

# **Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County Report on the Judges Seeking Retention on the November 2, 2010 Ballot in Cook County**

Since 1977, Illinois judges have been required to seek retention in office in an election every six years. While almost all judges are retained, the process itself has led to increasing levels of judicial campaign fundraising from lawyers who appear before the judges. Moreover, the public has seemingly lost faith and interest in the judicial retention process – sometimes fewer than 50% of people who vote in the election cast ballots for judges.

Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice, in cooperation with the Chicago Council of Lawyers, has used generous grants from the Joyce Foundation to establish the Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County (JPC) in an effort to better inform voters and to improve the quality of the judiciary.

## **History of the JPC**

In 2008, we created a task force representing key organizations interested in judicial election reform.

The task force concluded that a Judicial Performance Commission provides an opportunity for improving the quality of the state judiciary:

1. Some judges will learn from the evaluation and improve their performance.
2. Some judges, seeing that they will be undergoing a rigorous and objective process of public evaluation, may choose to leave the bench voluntarily.
3. For judges not meeting all of the performance standards, the Judicial Performance Commission provides performance improvement commentary. The Commission will then monitor the situation to see if a remedial program of court watching, mentoring, and continuing education is implemented.
4. Evaluation results from the Judicial Performance Commission will be provided to the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County for the purpose of assisting decisions regarding the assignment of judges.
5. A Judicial Performance Commission will aid voters by providing information permitting educated decisions in judicial retention elections.

## **The Performance Commission Concept**

The Performance Commission concept exists in at least five states, using a variety of approaches. These states are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Tennessee.

Much literature exists on these bodies. The goal of this project was to utilize existing work in creating a model system for Illinois. Resulting information, including recommendations as to whether judges should be retained, is distributed widely through voter information guides.

In addition to aiding voters, Commissions help judges perform better on the bench. In Colorado, where a Performance Commission has been in existence for ten years, over 85% of trial judges and 50% of appellate judges report judicial performance evaluations have been “significantly beneficial” or “somewhat beneficial” to their professional development.<sup>1</sup> Many judges also feel that the Commission had no negative effects on their judicial independence, but instead increases their judicial independence.<sup>2</sup>

### **Current Status: The 2010 Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County**

In 2009 and 2010, we translated the results of the task force into a pilot project, the Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County (“JPC”). The pilot project was launched in February 2010. The following is a status report on the progress made by this project:

#### **Members of the 2010 Judicial Performance Commission (Affiliations for identification purposes only)**

The Commission consists of 17 members, of which 40% are non-lawyers.

##### Chairperson

Leonard Jay Schrager, Professor Emeritus, The John Marshall Law School

##### Members

Enrique Abraham, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office

Fay Lomax Cook, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

Jan Czarnik, League of Women Voters of Illinois

Stephen Daniels, American Bar Foundation

Susana Darwin, American Bar Association

Vivien C. Gross, Professor, Chicago-Kent College of Law

Roy E. Hofer, Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione

Jonathan D. King, DLA Piper

Michelle K. Jordan, League of Women Voters

Edward O. Laumann, The University of Chicago, Department of Sociology

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<sup>1</sup> Ins. for the Advancement of the Amer. Legal Sys. The Bench Speaks on Judicial Performance Evaluations: A Survey of Colorado Judges. Available at <http://www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/2008JudicialPerformanceEvaluationFINALExecsum.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See id.

James H. Lewis, Chicago Community Trust

Virginia Martinez, MALDEF Chicago Regional Office

Travis Richardson, Richardson & Mackoff

Wesley G. Skogan, Professor, Northwestern University, Department of Political Science

Ada Skyles, Chapin Hall Research Center for Children, at the University of Chicago

Randolph N. Stone, Professor, Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, at the University of Chicago Law School

### **The staff of the 2010 Judicial Performance Commission:**

Malcolm Rich	Executive Director
Elizabeth Monkus	Project Manager
Lisa Stoller	Paralegal
Professor Jack Heinz	Pro bono research consultant
Dr. Anne Heinz	Pro bono research consultant

### **Methodology Used by JPC**

Performance Commission members serve as a board of directors, overseeing and governing the operations, but not influencing the research results. The Commission members made the decisions concerning retention recommendations and needed judicial performance improvement.

The judicial evaluation research efforts were overseen by Anne Heinz, a PhD political scientist with expertise in survey research and program evaluations, and Professor Jack Heinz, a research professor and former Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation. JPC staff members Elizabeth Monkus and Malcolm Rich were responsible for implementation of the evaluation techniques.

All judges seeking retention were notified that they were being evaluated by the JPC and were asked to inform us whether they were currently the subject of disciplinary action. The judges were evaluated by the members of the JPC using several independent sources of information:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, after receiving authorization from Chief Judge Timothy Evans, supplied to the Commission the names of lawyers who had appeared before each judge during the last two years. These lawyers were then surveyed in an electronic survey and in personal phone interviews. The lawyers represent the breadth of attorneys practicing in Cook County and included solo practitioners and attorneys with small, medium and large firms, as well as public defenders, state's attorneys, and other attorneys employed by public agencies. Legal aid and clinical attorneys also participated in interviews.

Each lawyer received an email a letter describing the evaluation process and providing a link to an electronic survey to be completed and submitted confidentially online. Respondents provided both quantitative answers and written commentary. Dr. Anne Heinz analyzed the results and provided descriptive data.

Another group of lawyers was randomly selected for in-depth, structured phone interviews. These lawyers were grouped by number of appearances before a particular judge so that lawyers who appeared more often, less often, and infrequently were interviewed. Each lawyer was asked the same questions plus follow-up inquiries. As in the electronic survey, the questions included quantitative, scaled questions and narrative responses. The results were entered through an online survey system and Dr. Heinz analyzed these results, as well.

To identify issues that the evaluation process should explore, we also conducted informal interviews. These were non-structured interviews with lawyers having broad-based knowledge of a variety of judges. These interviews were conducted to identify judicial performance issues that needed further exploration.

Over the course of the project, we completed over 2600 surveys and interviews of attorneys regarding their experiences practicing before the retention candidates. In some cases, we employed court watching. We also reviewed the appellate records and examined various databases for media mentions of the judges. While the appellate records and media mentions were discussed as part of the Commission's deliberations, neither was ever found sufficient to be disqualifying for any judge.

Commission members utilized all of these sources of information in determining whether a judge would be Recommended or Not Recommended for retention. Moreover, the members also determined whether a judge, whether or not recommended for retention, would receive performance improvement commentary. Therefore, for each judge the JPC provided a rating and written explanation, including, when appropriate, commentary as to how the judge could improve his or her judicial performance. The Commission sometimes found a judge recommended for retention, but nonetheless in need of some improvement.

The factors considered by the Commission when reviewing a judge were:

- legal ability (follows the law, keeps abreast of recent developments in the law, reasons for ruling are clear),
- fairness,
- diligence (including punctuality),
- integrity,
- temperament,

- courtroom management.

After the Commission considered the research results, its staff prepared a written summary, including a biography, a rating, and the rationale for the Commission's conclusions. The Commission submitted the proposed evaluation and summary to the judge prior to its public release, and provided an opportunity for comment, correction, or reconsideration. Those judges found Not Recommended were given an opportunity to appear in person before the Commission to appeal the decision.

### **Conclusion**

The Judicial Performance Commission of Cook County is a pilot project aimed at improving the quality of the Cook County judiciary. Its goals are to educate voters in judicial retention elections and to identify factors that could improve the performance of judges seeking retention. Subsequently, the Commission will seek to identify whether the judges improve their performance, and in so doing improve the quality of the Cook County justice system.

#### **The following are the evaluation summaries of those judges seeking retention in 2010:**

##### **Hon. Nancy J. Arnold**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Nancy J. Arnold for retention.

*Biography:* Nancy J. Arnold graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1977.

Judge Arnold was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1997 and elected in 1998. She presently serves in the Chancery Division, where she has been sitting since 2000. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Arnold was in private practice. She currently sits on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions for Civil Cases and on the Board of Commissioners of the Office of the State Appellate Defender.

*Summary:* Respondents generally describe Judge Arnold as smart and hard-working. Respondents were in agreement that she is prepared for court and generally maintains an orderly courtroom with no unreasonable delays. However, while the Commission believes that Judge Arnold deserves to be retained, we note some concern that many respondents indicated that she can be short-tempered or impatient in court. The Commission believes that this shortcoming can be remedied. Judge Arnold is otherwise commended for working hard, as well as being prompt and clear in her rulings.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Nancy J. Arnold for retention.

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**Hon. Robert Balanoff**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert Balanoff for retention.

*Biography:* Robert Balanoff graduated from DePaul Law School and was admitted to practice in 1982.

Judge Robert Balanoff was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. He presently serves in the Child Protection Division, where he decides wardship petitions, adjudicating claims of abuse and neglect of minor children. Prior to his election, Judge Balanoff was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Balanoff drew praise from the respondents for his demeanor and courtesy. His compassion was well-noted. Respondents further characterized him as very efficient and quite diligent.

The Commission notes that some attorneys with experience in Judge Balanoff's courtroom felt he sometimes becomes impatient with parents appearing before him. However, he has an excellent temperament, listens carefully and takes the time to explain his decisions.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert Balanoff for retention.

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**Hon. Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein for retention.

*Biography:* Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein graduated from DePaul University and was admitted to practice in 1971.

Judge Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in the Domestic Relations Division. Previously, she sat in the First Municipal District. Prior to her election, Judge Bernstein was in private practice and served as a mediator at the Center for Conflict Resolution.

*Summary:* The majority of respondents have a favorable impression of Judge Bernstein, considering her direct and decisive. While the Commission believes she should be retained, the Commission finds a notable minority expressing concerns about her demeanor on the bench. The concern is that Judge Bernstein's deportment sometimes suggests a failure to put aside personal opinions in the conduct of cases. However, her rulings appear to be fair and her temperament appears to be appropriate.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jeanne R. Cleveland Bernstein for retention.

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### **Hon. Robert W. Bertucci**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert W. Bertucci for retention.

*Biography:* Robert W. Bertucci graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1983.

Judge Bertucci was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and presently serves in the County Division. Previously, Judge Bertucci was in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court at 26<sup>th</sup> and California. Prior to his election, Judge Bertucci was an assistant State's Attorney and a defense attorney in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Bertucci is described as a "working judge" who always takes the bench well-prepared for the call with knowledge of the cases to be heard. His respect for persons appearing before him is well-noted and respondents felt he managed the administration of his call efficiently. Respondents noted a change for the better from a short-tempered demeanor while on the bench in the criminal courts. He is praised for his abilities with the divergent groups of people coming into his courtroom in cases ranging from involuntary admissions to election law issues.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert W. Bertucci for retention.

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### **Presiding Judge Paul Philip Biebel**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Presiding Judge Paul Philip Biebel for retention.

*Biography:* Paul Philip Biebel graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and was admitted to practice in 1967.

Judge Biebel was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1996 and is the Presiding Judge in the Criminal Division. Previously, he was in the Juvenile Court. Prior to his election, Judge Biebel was an Assistant State's Attorney, was in private practice, and had served as the Public Defender of Cook County. As Presiding Judge, Judge Biebel hears the expungement call, examining petitions by persons with past convictions looking to expunge or seal their conviction record.

*Summary:* Judge Biebel has an excellent reputation among the Cook County Bar and is widely praised for his temperament and for his attention to detail. He is dedicated to a

better criminal justice system and has put vast amounts of his time into it, bringing together diverse groups to work to that end. Everyone comments on his habit of roaming the halls early in the morning talking with people about issues facing the Criminal Division. He is credited with improving the functioning of the criminal courthouse at 26<sup>th</sup> & California Streets and working to provide special courts that address the needs and interests of representatives of the major stakeholders at the criminal courthouse. He is well-liked, well-respected and generally esteemed.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Presiding Judge Paul Philip Biebel for retention.

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**Hon. Richard J. Billik, Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Richard J. Billik, Jr. for retention.

*Biography:* Richard J. Billik, Jr. graduated from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1977.

Judge Billik was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and presently serves in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, he served in the First Municipal District and on the commercial calendar and trial section in the Law Division. Prior to his election, Judge Billik was a trial attorney with the Department of Justice and a special assistant District Attorney in Washington DC. He was later an attorney in private practice in Washington DC and Chicago.

*Summary:* Respondents praised Judge Billik's common sense and temperament. He is considered hard-working, thoughtful and fair. The Commission notes no concerns over his performance on the bench and finds Judge Billik recommended for retention.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Richard J. Billik, Jr. for retention.

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**Hon. Kathleen Marie Burke**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kathleen Marie Burke for retention.

*Biography:* Kathleen Marie Burke graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School and was admitted to practice in 1989.

Judge Burke was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in the Fifth Municipal District. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District and in the Child

Protection Division. Prior to her election, Judge Burke was first in private practice with a large firm and then an assistant State's Attorney in the Civil Actions Bureau.

*Summary:* Attorneys surveyed for this evaluation were uniform in their belief that Judge Burke has a good temperament and treats people with respect. Although some suggested she is slow in deliberating, everyone believed she comes to the right conclusion. While the Commission believes she should be retained, the Commission received some reports that Judge Burke lacks experience in some areas of the law relevant to matters in her courtroom. However, these reports are balanced by comments that the judge is diligent and competent. Overall, she has an excellent demeanor and a good work ethic.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kathleen Marie Burke for retention.

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### **Hon. Charles P. Burns**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Charles P. Burns for retention.

*Biography:* Charles P. Burns graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1981.

Judge Burns was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and presently serves in the Criminal Division hearing felony cases at 26<sup>th</sup> and California. Prior to his election, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Attorneys surveyed by the Commission consider Judge Burns an excellent judge and an astute jurist who is open-minded, realistic, and well-versed in the law. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission heard frequent comments that he can be short-tempered and impatient. The Commission noted that Judge Burns' intemperance did not signal bias in the judge's rulings or correlate with bad decisions.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Charles Burns for retention.

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### **Hon. Paula M. Daleo**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Paula M. Daleo for retention.

*Biography:* Paula M. Daleo graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1978.

Judge Daleo was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently serves in misdemeanors in the Fourth Municipal District. Previously, she served in the First

Municipal District. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Daleo was an Executive Assistant State's Attorney and formerly Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, as well as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She also was in private practice.

*Summary:* Interviewees commented positively on Judge Daleo's willingness to review case law, her familiarity with current case law as well as with briefs in the cases before her, and her willingness to make a clear record of her reasoning and analysis. She was also praised for her ability to work with *pro se* litigants. However, the Commission found some concerns that she can be short-tempered with court personnel.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Paula M. Daleo for retention.

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### **Hon. Thomas Davy**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas Davy for retention.

*Biography:* Thomas Davy graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1971.

Judge Davy was elected to the bench in 1992 and currently sits in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, he was in the Juvenile Division and the First Municipal District Traffic Court. He was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and a court coordinator for the Office of the Chief Judge.

*Summary:* Respondents considered Judge Davy as even-handed and respectful as well as courteous, consistent and impartial. He has a low-key, but effective, demeanor and is praised for his courtroom management.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas Davy for retention.

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### **Hon. David Delgado**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge David Delgado for retention.

*Biography:* David Delgado graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1977.

Judge Delgado was elected to the bench in 1992 and was retained in 1998. He presently serves in the Domestic Relations Division. Prior to his election, Judge Delgado spent 15 years in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Delgado displays excellent court management skills. He is a diligent, compassionate judge, who is regarded as fair. However, while the Commission believes

he deserves to be retained, we note that some respondents question whether his handling of *pro se* or otherwise disadvantaged litigants in his courtroom is too deferential.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge David Delgado for retention.

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**Hon. Deborah Marie Dooling**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Deborah Marie Dooling for retention.

*Biography:* Deborah Marie Dooling graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1978.

Judge Dooling was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and is currently Presiding Judge in the Law Division. Previously, she served in the Criminal Division, the Chancery Division, and the Law Division, hearing jury trials. In 2001, she was appointed by the Supreme Court to the Judicial Conference and the Committee on Discovery Rules. She was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney in the Criminal, Civil and Appellate Divisions and was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Dooling is considered to be a very good judge with good ability and temperament. She has done well in both civil and criminal assignments. She is a solid jurist.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Deborah Marie Dooling for retention.

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**Hon. Jennifer Duncan-Brice**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jennifer Duncan-Brice for retention.

*Bio:* Jennifer Duncan-Brice graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1976.

Judge Duncan-Brice was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and presently sits in the Law Division, Individual General Calendar. Prior to her election, she was an attorney with the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel.

*Summary:* Respondents generally describe Judge Duncan-Brice as an excellent judge who is bright and fair with a good sense of humor and an even temperament.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jennifer Duncan-Brice for retention.

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### **Hon. Laurence Dunford**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Laurence Dunford for retention.

*Biography:* Laurence Dunford graduated from the John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1971.

Judge Dunford was elected to the bench in 2004 and is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. Prior to election, he was in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents generally considered Judge Dunford a fine judge who had been a good lawyer. He is described as knowledgeable about litigation and courts. However, he is currently in a very limited assignment and the Commission reaches no conclusion about his abilities to handle more substantive matters. While the Commission believes Judge Dunford should be retained, the Commission notes some concerns about his lack of patience on the bench and his unwillingness to reconsider his rulings when provided case law to the contrary.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Laurence Dunford for retention.

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### **Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans for retention.

*Biography:* Timothy C. Evans graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1969.

Judge Evans was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and was elected Chief Judge in 2001. He has been re-elected chief judge three times. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Evans was an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago and had served as a floor leader for Mayor Harold Washington and as an Alderman for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

*Summary:* Chief Judge Evans has an excellent reputation among Cook County lawyers. As Chief Judge, he does not hear cases, but sees to the administration of the courts. Chief Judge Evans created a domestic violence court for the Cook County Circuit Court which is housed in a state-of-the-art courthouse. He also re-instituted a pre-trial services program and changed procedure so that bond hearings are conducted in person, rather than via teleconferencing. He is responsive to public concerns about the judiciary and is

working with interested groups to institute a diversion and deferral program in the criminal courts to reduce cost and waste and better serve the interests of the community.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans for retention.

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**Hon. Thomas P. Fecarotta, Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas P. Fecarotta, Jr. for retention.

*Biography:* Thomas P. Fecarotta, Jr. graduated from Northern Illinois University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge Fecarotta was elected to the bench in 1998 and is currently assigned to the Third Municipal District where he hears felony cases. Previously, he served in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, he was an Assistant State's Attorney and in private practice as a criminal defense attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Fecarotta is considered a solid jurist. He listens well and gives his attention to the parties before him. He is generally praised for his temperament and the management of his courtroom.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas P. Fecarotta, Jr. for retention.

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**Hon. Denise K. Filan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Denise K. Filan for retention.

*Biography:* Denise Filan graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1989.

Judge Filan was elected to the bench in 1989 and presently serves in the Fifth Municipal District. Previously, she was in Traffic Court and the District 1 Branch Court. Prior to her election, Judge Filan in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Filan is considered a good judge by most respondents. Respondents further characterized her as meticulous, fair and knowledgeable. The Commission notes that some attorneys with experience in her courtroom felt she becomes impatient with attorneys in her courtroom. However, Judge Filan has an appropriate temperament overall.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Denise K. Filan for retention.

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**Hon. Thomas R. Fitzgerald**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald for retention.

*Biography:* Thomas R. Fitzgerald graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1968.

Chief Justice Fitzgerald was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois for the First Judicial District in 2000. He was first elected to the Circuit Court in 1976 and has served as a trial judge in the Criminal Court and Presiding Judge in the Criminal Division. Justice Fitzgerald was appointed to the First District Appellate Court in 1999.

*Summary:* Prior to his election to the bench, Justice Fitzgerald served in the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Justice Fitzgerald stands out in his preparedness for argument. He is engaged in the courtroom and considered good at keeping issues clearly defined and keeping arguments on track and within time limits. The Commission considers his opinions well-reasoned.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald for retention.

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**Hon. Nicholas R. Ford**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Nicholas R. Ford for retention.

*Biography:* Nicholas R. Ford was admitted to practice in 1988.

Judge Ford was appointed to the bench in December 1997 and elected in 1998. He currently sits in Traffic Court, in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. He was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney throughout his career as an attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Ford is generally regarded as a fair judge, who is hard-working with good legal ability. While the Commission believes he deserves to be retained, the Commission notes that his demeanor draws some criticism for impatience and inappropriate sarcastic remarks. However, Judge Ford is viewed positively in the legal community, despite the concerns about his temperament.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Nicholas R. Ford for retention.

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### **Hon. Charles E. Freeman**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Charles E. Freeman for retention.

*Biography:* Charles E. Freeman graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1962.

Justice Freeman was elected to the Circuit Court in 1976 and elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1990. He served as Chief Justice for the Illinois Supreme Court from 1997 to 1999. While at the Circuit Court, Judge Freeman sat in the Law and Chancery Divisions. Prior to his election, he was assistant Illinois attorney general, an assistant state's attorney, and an assistant attorney for the Board of Election Commissioners.

*Summary:* Respondents generally describe Justice Freeman as engaged in argument. His opinions are well-reasoned and on point. He is considered to be knowledgeable and is praised for treating all those before him with dignity and respect.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Charles E. Freeman for retention.

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### **Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Vincent M. Gaughan for retention.

*Biography:* Vincent M. Gaughen graduated from DePaul Law School and was admitted to practice in 1971.

Judge Gaughan was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1991 and elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently assigned Criminal Division in the Felony Trial Court of the Criminal Courts Building. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Gaughan was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender in the Criminal Appellate Division and later served as a felony trial attorney and a felony trial attorney supervisor.

*Summary:* Judge Gaughan drew praise for his preparedness and control of his courtroom and cases. He is considered a smart and impartial judge. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes that Judge Gaughan received general criticism with regard to his temper, particularly as directed toward attorneys in his courtroom. However, he is overall well-respected for his attention to the cases and court management skills.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Vincent M. Gaughan for retention.

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**Hon. Allen S. Goldberg**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Allen S. Goldberg for retention.

*Biography:* Allen S. Goldberg graduated from DePaul Law School and was admitted to practice in 1967.

Judge Goldberg was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and is presently assigned to the Law Division in the Individual Commercial Calendar Section. Previously, he served in the Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Court. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Goldberg was chief of felony trials at the Cook County Public Defender's Office and had previously been in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Goldberg drew praise for his punctuality, demeanor and honesty. He is considered a good judge with a fine temperament. The Commission notes that some attorneys believe Judge Goldberg is slow in making rulings, but characterize his written rulings as highly sufficient.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Allen S. Goldberg for retention.

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**Hon. Joseph Gordon**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Joseph Gordon for retention.

*Biography:* Joseph Gordon graduated from Northwestern University Law School and was admitted to practice in 1960.

Justice Gordon was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1989 and he was elected to the Court in 1990. He currently serves in the First District Appellate Court, Sixth Division. He was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge of in 1976 and served in the Municipal Division. Prior to his election to the bench, Justice Gordon was in private practice, before serving as Cook County first assistant and chief deputy assessor.

*Summary:* Justice Gordon is praised for his exceptional legal ability and considered both diligent and fair. He is an active questioner during oral argument and produces cogent, well-reasoned opinions.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Joseph Gordon for retention.

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**Hon. Susan Ruscitti Grussel**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Susan Ruscitti Grussel for retention.

*Biography:* Susan Ruscitti Grussel graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1979.

Judge Grussel was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. She currently sits in the Law Division, in a jury trial room. Prior to her election, Judge Grussel was in private practice and served as an assistant state's attorney. She has also worked as caseworker for the Circuit Court of Cook County Social Service and a social worker with Catholic Charities in Chicago.

*Summary:* Respondents generally describe Judge Grussel as an excellent trial judge, who is polite and attentive.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Susan Ruscitti Grussel for retention.

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### **Hon. Shelvin Louise Hall**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Shelvin Louise Hall for retention.

*Biography:* Shelvin Louise Hall graduated from Boston University School of Law and was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1982.

Justice Shelvin Hall was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1999 and presently sits in the First District, First Division. She was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in 1991 and served in the Domestic Relations and Law Divisions of the Circuit Court. Prior to her election to the bench, Justice Hall was an attorney and General Counsel with the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

*Summary:* Justice Hall is well-respected as being prepared, having a good temperament, and producing well-reasoned opinions. Additionally, Justice Hall draws praise for her community service.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Shelvin Louise Hall for retention.

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### **Hon. Sophia H. Hall**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sophia H. Hall for retention.

*Biography:* Sophia H. Hall graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1967.

Judge Hall was elected to the Circuit Court in 1980 and currently serves in the Chancery Division and is the presiding judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice/Child Protection Division. Previously she was a felony trial judge in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court and a presiding Judge in the Juvenile Division.

*Summary:* As the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Division, Judge Hall brought new and improved programs to the juvenile court. She helps develop restorative justice programs, helps facilitate services to children, and acts as a liaison to groups like the ABA and community organizations. She brings an even temperament to this assignment and there is universal praise for her administrative work in the juvenile court.

Respondents assessed Judge Hall positively with regard to her judicial temperament in the Chancery Division. She is doing an adequate job as a Chancellor and is generally praised for working toward the correct resolution in cases.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sophia H. Hall for retention.

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### **Hon. Kay Hanlon**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kay Hanlon for retention.

*Biography:* Kay Hanlon graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1985.

Judge Hanlon was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. She is currently assigned to the Third Municipal District, where she presides over preliminary hearings and felony cases. Previously, she was in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was in private practice and had been an assistant Cook County state's attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Hanlon drew praise for her work ethic and courtroom management skills. She is considered open-minded and even-handed with a good judicial temperament.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kay Hanlon for retention.

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### **Hon. LaQuietta Hardy-Campbell**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge LaQuietta Hardy-Campbell for retention.

*Biography:* LaQuietta Hardy-Campbell graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1978.

Judge Hardy-Campbell was elected to the bench in 1998. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division where she has served since her election. Judge Hardy-Campbell was admitted to practice in 1978. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Hardy-Campbell shows a good legal ability and respondents praised her temperament and courtroom management skills. Her written opinions are described as thorough and understandable.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge LaQuietta Hardy-Campbell for retention.

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**Hon. Thomas L. Hogan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas L. Hogan for retention.

*Biography:* Thomas L. Hogan graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge Hogan was appointed to the bench in 1997 and elected in 1998. He presently serves in Law Division, Jury Section and was previously assigned to the First Municipal District. Prior to his appointment, Judge Hogan was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Hogan is an excellent judge with good legal ability and temperament. He is additionally valued for his pre-trial conferences.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas L. Hogan for retention.

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**Hon. Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. for retention.

*Biography:* Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1976.

Justice Howse was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and presently sits in the First District, Fifth Division. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998 and presided in the County Division, hearing tax deed, adoption, mental health, election, and annexation cases.

*Summary:* Justice Howse is considered conscientious and diligent in his analysis and rulings. He is described as respectful of persons appearing in his courtroom, as well as personable and knowledgeable.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. for retention to the Circuit Court.

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**Hon. Arnette R. Hubbard**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Arnette R. Hubbard for retention.

*Biography:* Arnette R. Hubbard graduated from the John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1969.

Judge Arnette Hubbard was appointed to the bench in 1997 and elected in 1998. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Hubbard's demeanor and work ethic are to be praised. While the Commission believes she should be retained, the Commission notes a tentative approach to decisions which is not in keeping with her excellent temperament and lengthy experience.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Arnette R. Hubbard for retention.

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**Hon. Cheryl D. Ingram**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Cheryl D. Ingram for retention.

*Biography:* Cheryl D. Ingram graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1979.

Judge Ingram was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. She is currently assigned jointly to the Law Division and Fourth Municipal District. Previously, she was in the Domestic Relations Division. Judge Ingram was admitted to practice in 1979. Prior to election, she was an assistant Cook County Public Defender.

*Summary:* Judge Ingram displays good courtroom management skills and excellent communication skills. Respondents noted a strong legal ability and temperament.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Cheryl D. Ingram for retention.

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**Hon. Raymond Jagielski**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Raymond Jagielski for retention.

*Biography:* Raymond Jagielski graduated from the John Marshall School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1981.

Judge Jagielski was elected to the bench in 1992. He currently sits in the Fifth Municipal District. Previously, he was in the County Division, traffic court and the First Municipal District. Prior to election, he was Public Defender and served as a member of the Chicago Board of Elections.

*Summary:* Judge Jagielski is well-regarded for his courtroom management skills, ability to handle a heavy call, and work ethic. He is also noted for his fairness. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes some concerns with his temperament and that he can be discourteous to defendants, particularly *pro se* defendants. However, Judge Jagielski is generally considered to be a good judge in the misdemeanor and traffic call.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Raymond Jagielski for retention.

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**Hon. Dorothy F. Jones**

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Dorothy F. Jones for retention.

*Biography:* Dorothy Jones graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1979.

Judge Dorothy Jones was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. She is currently assigned to a primarily *pro se* call in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was an assistant public defender in Cook County.

*Summary:* The Commission found predominantly unfavorable impressions of Judge Jones in the legal community. The investigation revealed a lack of clarity and consistency in her decisions, as well as questions about her temperament and ability to manage the courtroom. Although Judge Jones has a reputation for honesty and efficiency, the Commission does not feel those qualities outweigh the deficiencies of performance, temperament and management found in the investigation.

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Dorothy F. Jones for retention.

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**Judge Daniel Jordan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel Jordan for retention.

*Biography:* Daniel Jordan was admitted to practice in 1981.

Judge Daniel Jordan was elected to the bench in 1992 and presently sits in the Second Municipal District. He previously served in the First District Traffic Court and the Juvenile Division. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Jordan was an Assistant State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Jordan has good legal ability and is well prepared for court. He possessed good courtroom management skills, as well as a good temperament and a strong reputation for fairness.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel Jordan for retention.

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**Judge Michelle Jordan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Michelle Jordan for retention.

*Biography:* Michelle Jones graduated from Michigan University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1977.

Judge Michelle Jordan was elected to the bench in 2004. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District and served in the Child Protection Division before being reassigned to the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she has been a Cook County State's Attorney, an Assistant Illinois Attorney General, deputy regional director of the EPA, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and in private practice.

*Summary:* Interviewees generally had a positive impression of Judge Jordan. She is exceptionally hard working and respectful to all parties in her courtroom and received praise for her courtroom management skills.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Michelle Jordan for retention.

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**Hon. Thomas J. Kelley**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas J. Kelley for retention.

*Biography:* Thomas J. Kelley graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1984.

Judge Kelley was elected to the bench in 2004 and presently serves in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court. Previously, he was assigned to the First Municipal District. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Kelley was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Kelley is a knowledgeable and fair judge. He draws particular praise for his temperament and courtroom manner.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Thomas J. Kelley for retention.

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**Hon. Carol A. Kelly**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Carol A. Kelly for retention.

*Biography:* Carol Kelly graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1977.

Judge Kelly was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992 and is currently assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District, Traffic Court (DUI call & minor traffic call). Prior to election, she was an Assistant State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Kelly is praised for her creativity in handling cases and her excellent relationship with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department. She is knowledgeable and well-suited to her assignment.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Carol A. Kelly for retention.

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**Hon. John Patrick Kirby**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge John Patrick Kirby for retention.

*Biography:* John Patrick Kirby graduated from the John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1983.

Judge Kirby was elected to the bench in 1998 and presently sits in the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court. Before his election to the bench, Judge Kirby served as a solo practitioner and an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Kirby is as described as exceptionally hard working and creative in finding diversion resources. He is well-respected for thoughtfulness and clarity in his rulings and in making a thorough court record.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge John Patrick Kirby for retention.

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**Hon. William J. Kunkle**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William J. Kunkle for retention.

*Biography:* William Kunkle graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1969.

Judge Kunkle was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004 and presently sits in the Fifth Municipal District. Before his election to the bench, he served first as a Cook County Public Defender, then as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He also spent some time in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Kunkle is an exceptionally knowledgeable trial judge and draws praise for the fairness of his trials. He is well-respected for his diligence and his efficient, well-managed courtroom. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes a common concern regarding his impatience and short temper. Nonetheless, Judge Kunkle brings an excellent reputation as an attorney and as a judge to the bench.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William J. Kunkle for retention.

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**Hon. Bertina E. Lampkin**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Bertina E. Lampkin for retention.

*Biography:* Bertina Lampkin graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1974.

Justice Bertina E. Lampkin was appointed to the Appellate Court in 2009 and presently sits in the First District, First Division. Prior to her appointment to the Appellate Court,

she was Supervising Justice, Circuit Court, Criminal Division after serving for some years in the Criminal Division as an associate Justice. Prior to her election, Justice Lampkin was an Assistant State's Attorney and member of the Chicago Corporation Counsel's office.

*Summary:* Justice Lampkin is considered conscientious and well-prepared for court. She was considered to be a very good trial judge and has made a successful transition to the Appellate Court. Her legal ability is well-respected.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Justice Bertina E. Lampkin for retention to the Circuit Court.

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### **Hon. Diane Joan Larsen**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Diane Joan Larsen for retention.

*Biography:* Diane Joan Larsen graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1983.

Judge Larsen was elected to the bench in 1998 and presently sits in the Law Division, Motions Section. Prior to her election, she was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Chicago Department of Law.

*Summary:* Judge Larsen is considered a smart judge who issues timely and well-reasoned opinions. She drew praise for her calm, professional manner and her diligence and focus.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Diane Joan Larsen for retention.

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### **Hon. Jeffrey Lawrence**

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Jeffrey Lawrence for retention.

*Biography:* Jeffrey Lawrence graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1969.

Judge Lawrence was elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, he was in the Domestic Relations Division. Prior to election, he was in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents indicate that Judge Lawrence issues detailed written rulings and has a good knowledge of the law. However, the Commission notes a serious issue of

punctuality that has been consistent throughout his eighteen years on the bench. The Commission also notes a number of respondents who complain that he is not always prepared. Interviewees indicate Judge Lawrence often takes the bench well after the scheduled start time and sometimes does not appear prepared for court when he arrives. The Commission received numerous comments about significant delays created when the judge does not take the bench promptly and is not prepared for hearings. Judge Lawrence was made aware of complaints about his punctuality through bar association evaluations in previous retention elections but the Commission's investigation suggests he has not addressed the recurring problem. On balance, the Commission cannot recommend Judge Lawrence for retention

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Jeffrey Lawrence for retention.

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### **Hon. Daniel J. Lynch**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel J. Lynch for retention.

*Biography:* Daniel Lynch graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1988.

Judge Daniel Lynch was elected to the bench in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, he was in the First Municipal District, Domestic Violence Section, and the Chancery Division. Prior to election, he was an assistant State's Attorney and senior prosecutor in the Gang Crimes Unit.

*Summary:* Respondents found Judge Lynch to be thoughtful and prepared. He is decisive and has good courtroom management skills.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel J. Lynch for retention.

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### **William Maddux**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William Maddux for retention.

*Biography:* William Maddux graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center and was admitted to practice in 1959.

Judge Maddux was appointed to the bench in 1991 and elected in 1992. He is currently Presiding Judge in the Law Division. Previously, he served both in the Law Division and Juvenile Division. Prior to appointment, he was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Maddux is an experienced judge who is regarded as perceptive and knowledgeable about the law. There are mixed views on the effectiveness of his work toward streamlining the administration and scheduling process of the Law Division, but he is nonetheless considered quite capable.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William Maddux for retention.

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**Hon. William O. Maki**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William O. Maki for retention.

*Biography:* William O. Maki graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1973.

Judge Maki was elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. Previously, he served in the Juvenile, Criminal and Law Divisions. Prior to election, he was in private practice and had served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Maki is considered a good judge, who is respectful of attorneys and their time, and displays good courtroom management. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes some concern that Judge Maki does not adequately explain his rulings.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William O. Maki for retention.

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**Hon. LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. for retention.

*Biography:* LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. graduated from North Carolina Central University School of Law and was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1984.

Judge Martin was appointed to the bench in 2002 and elected in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. Previously, he was in the First Municipal District, Domestic Relations Division. Prior to election, he was both a Cook County Public Defender and in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge Martin draws praise for a good legal ability and temperament. He is considered thoughtful, open to arguments and well-prepared.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. for retention.

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**Hon. James P. McCarthy**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge James McCarthy for retention.

*Biography:* James McCarthy graduated from Northern Illinois University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1978.

Judge James McCarthy was appointed to the bench in 1996 and elected in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Law Division and previously served in the First Municipal District Traffic Center. Prior to appointment, he was in private practice, as well as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago.

*Summary:* Judge McCarthy is considered to have the requisite legal ability with a good grasp of the complex issues that come before him. His courtroom management and temperament draw praise.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge James McCarthy for retention.

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**Hon. Susan J. McDunn**

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Susan J. McDunn for retention.

*Biography:* Susan J. McDunn graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge McDunn was elected to the bench in 1992 and seated in 1993. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was in the County Division and the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge McDunn appears attentive to proceedings and is punctual for court. However, the Commission notes significant concerns about her ability to handle difficult, complex matters. She is described as unwilling to reconsider rulings when presented with additional case law and demonstrates an inappropriate temperament. The Commission received reports of the judge losing her temper and appearing unable to control her courtroom.

In an adoption case in 1999, Judge McDunn was rebuked by the Appellate Court for judicial conduct that the court said “disgraced the judiciary and people of Illinois.”

Although the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board concluded that Judge McDunn did not make statements against persons based upon their sexual orientation, her actions demonstrated a lack of respect for the law. There is no indication that Judge McDunn has rehabilitated her performance. Moreover, the Commission received comments from some lawyers that in light of this event, Judge McDunn does not command the respect of the legal community.

The Judicial Performance Commission **does not recommend** Judge Susan J. McDunn for retention.

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**Hon. Clare McWilliams**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Clare McWilliams for retention.

*Biography:* Clare McWilliams graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1988.

Judge McWilliams was elected to the bench in 2004. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was in the First and Second Municipal Districts. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Judge McWilliams is a qualified judge with a good temperament. She is considered even-tempered, diligent, prepared and attentive to arguments.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Clare McWilliams for retention.

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**Hon. Mary L. Mikva**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Mary L. Mikva for retention.

*Biography:* Mary L. Mikva graduated from Northwestern University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge Mikva was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2004 and is currently assigned to the Child Protection Division. Previously, she served in the First Municipal District. Prior to her election, she was law clerk to Judge Prentice H. Marshall and later to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Judge Mikva also was an appellate attorney for the City of Chicago Law Department, as well as in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents were notably positive with regard to their experiences appearing before Judge Mikva. The Commission notes her respect for everyone in her courtroom,

her attention to argument and the cases before her, her fairness and her investment in child protection law.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Mary L. Mikva for retention.

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**Hon. Patrick T. Murphy**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Patrick T. Murphy for retention.

*Biography:* Patrick T. Murphy graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1965.

Judge Murphy was elected to the bench in 2004, and sits in the Fifth Municipal District Domestic Relations Division. Previously, he was assigned to the First Municipal District and the Sixth Municipal District Domestic Relations Division. Prior to election, Judge Murphy served as the Cook County Public Guardian. He was also an assistant Cook County state's attorney, an attorney with the National Legal Aid & Defender Program and Legal Assistance Foundation, and in private practice.

*Summary:* The Commission notes that Judge Murphy is conscientious, knowledgeable and committed to the best interests of children involved in the divorce proceedings. He has made extensive contributions to the community during his legal career. However, while the Commission believes Judge Murphy should be retained, we have received reports that Judge Murphy can be, at times, intemperate and inconsistent in his rulings.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Patrick T. Murphy for retention.

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**Hon. Timothy P. Murphy**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Timothy P. Murphy for retention.

*Biography:* Timothy P. Murphy graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1984.

Judge Murphy was elected to the Circuit Court in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division and was previously in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, he was in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents describe Judge Murphy as professional, reasonable and articulate. He is considered effective in his courtroom.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Timothy P. Murphy for retention.

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**Hon. Donald J. O'Brien Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Donald J. O'Brien for retention.

*Biography:* Donald J. O'Brien graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1963.

Judge O'Brien was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1990 and elected in 1992. He is currently assigned to the Law Division Trial Section and was previously in the Chancery Division and Law Division. Prior to election, he was in private practice and an instructor of trial advocacy.

*Summary:* Judge O'Brien is well-respected for his preparedness, diligence and reasoning. He is considered both knowledgeable and attentive, with an appropriate demeanor.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Donald J. O'Brien for retention.

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**Hon. William O'Neal**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William O'Neal for retention.

*Biography:* William O'Neal graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1972.

Judge O'Neal was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. He has served in the Sixth Municipal District since his election. Judge O'Brien was admitted to practice in 1971. Prior to election, he was in private practice and had been a Cook County Public Defender.

*Summary:* Respondents generally felt that Judge O'Neal makes appropriate rulings. While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes there have been some concerns raised about his temperament and ability to maintain order in the courtroom.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge William O'Neal for retention.

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### **Hon. Kathleen Pantle**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kathleen Pantle for retention.

*Biography:* Kathleen Pantle graduated from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1982.

Judge Pantle was elected to the bench in 1998 and is currently assigned to the Chancery Division. Previously, she served in the Criminal Division in the traffic division, juvenile justice and criminal divisions. Prior to election, she was a Public Defender, assigned to the Felony Trial Division Homicide Task Force.

*Summary:* Judge Pantle is considered an excellent judge, both hard-working and smart, who brings a superior temperament and good management skills to the bench.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kathleen Pantle for retention.

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### **Hon. Sheryl Ann Pethers**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sheryl Ann Pethers for retention.

*Biography:* Sheryl Ann Pethers graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1991.

Judge Pethers was elected to the bench in 2004. She is currently assigned to the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents were favorable in their assessment of Judge Pethers, generally praising her competence, concern and knowledge of the law. She appears adept at managing the chaos and volume of cases in a high volume municipal courtroom. While the Commission believes she should be retained, we note that she sometimes displays impatience and makes inappropriate comments in court.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sheryl Ann Pethers for retention.

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### **Hon. Robert J. Quinn**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert J. Quinn for retention.

*Biography:* Robert J. Quinn graduated from John Marshall School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1983.

Judge Quinn was elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently assigned to the Chancery Division, mortgage foreclosure and mechanics' lien section, hearing landlord/tenant and collections cases. Previously, he has served in the First Municipal District and the Law Division. Judge Quinn was admitted to practice in 1983. Prior to election, he was an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago and later in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents considered Judge Quinn both knowledgeable and fair, noting that he is thorough, professional and no-nonsense. He is praised for an efficient and smoothly-running courtroom.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Robert J. Quinn for retention.

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### **Hon. Jim Ryan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jim Ryan for retention.

*Biography:* Jim Ryan graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1992.

Judge Ryan was elected to the bench in 2004 and presently serves in the First Municipal District. Previously, he sat in Traffic Court and in Bridgeview where he presided over traffic and domestic violence cases. Judge Ryan currently hears felony preliminary hearings. Before taking the bench, Judge Ryan was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1993 to 1995 and the Director of Operations and General Counsel for the Cook County Sheriff's Office from 1995 to 2004.

*Summary:* Survey respondents generally found Judge Ryan to be efficient and appreciate the deliberation he gives to defendants during the preliminary hearings heard in his courtroom. He manages his call efficiently and maintains a good relationship with court personnel. He is praised for being fair to all defendants when making his rulings.

While the Commission believes he should be retained, the Commission notes significant reports that Judge Ryan sometimes seems impatient and inattentive during court.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Jim Ryan for retention.

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### **Hon. Leida J. Gonzalez Santiago**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Leida J. Gonzalez Santiago for retention.

*Biography:* Leida J. Gonzalez Santiago graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985.

Judge Santiago was elected to the bench in 1992. She is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. Prior to election, she was a staff attorney for the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. Previously she had served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and staff counsel to U.S. Senator Alan Dixon.

*Summary:* Judge Santiago is considered a compassionate, pragmatic and fair jurist. While the Commission believes she should be retained, the Commission notes some concerns regarding her courtroom management skills.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Leida J. Gonzalez Santiago for retention.

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### **Hon. Kevin M. Sheehan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kevin M. Sheehan for retention.

*Biography:* Kevin M. Sheehan graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1983.

Judge Sheehan was elected to the bench in 1998 and currently sits in the Criminal Division. Previously, he was in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

*Summary:* Judge Sheehan is well-regarded for his knowledge and application of the law and is noted for making clear records and treating jurors with respect. He is also generally considered fair. While the Commission believes that he should be retained, the Commission notes that Judge Sheehan is often viewed as abrupt.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Kevin M. Sheehan for retention.

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### **Hon. Irwin J. Solganick**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Irwin J. Solganick for retention.

*Biography:* Irwin J. Solganick graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1972.

Judge Solganick was elected to the bench in 1986. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. He has also served in the First Municipal District and the Domestic Relations

Division. Prior to election, he was an assistant state's attorney and also in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents characterized Judge Solganick as knowledgeable, decisive, with good courtroom management skills.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Irwin J. Solganick for retention.

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**Hon. Paul Stralka**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Paul Stralka for retention.

*Biography:* Paul Stralka graduated from John Marshall Law School and was admitted to practice in 1976.

Judge Paul Stralka was elected to the bench in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division. Previously, he was in the First Municipal District traffic court. Prior to election, he was a Cook County Public Defender.

*Summary:* Attorneys surveyed by the Commission commented on the strong work ethic, efficiency, and thoroughness Judge Stralka brings to his work. He is considered fair, thoughtful and decisive and his attention to the presentations of counsel and statements of litigants is well-noted.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Paul Stralka for retention.

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**Hon. Daniel J. Sullivan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel J. Sullivan for retention.

*Biography:* Daniel J. Sullivan graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1985.

Judge Daniel Sullivan was elected to the bench in 1992. He is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division. He has also served in the Third Municipal District. Prior to election, he was an assistant public defender in Cook County.

*Summary:* Respondents characterized Judge Sullivan as fair. He has the necessary legal ability and appropriate temperament for this assignment. He draws praise for his work to resolve cases.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Daniel Sullivan for retention.

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**Hon. Sharon Sullivan**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sharon Sullivan for retention.

*Biography:* Sharon Sullivan graduated from Loyola Law School in 1980 and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge Sullivan was elected to the bench in 1992 and presently sits in the Criminal Division in the Second Municipal District. Prior to her election Judge Sullivan was an assistant State's Attorney and had previously been in private practice as well as with Corporation Counsel in the Chicago Department of Law.

*Summary:* Survey respondents were overwhelmingly positive in their assessment of Judge Sharon Sullivan's abilities as a judge. In addition to a solid understanding of the law, she possesses an abundance of common sense and maintains a very civilized courtroom. Respondents noted that she stands out for her familiarity with current developments in the law and for providing clear and concise reasons for her rulings.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Sharon Sullivan for retention.

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**Hon. John D. Turner, Jr.**

The Judicial Performance Commission Judge John D. Turner, Jr. for retention.

*Biography:* John Turner graduated from DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1984.

Judge John Turner was elected to the Circuit Court in 1998. He is currently assigned to the Sixth Municipal District and was previously in the First Municipal District. Judge Turner was admitted to practice in 1984. Prior to election, he was an attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority, for the Chicago Park District and both with the Office of the Public Guardian and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

*Summary:* Respondents felt Judge Turner gives his attention to arguments and evidence. He is considered to have an adequate temperament. While the Commission believes he should be retained, we note that some respondents believe that Judge Turner has a bias toward the state, but these respondents did not feel that perceived sympathy toward the state led to unfair rulings in Judge Turner's courtroom. In addition, Judge Turner hears less complex matters and many respondents believe that he has not demonstrated that he is capable of handling more complex matters.

On balance, the Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge John D. Turner, Jr. for retention.

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## **Hon. Edward Washington II**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Edward Washington for retention.

*Biography:* Edward Washington II graduated from Washington University School of Law and was admitted to practice in 1982.

Judge Washington was appointed to the bench in 2002 and elected in 2004. He is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, he was interim Supervising Judge in the First Municipal District and in the Civil Jury, Criminal Division. Prior to election, he was a hearing officer with the University of Illinois Civil Service System, a court-appointed attorney for the Cook County Juvenile Courts and Chief of the Public Interest Division of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Judge Washington also spent some time in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents had a uniformly positive opinion of Judge Washington considering him fair, good and efficient. He is an able trial judge with an appropriate demeanor.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Edward Washington II for retention.

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## **Hon. Alexander P. White**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Alexander P. White for retention.

*Biography:* Alexander P. White graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1964.

Judge White was elected to the bench in 1986. He is currently assigned to the Tax & Miscellaneous Remedy Section of the Law Division, where he has served since his election. Prior to election, he was with the Federal Defender's office, counsel to the US Department of Labor and special assistant attorney general to the Illinois State Board of Investments.

*Summary:* Judge White is very knowledgeable in his area of the law and generally considered genial. The Commission notes some criticism that Judge White can be untimely with his rulings, but there is some indication that this is more a matter of caseload than capacity and the Commission believes he should be retained.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Alexander P. White for retention.

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**Hon. Susan Zwick**

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Susan Zwick for retention.

*Biography:* Susan Zwick graduated from University of Notre Dame of Law and was admitted to practice in 1980.

Judge Susan Zwick was appointed to the bench in 1997 and elected in 1998. She is currently assigned to the Law Division. Previously, she was in the First Municipal District. Prior to election, she was in private practice.

*Summary:* Respondents had a positive impression of Judge Zwick, finding her a good judge who runs an efficient courtroom. She is praised for her use of pretrial procedures to find resolutions of the cases before her.

The Judicial Performance Commission **recommends** Judge Susan Zwick for retention.