K. Marsalek qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JAMES M. MCGING – YES

Judge McGing is currently assigned to the Law Department – Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies. He was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1986 and spent two years as an assistant state’s attorney before entering private practice, where he concentrated in criminal defense, administrative hearings, personal injury, and workers’ compensation. He also worked for the Cook County Sheriff during that time period, including as Acting Director of Operations and Director of Legislative Affairs. He does some teaching and is active with some bar associations.

Attorneys speak highly of his legal ability, his integrity and his impartiality, as well as his sensitivity to diversity and bias.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. James M. McGing qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MICHAEL B. MCHALE – YES

Judge McHale is assigned to the Criminal Division, Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991, he was a career assistant state’s attorney until 2006 when he was elected to the circuit court. He was retained in 2012, and before his current assignment, he served in Domestic Violence. He does some speaking and is a member of various bar associations.

The vast majority of attorneys contacted commented that he is prepared with a good temperament and above-average legal knowledge.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Michael B. McHale qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MICHAEL T. MULLEN – YES

Judge Mullen is assigned to Chancery. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1981 and elected to the circuit court in 2012. Prior to his election, he worked as an assistant state’s attorney and federal prosecutor before going into private practice handling personal injury cases.

He is generally considered by attorneys to have an excellent grasp of the law, and issues well-reasoned opinions. He is described as punctual and diligent; a few attorneys raised some concerns that at times he can be impatient and rude.

For the 2018 General Election, The Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Michael T. Mullen qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JAMES P. MURPHY – YES

In August of this year, Judge Murphy was transferred to the Probate Division from Domestic Violence. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1995 and was an assistant state’s attorney his entire career until being elected to the circuit court in 2006. He was retained in 2012 and until his recent transfer, had spent most of his judicial career in Domestic Violence where he was also acting supervising judge.

Attorneys report that he issues thoughtful and deliberate rulings, with strong legal knowledge and ability. He is considered to be hard-working, diligent and even-handed.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. James P. Murphy qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

THOMAS W. MURPHY – YES

Judge Murphy is the supervising judge of the Civil Division in the Fifth District (Bridgeview). Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979, he was a private attorney in a general civil practice until his election to the circuit court in 2006. He was retained in 2012, and his prior assignments include First Municipal (Traffic and Civil) and the Fifth District (Misdemeanor and Traffic). He is a member of several bar associations and has received awards from The John Marshall Law School and the Southwest Suburban Bar Association.

He is considered to be knowledgeable, prepared and impartial, with well-reasoned decisions. It was noted that he makes sure to review all information before granting any default judgements.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Thomas W. Murphy qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JOYCE M. MURPHY-GORMAN - YES

Judge Murphy-Gorman is assigned to the Sixth District (Markham) – Municipal Department. Licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1995, she had a private practice for several years before working for both the presiding judge of the Sixth District and the chief judge’s office. She was elected to the circuit court in 2000 and retained twice since then. Before moving to the Sixth District in 2017, she spent time in First Municipal and in the Law Division. She is a member of various bar associations and has lectured on legal topics.

Attorneys report that she has good knowledge, is hard-working and competent, and has worked to improve her judicial skills since first elected. She is even-keeled and a good fit for her current assignment.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Joyce M. Murphy-Gorman qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JOAN M. O'BRIEN - YES

Judge O'Brien is a Municipal Department judge assigned to the Fifth District (Bridgeview), and is additionally assigned to the Criminal Division as supervising judge. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983 and was a career assistant state's attorney until her election to the circuit court in 2000. She has been retained twice, and was previously assigned to Child Protection.

Attorneys describe her as being knowledgeable, courteous and respectful, and praise her for her implementation of Drug and Veterans' Courts.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Joan M. O'Brien qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

KAREN L. O'MALLEY - YES

Judge O'Malley is currently assigned to the Probate Division (Decedent's Estates). She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1992. After working in both private practice and as an assistant state's attorney, she was elected to the circuit court in 2012. She was previously assigned to First Municipal (Traffic, Forcible Detainer, Contract, Torts, and Pre-Trial Motions). She is active with several bar associations and teaches trial advocacy.

Attorneys give her high marks for her knowledge, her patience with pro se litigants, and her preparation, including her meticulous research on complicated issues.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Karen L. O'Malley qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

RAMON OCASIO III - YES

Judge Ocasio is a Municipal Department judge assigned to the Fourth District (Maywood). He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989, and had experience as both an assistant attorney general and an assistant public defender before his election to the circuit court in 2006. He was retained in 2012 and heard a variety of misdemeanor, traffic and drug cases, as well as preliminary hearings and bond matters before his current assignment.

He received high praise for his legal knowledge and ability, professional conduct, preparedness and fairness to both sides.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Ramon Ocasio III qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

PAUL S. PAVLUS - YES

Judge Pavlus sits in the Second District (Skokie) where he is dually assigned to the First District (Chicago), hearing felony cases. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993 and was an assistant state's attorney until his election to the circuit court in 2012. He has been assigned to the Second District since 2014 where he initially heard traffic and preliminary hearings.

He is known for providing well-reasoned opinions on contested evidentiary matters, his punctuality and his fairness. He treats all with respect.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Paul S. Pavlus qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

LORNA E. PROPES - YES

Judge Propes is currently assigned to the Law Department – Jury Division. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1975, and after five years as an assistant state’s attorney, she went into private practice handling mainly civil matters, both on her own and with several firms. She was appointed to the circuit court in 2012 and elected in 2012. She was previously assigned to Traffic Court and has been a speaker on legal issues.

She is considered to be a knowledgeable judge who knows the rules of evidence well and is very good jurors.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Lorna E. Propes qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CYNTHIA RAMIREZ - YES

Judge Ramirez is assigned to Juvenile Justice. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1990 and had a varied career as an administrative law judge, an assistant public defender and as a general practitioner until her election to the circuit court in 2012. She was previously assigned to Domestic Violence and Traffic, and has been a speaker on legal issues.

Attorneys report that she knows the law and how it should be applied, is impartial and sensitive to diversity.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Cynthia Ramirez qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

ERICA REDDICK - YES

Judge Reddick is assigned to the Criminal Division, Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Licensed in to practice law in Illinois in 1991, she was a career assistant public defender until her appointment to the circuit court in 2010. She was then elected in 2012, and assigned to Traffic Court and Child Protection. She chairs an educational conference for judges and has lectured.

Attorneys report that she has excellent legal knowledge and is even-handed, diligent and punctual. It was also reported that she holds people to a high level of decorum, which some attorneys view as perhaps being too formal.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Erica Reddick qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MARY C. ROBERTS - YES

Judge Roberts is assigned to Domestic Relations in the Fourth District (Maywood). Licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1989, she had a varied career as a social worker at Maryville Academy; an assistant state’s attorney; an assistant corporation counsel; and as a hearing officer for Cook County. She was elected to the circuit court in 2006, retained in 2012, and her previous assignments include the Criminal Division. She is a past president of the Alliance of Illinois Judges.

Attorneys consider her to be a smart and intelligent judge who understands the law. She runs her courtroom efficient, and elicited positive comments for her interactions with the many pro se and non-English speaking litigants who appear before her.

For the 2018 General Election, The Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Mary C. Roberts qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

THOMAS D. ROTI - YES

Judge Roti is a Municipal Department judge assigned to the Third District (Rolling Meadows), where he presides over a jury trial call and other matters as assigned. After his admission to the Illinois bar in 1970, he clerked for a federal judge and worked in private practice with several firms before joining Dominick's, where he eventually attained the positions of general counsel, secretary and vice president. Elected to the Circuit Court in 2000, and retained twice since then, he was assigned initially to First Municipal and then to the Third District, where he handled traffic and misdemeanor cases. He is a member of various bar associations and has received several awards.

He is known to be a very knowledgeable judge who does research and follows the law. He is punctual, thorough and has respect for all appearing before him.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Thomas D. Roti qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

BEATRIZ SANTIAGO - YES

Judge Santiago is assigned to the Municipal Department in the Third District (Rolling Meadows) where she hears traffic and misdemeanor matters. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1996, she spent the majority of her career as an assistant public defender before her election to the circuit court in 2012. She was previously assigned to First Municipal and is a past president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Attorneys rate her legal knowledge as very good-to-excellent, and say that she knows criminal law. She was censured in 2016 by the Illinois Courts Commission for false statements in a loan application filed as part of a refinance in 2013. Judge Santiago signed papers stating that a building she owned, situated outside of her Subcircuit and not the address that she ran from, was her primary residence. She later state that she had been careless in reading the documents and gave incorrect information. The Courts Commission termed her actions reckless, issued the censure and no further action has been taken in the matter. Despite that incident, attorneys all agreed that she is very impartial and one of the fairest judges.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Beatriz Santiago qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

REGINA A. SCANNICCHIO - YES

Judge Scannicchio is assigned to Domestic Relations. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1989 and worked for a small civil practice firm until her appointment to the circuit court in 2011. She was elected in 2012 and previously sat in First Municipal hearing traffic cases. She has lectured and written on legal issues, and is second vice president of the Justinian Society, and a member of The John Marshall Law School Alumni Board.

Attorneys praise her for her professionalism, her sensitivity to diversity, and her attention to pro se litigants. They report that she has good legal knowledge and handles complex cases well.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Regina A. Scannicchio qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

ANDREA M. SCHLEIFER - NO

Judge Schleifer is currently assigned to Domestic Relations. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1979, she was mainly a sole practitioner until her appointment to the circuit court in 2011. She was subsequently elected in 2012. She was previously assigned to Forcible Entry and Detainer, and Traffic. She is active with many bar associations.

While acknowledging that she has been very active in efforts to foster diversity and inclusions, and her long experience, attorneys were very divided in their assessment of her current legal knowledge and ability and temperament. Some felt that she was outstanding, while others reported that she either does not know the current law or does not apply it properly. These same attorneys also reported concerns with her temperament and that, at times, she appears to be close-minded. Some of these attorneys also reported that there were times when she appeared to be unsure of, or incorrect about, the status of cases before her.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Andrea M. Schleifer not qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

COLLEEN F. SHEEHAN - YES

Judge Sheehan is assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division, where she presides over the Restorative Justice Community Court. Licensed to practice law in Illinois in 1988, she spent three years as an assistant public defender before opening her own general practice. She was elected to the circuit court in 2000 and has been retained twice. She has served on several Illinois Supreme Court committees, is a past president of the Alliance of Illinois Judge, and is a frequent lecturer and writer.

Attorneys have been impressed with her legal knowledge, her integrity and her impartiality. She is exceptionally well-liked and respected. Judge Sheehan has been heavily involved in the implementation of the Restorative Justice Community Court, and it is reported that she has worked hard to earn the trust of the community. She respects all, and her sensitivity to diversity was stated to be one of her strongest qualities.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Colleen F. Sheehan qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

DIANE M. SHELLEY - YES

Judge Shelley is currently assigned to the Law Division – Commercial Calendar. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984, she worked for a legal aid agency in Florida before opening her own general practice in Chicago. She then worked for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Elected to the circuit court in 2006, she was retained in 2012. She was previously assigned to Domestic Violence, First Municipal and the Law Division – Trial Section. She has lectured on legal topics, is a member of various bar associations, was a past chair of the Illinois Judicial Council, and is third vice president of the Illinois Judges Association.

With few exceptions, most attorneys reported that she has good legal knowledge and ability, and is well-suited to her current assignment. She is considered to be diligent and punctual with a calm, polite demeanor.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Diane M. Shelley qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

MAURA SLATTERY BOYLE - YES

Judge Boyle is currently assigned to the Criminal Division at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1993, she was an assistant state’s attorney before her election to the circuit court in 2000. She has been retained twice, and was previously assigned to First Municipal.

Most attorneys gave her good marks for her legal knowledge and ability, saying she keeps up on the law. A few attorneys stated that at times she has made some fundamental errors, and there are concerns over whether she has had more cases reversed than some other judges in her division. While most reported that she is fair and treats both sides equally, some felt that at time she lacks understanding of the problems faced by low-income defendants regarding probation fees and fines.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Maura Slattery-Boyle qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

JAMES M. VARGA – NO

Judge Varga is assigned to the Law Division – Trial Section. Licensed to practice law in 1978, he was both an assistant state’s attorney and a private practitioner before his election to the circuit court in 1994. He has been retained three times, and was previously assigned to the Law Division. He has done some writing on legal issues.

Attorneys do speak highly of his legal knowledge, his punctuality and his fairness. Concerns about temperament, however, have been an ongoing issue, and while Judge Varga has taken some steps to ameliorate those concerns, attorneys report that those issues still exist, and that he does not, perhaps, recognize the ongoing extent of the issue.

For the 2018 General Election, The Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. James M. Varga not qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

CARL A. WALKER – YES

Judge Walker was assigned in June 2018 to the Appellate Court. Licensed to practice law in 1992, he was in private practice before his appointment and then election to the circuit court in 2006. He was retained in 2012 and was previously assigned to Juvenile Justice, Tax and Miscellaneous Remedies, and the Surety Section. He has lectured on legal topics, and is the recipient of several awards. He is the treasurer of the Cook County Bar Foundation.

Attorneys gave him positive reviews for his hard work, professional demeanor, character, and integrity. He issues written opinions and keeps up with the law.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. Carl A. Walker qualified for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

E. KENNETH WRIGHT, JR. – YES

Judge Wright is the Presiding Judge of First Municipal. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1977, and was in private practice until his election to the circuit court in 1994. He has been retained three times, and previously served in First Municipal and Probate. He sits on the Executive Committee for the Chief Judge and is a past president of the Chicago Bar Association. He lectures on legal topics and is the recipient of several awards, including the Vanguard Award. He is also on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association.

He is well-regarded and praised for his hard work and commitment to diversity, both as a judge and during his term as CBA president. Attorneys noted that he established a ‘flex call’, outside of normal business hours, to better accommodate pro se litigants.

For the 2018 General Election, the Illinois State Bar Association finds the Hon. E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. for retention as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.