

Chicago Council of Lawyers
Report on Judicial Candidates in the March 15, 2016 Primary
For Vacancies on the Appellate Court, First District,
Countywide Vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County, and
Subcircuit Vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County
(Candidates listed in ballot order)

February 2016

Primary elections for state-court judges will be held on March 15, 2016. To assist the public in evaluating the candidates for judicial office, the Chicago Council of Lawyers has evaluated candidates for vacancies in Cook County.

Attached is the Council's report of its evaluations of candidates for vacancies on the Illinois Appellate Court, First District; for countywide vacancies; and for vacancies in the judicial subcircuits of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

INTRODUCTION

Judicial candidates seeking election must run for specific vacancies. Candidates seeking election to the Circuit Court – which is the County's trial-level court for both civil and criminal matters -- may run in either a countywide or a subcircuit race. Legislation creating the subcircuits provides that approximately one-third of the judges are elected by voters of the entire County, and each of the remaining judges elected by voters runs in one of fifteen geographical districts into which the County has been arbitrarily divided. Once elected, there is no distinction between a "countywide" judge and a "subcircuit" judge. Either kind can be assigned to any judicial post in the County.

The Council rates candidates as "*highly qualified*," "*well qualified*," "*qualified*," or "*not qualified*." If a candidate refuses to submit his or her credentials to the Council, that candidate is rated "*not recommended*" unless the Council is aware of credible information that would justify a "not qualified" rating. Because we believe a willingness to participate in bar association and other public evaluations is a key indicator of fitness for public office, no candidate who refuses to be screened can be found "qualified."

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The criteria for the Council's evaluations are whether the candidate has demonstrated the ability to serve on the relevant court in the following categories:

- fairness, including sensitivity to diversity and bias
- legal knowledge and skills (competence)
- integrity
- experience
- diligence

- impartiality
- judicial temperament
- respect for the rule of law
- independence from political and institutional influences
- professional conduct
- character
- community service

If a candidate has demonstrated the ability to perform the work required of a judge in all of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of “qualified.” If a candidate has demonstrated excellence in most of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of “well qualified.” If a candidate has demonstrated excellence in all of these areas, the Council assigns a rating of “highly qualified.” If a candidate has not demonstrated that he or she meets all of the criteria evaluated by the Council, the Council assigns a rating of “not qualified.”

We apply higher standards to candidates for the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court. Because these Courts establish legal precedents that bind the lower courts, their work has a broad impact on the justice system. Moreover, qualities of scholarship and writing ability are more important to the work of the Supreme and Appellate Court justices than they are to satisfactory performance as a trial judge.

The Council does *not* evaluate candidates based on their substantive views of political or social issues. Nor do we take into account the particular race in which a candidate is running or the candidates against whom a candidate is running. We apply a uniform standard for all countywide and subcircuit elections because judges elected through either method can be assigned to any judicial position in the Circuit Court.

As part of the evaluation process, we require candidates to provide us with detailed information about their backgrounds, including any complaints filed against them with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”) or, where applicable, the Judicial Inquiry Board (“JIB”). If a candidate does not participate in our evaluation process, we are unable to obtain that information. Therefore, we assign those candidates a rating of “not recommended.”

In conducting these evaluations, the Council has participated in a joint investigation and interview process with the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening (“Alliance”). The Alliance includes the following bar associations: Asian American Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar Association, Hispanic Lawyers’ Association of Illinois, Illinois State Bar Association, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. The Council’s evaluation process includes:

- (1) a review of a written informational questionnaire provided to the Alliance by the candidate, including details of the candidate’s career and professional development and information on any complaints filed against the candidate with the JIB or the ARDC;

- (2) a review of the candidate's written responses to the Alliance's supplemental essay questionnaire;
- (3) interviews of judges, attorneys, and others with personal knowledge about the candidate, including those who have and those who have not been referred to the Alliance by the candidate, and not restricted to Council members;
- (4) a review of the candidate's professional written work, where available;
- (5) an interview of the candidate done jointly with the Alliance;
- (6) review of any information concerning the candidate provided by the ARDC;
- (7) a review of any other information available from public records, such as the Board of Election Commissioners and prosecutorial agencies; and
- (8) an evaluation of all the above materials by the Council's Judicial Evaluation Committee; and
- (9) submission of the proposed evaluation and write-up to the candidate prior to its public release, to provide an opportunity for comment, correction, or reconsideration.

When the candidate is a sitting judge, the Council places special importance on interviews with attorneys who practice before the judge, particularly those who were not referred to the Council by the candidate. Most evaluations are based on information gathered and interviews held during the past few months. In cases where the Alliance evaluated candidates within the past five years, the Alliance requested updated information, but did not investigate or interview candidates again for the March 2016 primary, instead relying on the earlier results.

In evaluating candidates, the Council expresses written reasons for its conclusions, while abiding by promises to protect the confidentiality of its non-public sources. Without knowing the reason for a recommendation concerning a candidate, the public cannot use the bar's evaluations intelligently to draw its own conclusions.

It should be noted that a lawyer might be performing well or even very well without being qualified to be a judge. A good lawyer may be unqualified to be a judge, for instance, because of a narrow range of prior experience, limited trial experience, or limited work doing legal research and writing. A lawyer may have the temperament and intelligence to be a judge without yet having worked in a position that would allow the candidate to demonstrate that capacity. Similarly, a candidate may have an outstanding resume but lack the temperament or patience to perform well as an even-handed or respectful judge. Accordingly, it should be recognized and expected that we will rate some good lawyers "not qualified."

Candidates Listed are on the Democratic Ballot, unless noted as running on the Republican (“R”) ballot.

Appellate Court – 1st District (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. James R. Epstein

Hon. Eileen O’Neill Burke – Qualified

Hon. Eileen O’Neill Burke became a judge in 2008 and currently sits in the Law Division presiding over commercial calendar cases. Judge Burke’s previous judicial assignments included motion calls and tax and miscellaneous remedies cases. Prior to becoming a judge, Eileen O’Neill Burke served as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney for about ten years and then went into private practice as a sole practitioner. Judge Burke is widely respected as a jurist. Lawyers report that she understands the issues, and praise her for her courtroom management skills. She grasps complex issues quickly and her opinions are considered well-reasoned. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Appellate Court – 1st District (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Patrick J. Quinn

Hon. Bertina Lampkin – Well Qualified for the Appellate Court

Hon. Bertina Lampkin was admitted to practice in 1974 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1992. As a lawyer, she had extensive litigation experience in both complex trial and appellate court matters as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney. She also has experience trying civil cases as an attorney with the Chicago Department of Law. Justice Lampkin was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2009.

As a trial judge, she heard criminal law matters at the Courthouse at 26th and California, and at that time was reported to be a very good, hardworking jurist who was praised for her writing skills. When the Council found her qualified for the Appellate Court in 2009, her written evaluation materials included approximately 100 opinions from cases she heard at 26th street, including findings on post-conviction petitions and motions to quash and suppress. She has served as the chair of the Supreme Court criminal pattern jury instructions committee. In that position, she was responsible for writing the new death penalty instructions and the instructions for specific specialized jury verdict required by the *Apprendi* case. She has taught in the area of death penalty litigation.

As an Appellate Court judge, Justice Lampkin has demonstrated that she meets – and exceeds the higher standards that the Council uses in evaluating candidates for the Appellate Court. In the 2013 judicial evaluation, lawyers report that Justice Lampkin has exceptional command of substantive law, as well as procedural rules. She is praised for being hardworking and her written opinions are considered to be well-reasoned. She is an active participant in oral arguments and is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds Judge Lampkin Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Paul P. Biebel, Jr.

Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. – Qualified

Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. was admitted to practice in 1994 and was recently appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court. He was a sole practitioner doing criminal defense work. He was also an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Licensing. He served for six years as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney where his work included the prosecution of complex criminal law matters. Judge Lyke is considered by most lawyers and judges contacted for this evaluation to be a good lawyer who is knowledgeable and an appropriately zealous advocate for his clients. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.
John Fitzgerald Lyke, Jr. – Qualified

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Richard J. Elrod

Scott E. Lipinski – Not Qualified

Scott E. Lipinski was admitted to practice in 2002. He is a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender, currently assigned to the felony rotation in the Bridgeview Courthouse. Most attorneys report that Mr. Lipinski is capable of handling his call. He handled misdemeanor and other less complex matters for much of his career, but he now has begun defending more complex cases. Many lawyers also report that he on occasion will lose his temper in a professional setting. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Rosanna Patricia Fernandez – Qualified

Hon. Rosanna Patricia Fernandez was admitted to practice in Illinois in May 1997. She was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before taking the bench, she was a partner at Sanchez and Daniels doing personal injury litigation. From 1997-2000 she worked at Eannace Lowery & Meade as an Associate Attorney. Judge Fernandez is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. Most respondents say she has a good temperament. All say she is a zealous advocate for her clients. She has substantial jury trial experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Thomas L. Hogan

Michael O’Malley -- Qualified

Michael O’Malley was admitted to practice in 2005. He serves as an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney in the Civil Bureau. From 2013 to 2015 he was in the Special Prosecutions

Bureau. He has worked in the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau and in the Child Support Unit. He is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to have a good knowledge of the laws and has substantial litigation-related experience. He is praised for his temperament and for his litigation skills. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Allison Conlon – Qualified

Hon. Allison Conlon was admitted to practice in 2000 and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge Charles Kocoras of the federal district court, and then went on to become an Associate and Partner with the law firm of Wildman Harrold. She then joined Barnes and Thornburg as a partner. She did tort and commercial litigation for both firms. She maintained an active pro bono practice, as well. She is considered to have very good legal ability and trial skills. She is praised for her temperament and for being hardworking. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Michael J. Howlett, Jr.

Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie – Qualified

Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie was admitted to practice in 1993, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before becoming a judge, she was a career First Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and served as a First Chair prosecutor in felony matters. She has substantial litigation experience in both jury and bench criminal law trials. Ms. Gillespie is considered to have very good trial skills. She is reported to have been a very knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair prosecutor. She is considered to have very good legal ability and a professional demeanor. She is praised for treating colleagues, opposing counsel, and pro se litigants with respect. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas Maloney Cushing – Well Qualified

Thomas Maloney Cushing was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1988. He is currently of counsel to the offices of Christopher A. Kreid and Associates, focusing on commercial and chancery litigation. From 2006-2010, Mr. Cushing was Senior Vice President for Membership at the Chicago Climate Exchange, applying his legal skills in a business/environmental policy role. From 2005-2006, he was principal in his own law practice, specializing in personal injury practice. During this time, he also assisted Counsel to the Shakman Decree Monitor. From 1988-2005, he was an associate at Ambrose & Cushing, specializing in civil trials, particularly personal injury, professional malpractice, and municipal liability. Since 2013, he has volunteered as a Hearing Board Member at the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Mr. Cushing is reported to be a solid practitioner with very good ability and an excellent temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters, and is praised for his litigation skills and for his temperament. He has been involved with numerous community activities, including teaching and environmental advocacy. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Marilyn F. Johnson

Gregory Raymond LaPapa – Not Recommended

Gregory Raymond LaPapa failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Sean Sohag Chaudhuri – Not Qualified

Sean Sohag Chaudhuri was admitted to practice in 2001. He has been a sole practitioner focusing on domestic relations matters since 2011. From 2001 to 2003, he was an associate in a small firm and for the next two years, he was with Chicago Title and Trust. From 2005 to 2011 he was a partner with Leeders and Associates. He reports having litigated nine jury trials and more than 1,000 bench trials. However, while Mr. Chaudhuri has some litigation experience in more complex matters, most of his experience involve cases that do not go to trial. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned that Mr. Chaudhuri has been practicing only twelve years and has limited experience in more complex litigation matters. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mark A. Lyon -- Qualified

Mark A. Lyon was admitted to practice in 1986. He is currently a Supervising Assistant Public Defender in DuPage County, handling felony matters. From 2008 to 2010 and from 1989 to 2001, he was a sole practitioner doing criminal defense. From 2001 to 2008 he was with the Office of the Illinois Appellate Defender. From 1986 to 1989, was Committee Counsel for the American Bar Association Client Protection Committee and the Attorney Discipline Committee. He is a widely respected criminal defense attorney. He is considered to have very good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in more complex criminal law matters. He is praised for his knowledge of the law and for his highly professional demeanor. The Council find him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Carolyn Joan Gallagher -- Qualified

Carolyn Joan Gallagher was admitted to practice in 1982. She is a solo practitioner focusing on litigation, appellate work, real estate, and transactional matters. She has done commercial litigation in both state and federal courts. Between 1985 and 1992 she was an associate with Dardick & Denlow and between 2000 and 2004 was a Legal Writing Instructor at the DePaul University College of Law. As a writing consultant, she has assisted in the writing and editing of several law practice-related books. Ms. Gallagher is praised for her legal ability and knowledge. She has substantial commercial litigation experience. She is reported to be a zealous advocate for her clients, but she is praised for professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bonnie Carol McGrath – Not Recommended

Bonnie Carol McGrath failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Themis N. Karnezis

Mary Kathleen McHugh – Qualified

Mary Kathleen McHugh was admitted to practice in 1993. She is a Partner at the law firm of Parrillo, Weiss & O'Halloran where she concentrates in personal injury and subrogation litigation. She has spent most of her legal career with this firm. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation-related experience. She is praised for her knowledge of the law and for her diligence in dealing with opposing counsel. She is reported to have courtroom skills and a good temperament both in court and with opposing counsel. She is also reported to be a good mentor to less experienced attorneys. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Devlin Schoop – Well Qualified

Hon. Devlin Schoop was admitted to practice in 1997. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. He was a Partner with Laner Muchin. From 1997 to 1999 he clerked for Judge Blanche Manning. From 1999 to 2003 he was an Associate with Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon. He then became an Associate with Laner Muchin. Judge Schoop has authored IILCE continuing legal education materials on age and employment discrimination issues. He is exceptionally active in pro bono and civic matters and received the U.S. District Court's Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service. He is a Panel Chair for the Hearing Board of the ARDC. Judge Schoop has extensive litigation experience in complex matters in both state and federal courts. His practice has included a variety of civil law areas including labor relations, Chancery work, and commercial litigation. He is considered to have very good legal ability and trial skills. His temperament is reported to be excellent and his integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Brian O'Hara – Not Recommended

Brian O'Hara failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Noreen Valeria Love

Brendan O'Brien – Well Qualified

Brendan O'Brien was admitted to practice in 1996. He has been a Partner in the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson since 1999 and was an attorney with Connelly and Schroeder between 1996 and 1999. Mr. O'Brien has substantial litigation experience in insurance defense and

medical malpractice cases. He is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for being a hard-working, well-prepared practitioner. He is reported to have excellent litigation skills and his integrity is unquestioned. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Patrick W. O'Brien

Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon -- Qualified

Maureen O'Donoghue Hannon was admitted to practice in 1991. She is an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney working in the Conflict Counsel Unit, where she is responsible for the defense of Cook County Offices, Elected and Appointed Officials, and Cook County employees in various areas of state and federal civil litigation. Within the State's Attorney's Office, she has served in the Special Projects and Assignment Unit, the Municipal Litigation Unit, the Transactions Unit, and the Labor and Employment Unit. She came to the State's Attorney's Office in 1994 after a stint in private practice and then left the office between 1995 and 1998 to be an Associate with Burke, Burns, and Pinelli, Ltd. She returned to the office in 1999. Ms. Hannon is considered to have good legal ability. She has extensive experience in more complex litigation matters, and she is praised for her litigation skills and for her professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Stuart E. Palmer

Patrick Joseph Heneghan – Well Qualified

Patrick Joseph Heneghan was admitted to practice in 1983. Mr. Heneghan is currently an equity partner at the firm formerly known as Schopf & Weiss, LLP and has been a part of the firm for nearly 30 years. He represents individuals, small companies, and multinational corporations in various commercial litigation matters. These cases involve a wide range of areas, including, but not limited to: antitrust, fraud, deceptive trade practices, intellectual property and bankruptcy. Mr. Heneghan participates in various community activities, such as volunteering at St. Martin de Porres House of Hope in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. Mr. Heneghan has also served as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Attorney Malpractice. He is especially active with the Boy Scouts of America as a mentor and in a leadership role, where he was a vocal proponent for an inclusive membership policy.

Mr. Heneghan is reported to have very good legal ability. His career involves substantial experience in complex state and federal litigation matters. He is praised for his courtroom skills and his integrity. He is reported to have a good judicial temperament and is often described as honest, fair, and ethical. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Susana L. Ortiz -- Qualified

Susana L. Ortiz was admitted to practice in 2001. She is a staff attorney doing criminal defense litigation in the Law Offices of the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Prior to her current position, Ms. Ortiz worked as an Associate in the Law Offices of Raul Villalobos. She is praised as a good practitioner with good legal ability. She is reported to be knowledgeable and to have good litigation skills. She has substantial litigation experience. Lawyers say she is a zealous and persuasive advocate for her clients. They also praise her for being trustworthy and for having a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Deidre Baumann – Not Qualified

Deidre Baumann was admitted to practice in 1992. She is an owner of a small firm focusing on litigation in personal injury, employment discrimination, civil rights, legal malpractice, First Amendment, and general commercial litigation. From 1993 to 1996 she worked for a small firm doing trial and appellate litigation around First Amendment issues. From 1996 to 2001, she was a sole practitioner. In 2011, the Council said: “While many respondents had a favorable impression of her litigation experience, a significant number questioned whether she had been knowledgeable enough in the cases they had opposed her. Ms. Baumann has been the subject of unfavorable written opinions by two judges. Most respondents say that she has a good temperament. While Ms. Baumann appears to be a respected attorney by many, there are attorneys who question her level of knowledge in some of her cases. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.” The results of a subsequent evaluation were similar to earlier assessments. On balance, the Council maintains its Not Qualified rating.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Susan Ruscitti Grussel

John E. Marszalek – Qualified (Late Withdrawal from the March 2016 Primary Election)

John E. Marszalek was admitted to practice in 1976. Since 1985, he has been a sole practitioner focusing on civil litigation. From 1976 to 1985, he practices in small firms or as a sole practitioner. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of the law. Lawyers report that he has a good temperament and is diligent in his dealings with opposing counsel. He has substantial litigation-related experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

William S. Wojcik -- Qualified

William S. Wojcik was admitted to practice in 1980. He is a sole practitioner focusing on personal injury, medical negligence, and workers’ compensation litigation. He is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation-related experience in a variety of areas. He is praised for his knowledge of the law and for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Daniel Patrick Duffy – Not Qualified

Hon. Daniel Patrick Duffy was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014 and currently sits in the First Municipal District. He was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995 and in Wisconsin in 1994. Before becoming a judge, he was an attorney with several private firms doing a variety of matters including criminal defense, commercial litigation, and insurance litigation. Judge Duffy presents several issues. Prior to becoming a judge, many attorneys were critical of Judge Duffy, noting incivility in their dealings with him. While some attorneys praised his litigation skills, the Council on balance found him Not Qualified in an earlier evaluation. Since becoming a judge, many lawyers have praised his knowledge and court management skills. But the Council is also concerned that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit recently found that Judge Duffy as a personal litigant had brought an appeal that the Court believed was frivolous, and levied sanctions. On balance, the Council finds Judge Duffy Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Monica M. Torres-Linares – Not Recommended

Monica M. Torres-Linares failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (all ballots) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Richard F. Walsh

Patrick J. Powers -- Qualified

Patrick J. Powers was admitted to practice in 1987. He has been a sole practitioner throughout his career focusing on domestic relations, as well as real estate and contract litigation. He is reported to have good legal ability and to be hard-working. Lawyers report that he is knowledgeable and always prepared. He has substantial litigation-related experience and a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Frederick Bates

Hon. Frederick Bates was admitted to practice in 1983. Judge Bates was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015. He was a sole practitioner between 2000 and 2013 and served as an Administrative Law Judge between 2000 and 2015. He was also a Partner at Wildman, Harrold between 1997 and 1999, President of Albert, Bates Whitehead & McLaugh between 1992 and 1997, was a partner with Bell, Boyd and Lloyd between 1988 and 1992. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in a variety of matters. He is praised for both his litigation skills and for his skills as an Administrative Law Judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (First Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Cynthia Y. Brim

Jesse Outlaw -- Qualified

Jesse Outlaw was admitted to practice in 1980. Mr. Outlaw has been a solo practitioner in the City of Chicago for 33 years. He represents clients in real estate, divorce, probate and bankruptcy matters. He is also appointed by judges in the Probate Division to act as guardian ad litem for adult disabled people. Around 4 years ago, Mr. Outlaw joined the law firm of the Stuttley Group, LLC as an associate member. As an associate with the Stuttley Group, he represents legislators, park district boards and school boards; when necessary, he also conducts hearings on red light violations for municipalities. Mr. Outlaw is praised for his temperament and for his diligence. He is considered an intelligent lawyer who is a zealous advocate for his clients. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Maryam Ahmad – Qualified

Hon. Maryam Ahmad was admitted to practice in 2000, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She had been in private practice, a full time attorney volunteer at First Defense Legal Aid, an Assistant Cook County Public Defender, and an Assistant Cook County States' Attorney. She is considered to have good legal ability and has a range of litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (First Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Vanessa A. Hopkins

Hon. Anthony Simpkins -- Qualified

Hon. Anthony Simpkins was admitted to practice in 1994, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. He had been the Deputy Commissioner for Housing Preservation for the Chicago Department of Housing since April 2007. He was Senior Counsel in the Building and Land Use Litigation Division of the Chicago Department of Law between 1997 and 2007 where he prosecuted civil litigation matters. Between 1996 and 1997, he served with the Lawyers Committee for Better Housing as a Skadden Fellow. Mr. Simpkins is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters both as a practitioner and as a supervisor of other lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Rhonda Crawford – Not Recommended

Rhonda Crawford failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Lisa A. Copland – Qualified

Lisa A. Copland was admitted to practice in 1997. She provides pro bono assistance through the Cook County Bar Association Free Legal Clinic, and through the Foreclosure Mediation program of the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. She is currently a sole practitioner, and has practiced as a sole practitioner or in a small firm throughout her career. While she does not report having jury trial experience, she has substantial bench trial experience and represents individuals in administrative hearings. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her

knowledge about her areas of practice. She has substantial litigation-related experience and is reported to have a good temperament. She is active in doing pro bono representation. She is hard working and a zealous advocate for her clients. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Second Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Drella Savage

Celeste Jones -- Qualified

Celeste Jones was admitted to practice in 1995. She is a career attorney with the Cook County Public Guardian's Office. She is currently a supervising attorney in the Accounts Department. From 2003 to 2007, she served as a staff attorney in this Office. From 1999 to 2003, she was the Lead Attorney in the Juvenile Division, and was an attorney doing litigation in the Office between 1995 and 1999. She is widely respected for her legal knowledge and ability. She has substantial litigation experience and has a strong background in a variety of legal issues. She is reported to have good temperament and is praised for being prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Chelsey R. Robinson -- Qualified

Chelsey R. Robinson was admitted to practice in 1996. She is a Partner in a small firm where she handles civil and criminal litigation matters. Her practice also includes bankruptcy and employment discrimination matters in federal court. She is widely praised for her legal ability and for her knowledge of the law. She has litigation experience in a variety of matters in both state and federal courts. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

D. Renee Jackson – Not Recommended

D. Renee Jackson failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Travis Richardson – Well Qualified

Travis Richardson was admitted to practice in 1997. He has been in private practice for most of his career, focusing on litigation matters in both state and federal courts. His litigation experience spans both civil matters and criminal defense work. He is active in community efforts, and served as a Hearing Examiner for the Chicago Board of Elections between 2010 and 2012. Mr. Richardson is considered to have excellent legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and is widely praised for his professionalism, his knowledge of the law, and for his temperament. He is reported to be exceptionally hard-working and a zealous advocate for his clients. He is also reported to have demonstrated his interest in improving the legal system. The Chicago Council of Lawyers finds Mr. Richardson to be Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fourth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon.
William J. Kunkle

Hon. Edward J. King -- Qualified

Hon. Edward J. King was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. He was a sole practitioner and since 1988 had served as a Special Assistant Illinois Attorney General. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon.
Loretta Eadie-Daniels

Jameika Mangum – Not Recommended

Jameika Mangum failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Leonard Murray – Qualified for the Circuit Court

Hon. Leonard Murray was admitted to practice in 1974. He spent most of his career prior to becoming a judge as a sole practitioner. He was elected to be an Associate Judge in 2007. He is currently sitting in the First Municipal District presiding over jury trials. He presided over forcible entry and detainer cases for most of his judicial career. Since becoming a judge, he has received praise for his knowledge of the law and for his ability to manage high volume courtrooms. Lawyers note his ability and willingness to assist pro se litigants in an effective and appropriate manner. Some attorneys representing landlords report that Judge Murray favored tenants. Most attorneys say that he is fair to all parties. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon.
Jane L. Stuart

Hon. Freddrenna Lyle -- Qualified

Hon. Freddrenna Lyle was admitted to practice in 1980. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011. She was recently assigned to the Elder Law Division. Before becoming a judge, she worked in small firms and as a solo practitioner. She had substantial experience in more complex litigation matters, and was a respected practitioner. She served for 13 years as a member of the Chicago City Council. Judge Lyle is reported to be knowledgeable and is praised for her ability to manage a high volume court call. She is reported to have a good judicial temperament. The Council finds Judge Lyle Qualified for the Circuit Court

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fifth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Shelli D. Williams-Hayes

Daryl J. Jones -- Qualified

Daryl J. Jones was admitted to practice in 2005. Mr. Jones is a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, having been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Illinois Senate. From 2005 to 2013 he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He is considered to have good legal ability with a variety of experiences. The Council is concerned about the short length of time he has been a lawyer but he had substantial litigation experience as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and is praised for the work he has done more recently. He is praised for his temperament. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Robin Denise Shoffner – Qualified

Hon. Robin Denise Shoffner was admitted to practice in 1990 and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She had been an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law where she represented the City of Chicago and police officers in civil litigation defense. She serves as lead trial counsel. After clerking for the Hon. Glenn T. Johnson, she was an Associate with Carney and Brothers from 1992 to 1995. She then worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel from 1995 to 1998 and then was a senior litigation associate for a small litigation firm from 1998 to 2000. From 2000 to 2007 she was litigation counsel for the AON Corporation. Judge Shoffner had substantial litigation experience in both state and federal courts. Her experience is varied including civil rights defense, commercial litigation, and torts. She is reported to have good legal ability. She is considered to be very knowledgeable and capable as an attorney. She is reported to have a low-key, professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Edmund Ponce de Leon

Eulalia “Evie” De La Rosa -- Qualified

Eulalia “Evie” De La Rosa was admitted to practice in 2004. She has been a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender since 2005, and has been assigned to the felony trial division since 2009. For a year after becoming a lawyer, she worked for the Cook County Office of the Chief Judge as a staff attorney and court coordinator. She is considered to have good legal ability with substantial litigation experience, despite her relatively short career. She is praised for her litigation skills and her temperament. She is active in community activities. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Leida Gonzalez Santiago

Richard Cooke -- Qualified

Richard Cooke was admitted to practice in 1992. He is a sole practitioner. From 1992 to 1994 he was a trial attorney for a captive insurance company law firm, and served as in-house staff counsel for CNA insurance from 1994 to 1997. Since 2008 he has operated a self-funded pro bono legal clinic – the Cooke Legal Aid Clinic. He is active in community activities. Mr. Cooke is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He is considered to be a good lawyer who is praised for his integrity and for being exceptionally hard-working. He has substantial litigation experience in complicated matters, and his practice involves complex transactional matters that further demonstrate the analytic thinking necessary to be a good judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Sixth Subcircuit) / Additional Judgeship A

Hon. Anna Loftus – Qualified

Hon. Anna Loftus has been practicing law for about 15 years, and was recently appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. She had been a partner at Hall, Prangel and Schoonveld doing medical malpractice and appellate work. She is a former Associate at Peterson & Ross. She is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in litigation matters. She is praised for her temperament and her courtroom skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Edward J. Underhill – Qualified

Edward J. Underhill was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1984. He briefly worked for the State’s Attorney’s Office and Paul W. Grauer & Associates, but was then hired by his current firm, Madusa, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, in 1985. Mr. Underhill focuses on business litigation and counseling and has been a partner since 1997. Mr. Underhill is considered to be a solid practitioner with good legal ability and substantial litigation experience in a variety of commercial litigation matters. He has published articles on legal topics, and is praised for his research and writing skills. He has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Carlos Claudio – Not Recommended

Carlos Claudio failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Seventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Anthony L. Burrell

Hon. Marianne Jackson -- Qualified

Hon. Marianne Jackson was admitted to practice in 1973. She has served as an Associate Judge since 1997 and has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division since 1999. Prior to becoming a judge she served as an Assistant United States Attorney and as a private criminal defense

counsel. She served as a Deputy U.S. Attorney and was named Chief of the Criminal Division. As a lawyer, she had substantial litigation experience in complex matters and was praised for her litigation skills. As a judge, she is reported to possess good legal ability and to be very knowledgeable. She has a good judicial temperament and is praised for being well-prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Seventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Anita Rivkin-Carothers

Hon. Patricia Susan Spratt – Well Qualified

Hon. Patricia Susan Spratt was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. From 1992 to 1995 she was an associate at a small firm doing civil litigation involving securities issues. She then became a partner as Shefsky & Froelich where she does both trial and appellate work. She is considered to have very good legal ability and her knowledge of the law is well regarded. She has written and lectured extensively, including a book on professional responsibility which is used as a source for the members of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility on which she serves. She is considered to be a resource for research and trial tactics. She is praised for her professional demeanor. Judge Spratt had substantial experience in a variety of complex litigation matters. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Christopher J. Stuart -- Qualified

Christopher J. Stuart was admitted in 1985. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career doing nationwide class actions involving primarily antitrust, whistleblower, consumer fraud, and federal securities act claims. While he has done few actual trials, his practice involves extensive motion practice in complex litigation. He is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex matters. He is reported to be hard working with a very good knowledge of the law. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jennifer Ballard – Not Recommended

Jennifer Ballard failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Mable Taylor – Not Recommended

Mable Taylor failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds her Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Patrick John – Not Qualified

Patrick John was admitted to practice in 1998. He is currently an Associate at The Barclay Group where he focuses on family law. From 2001 to 2010 he was an Associate at a small firm

and was employed by another private firm between 1998 and 2001. He has served as an associate in two private law firms since being admitted to practice. Mr. John is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. His practice includes a substantial motion practice. The Council, however, is concerned that he does not have sufficient trial experience in complex matters. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Rosa Maria Silva – Qualified

Rosa Maria Silva was admitted to practice in 2001. She is an Assistant Cook County Public Defender assigned to the Felony Trial Division. From 2001 to 2002 she represented clients in divorce and real estate matters. From 2002 to 2003 she served as an Assistant Will County Public Defender. She is very active in bar association and civic activities. She is reported to have good legal ability and is considered to be a hard-working defense counsel with good temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Ninth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Andrew Berman

Thomas Peter Kougias – Not Qualified

Thomas Peter Kougias was admitted to practice in 1988. He is currently in private practice doing criminal law defense work. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for most of his career, leaving the Office in 2012. Mr. Kougias has had substantial litigation experience, but the Council is concerned that he has not distinguished himself as a prosecutor. Many lawyers say that he lacks sufficient trial management skills to become a judge and some lawyers say that he is not always punctual. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Jerry A. Esrig – Highly Qualified

Hon. Jerry A. Esrig was admitted to practice in 1978 and was first appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2013. He lost a Primary election in 2014. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court for another interim term in 2014. He currently sits in the First Municipal District hearing a variety of cases. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a Partner with a small firm, focusing on sophisticated personal injury and commercial litigation matters. Mr. Esrig was an accomplished litigator with substantial litigation experience in a variety of complex matters. He was active in pro bono matters, as well. He was praised for his litigation skills, as well as for his professionalism and integrity. He was considered to have excellent legal ability and is always well-prepared. Mr. Esrig was a highly respected practitioner and a role model for younger lawyers. As a judge, he is reported to have good courtroom management skills, and is praised for his judicial temperament when dealing with both seasoned attorneys and pro se litigants. He is contributing written work to the Judicial Benchbook (a judicial handbook) now being prepared on credit card debt, the City of Chicago Landlords and Tenants Ordinance, Subrogation, and Guaranties. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Tenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Garritt E. Howard

Colleen Daly -- Qualified

Colleen Daly Colleen Daly was admitted to practice in 1996. She is currently a sole practitioner and reports that she concentrates in criminal defense, juvenile law (both child protection matters and delinquency cases), traffic, appellate work, and some domestic relations. She represents police officers in administrative proceedings. She has been a sole practitioner since January 2010, although she had a partner for part of the time. From 1996 through 2009 she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Her assignments included the juvenile division, and the felony trial division. She served as a first chair prosecutor. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex jury and bench trials. In the last three years, Ms. Daly reports that she has represented police officers in administrative, evidentiary hearings. She has also been appointed to be a Guardian Ad Litem in cases involving minors. Ms. Daly also reported a federal court litigation practice, including litigation claiming racial discrimination and cases involving criminal extortion. Ms. Daly is reported generally to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. She is praised for her trial skills, and for being knowledgeable and always well-prepared. She is described by opposing counsel as professional and diligent in following through on such items as discovery requests. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Eve Marie Reilly

Hon. Eve Marie Reilly was admitted to practice in 1997. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. She was a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, having extensive litigation and appellate experience. As a lawyer she was considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael John Malatesta -- Qualified

Michael John Malatesta was admitted to practice in 2002. Mr. Malatesta owns and operates his own law firm, Malatesta Law Offices LLC. The practice specializes in civil litigation matters, generally personal injury work and other civil disputes. His daily activities typically consist of trials, court appearances, motion practice, depositions and the administrative aspects of maintaining a private practice. Mr. Malatesta is also a certified Cook County arbitrator. Mr. Malatesta is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience and is a respected practitioner who handles a variety of civil legal matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Richard G. Cenar, Jr. -- Qualified

Richard G. Cenar, Jr. was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1986. Mr. Cenar is the first chair prosecutor in the Felony Trial Division at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and has been since 2002. He has worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office since 1988; prior

to his assignment to the Felony Trial Division, Mr. Cenar also supervised the Child Protection Division and worked in criminal appeals, the Grand Jury Unit, and the Preliminary Hearing Unit. From 1986-1988, he handled Civil Litigation, Personal Injury Lawsuits, and Administrative Law Matters for a private firm. Mr. Cenar is considered to have good legal ability and has extensive litigation experience. He is praised for his trial skills and his professional, low-key demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Eleventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Carol A. Kelly

Hon. Marc William Martin – Qualified

Hon. Marc William Martin was admitted to practice in 1987 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2014. Before going to the bench, Judge Martin was an acclaimed criminal defense attorney. He is considered to have good legal ability and his praised for his litigation skills and for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James DiChristofano – Not Recommended

James DiChritofano failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Catherine Ann Schneider -- Qualified

Catherine Ann Schneider was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1994. She began her career at Beverly & Pause, focusing on civil litigation of personal injury defense. In 1998, she started working for State Farm, investigating body injury claims. From 2000-2001 she oversaw the Attorney of the Day program, which produced pro bono counsel to defendants in eviction court. She then worked at Schneider & Tarr (a two person law firm) before moving on to become the Vice President of Operations at Millennium Financial in 2002. Following that, she worked at Career Services for Loyola Law for two years and then at the Law Offices of Deborah Ashen for another two. Currently, Ms. Schneider is the supervising Attorney for CARPLS.

Regarding her pro bono work, Ms. Schneider served as a guardian ad litem as well as an attorney for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. She has also spent seven years helping Chicago Legal Aid Online. Lastly, she has spent time on the Board of Directors, Associate Board and as a Volunteer Attorney at CARPLS. Ms. Schneider has limited trial experience but has extensive motion practice in a variety of Cook County courtrooms. She has conducted more than 50 arbitrations. She is reported to be smart, motivated, and a good advocate. Attorneys with whom she works praise her ability to supervise and teach. She is reported to be always civil but clear in her dealings with opposing counsel. She has authored numerous published materials related to the practice of law and has demonstrated a commitment to pro bono work. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Eleventh Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Susan F. Zwick

Hon. William Bernard Sullivan – Qualified

Hon. William B. Sullivan was admitted to practice in 1992. He was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. He had been a sole practitioner since 1992. He worked on various civil legal issues including, but not limited to, commercial and real estate litigation and transactions. Much of his trial experience has been litigation involving eviction cases turning on interpretations of commercial leases. He is active in community affairs. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Joseph Kazmierski, Jr.

Louis George Apostol - Qualified.

Louis George Apostol was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980 and has spent his career in private practice. He is currently the Executive Director and Counsel to the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. He was the Public Administrator of Cook County from 1991 to 2003, and has been a Commissioner of the Illinois Court of Claims. He has substantial litigation experience in commercial litigation in both state and federal courts, and has served as the general counsel to over 20 closely held corporations where he handled all related legal matters, including business litigation. Mr. Apostol is active in community activities. He is praised as always being prepared and knowledgeable. Attorneys and judges with professional experience with Mr. Apostol praise his legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Marguerite A. Quinn – Well Qualified

Hon. Marguerite A. Quinn was admitted to practice in 1986. She was elected as an Associate Judge in 2007 and currently serves in the Skokie Courthouse hearing a variety of cases including domestic violence and criminal law matters. From 1999 to 2007, Judge Quinn was in private practice focusing on real estate taxation. From 1986 to 1998, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. As a lawyer, she was considered to have good legal ability and had substantial litigation experience. As a judge, she is praised for her courtroom management and for her ability to handle a variety of matters, including those that are complex. She is praised for her calm and even temperament. She is considered well-versed in the law and respondents say she is always well-prepared. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Jennifer E. Bae – Qualified

Jennifer Bae was admitted to practice on May 8, 1997. She is currently practicing in a two person firm handling mostly criminal defense matters and some civil litigation. From May 2000 to October 2000, she worked as a solo-practitioner at the Law Offices of Jennifer Bae, and has worked at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as an Assistant State's Attorney. She has done non-legal teaching with Korean American Community Services and Korean American

Women in Need. Jennifer Bae is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has sufficient complex litigation experience in criminal law matters, both as a prosecutor and in private practice. She has had experience in civil proceedings, as well. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Frank John Andreou -- Qualified

Frank John Andreou was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1995. Since 2002, he has been the Managing Principal of Andreou & Casson, Ltd., working as a litigation attorney, both plaintiff and defense, for personal injury, employment, and commercial litigation. From 1999-2002, Mr. Andreou was an associate at Pretzel & Stouffer, specializing in civil litigation and medical malpractice, general liability, and auto defense. From 1995-1999, he was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County. Mr. Andreou is considered to be a competent trial attorney with experience in a variety of civil legal actions. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Thomas Flannigan – Qualified

Thomas Flannigan has been a lawyer since 1983. He has a MA degree in International Relations. After clerking with Illinois Supreme Court Justice William Clark, he served as an attorney with the firms of Arvey Hodes and Freeborn & Peters, concentrating on international business transactions and litigation. He worked as an attorney in Japan in 1988 and between 1991 and 1992. Since 1990, he has been a sole practitioner focusing on civil litigation, intellectual property matters, and estate planning. He has had a limited number of cases go to trial but has been involved in other aspects of complex civil litigation matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Veronica B. Mathein

Janet Cronin Mahoney -- Qualified

Janet Cronin Mahoney was admitted to practice in 1987. She is a career Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where she is a supervisor in the Appellate Division. She has handled more than 280 appellate matters. Lawyers generally report that she has good legal ability. As a seasoned appellate lawyer, she has experience with a large number of issues. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Adam Scott Mathein -- Qualified

Adam Scott Mathein was admitted to practice law in 1997. He is attorney and vice president of Mathein & Rostoker, P.C. He went into practice with Glyn Rostoker immediately upon graduating from law school. His practice involves insurance litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, and reports that he also is responsible for the day to day operations of the small firm (2 partners, 1 associate, and five non-lawyer employees). He practices in Cook County courts (mostly in the municipal districts) as well as in the collar counties. He is

considered to have good legal ability and is widely praised for his diligence in his dealings with opposing counsel. He has substantial litigation-related experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) James L. Allegretti -- Qualified

James L. Allegretti was admitted to practice in 1978. From 2005 to 2011, Mr. Allegretti served as the Fourth Ward Alderman for the city of Park Ridge. Since 1990, he has been the Principal in the firm of Allegretti and Associates, focusing on Plaintiff's personal injury cases and petitioners' workers compensation representation. He has practiced as a solo practitioner or in a small firm doing traffic, DUI, personal injury and workers' compensation cases since 1978. He is considered to have good legal knowledge and ability. Lawyers say he knows the law and has a good temperament. He is civil even in difficult cases. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Sandar Tristano

Hon. Carrie Hamilton – Qualified

Hon. Carrie Hamilton was admitted to practice in 1996. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2015. She was an Assistant United States Attorney who had prosecuted a number of high visibility cases in Chicago. She is praised for her legal ability and for her courtroom skills. She is considered to have a good temperament. She has extensive litigation experience in complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) David Lawrence Stedenroth -- Qualified

David Lawrence Stedenroth was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1987. In 1987 he became an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. In 1998 he began a solo practice focusing on criminal defense matters. Mr. Stedenroth is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has litigation experience and is reported to be a solid practitioner. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Twelfth Subcircuit) / Additional Judgeship A

James Edward Hanlon – Qualified

James Edward Hanlon was admitted to practice in 1984. He is in private practice. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Allan W. Masters -- Qualified

Allan W. Masters was admitted to practice law in 1968. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Masters was a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As a lawyer, he spent more than

30 years in private practice doing domestic relations cases, as well as chancery and personal injury work. Judge Masters was appointed to the bench in October 2001 and was assigned to a call dealing with Independent Orders of Protection in 2002. He is currently in private practice. As a judge, many attorneys praised Judge Masters for his legal ability, courtroom management, dispute resolution skills, and care in dealing with the unrepresented persons who often appear before him. The Council is concerned at having received reports that too often, Judge Masters was late to court and could become short tempered. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Alex Kaplan – Not Recommended

Alex Kaplan failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

(R) Steven A. Kozicki -- Qualified

Steven A. Kozicki was admitted to practice in 1985. Since 1998 he has been a sole practitioner with a general practice. From 1989 to 1998, he was a trial attorney with a small firm, and between 1986 and 1988, he served as a DuPage County Assistant Public Defender. He is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being an experienced lawyer with good litigation skills in a variety of areas. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Thirteenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Thomas P. Fecarotta

Hon. Ketki Shroff Steffen -- Qualified

Hon. Ketki Shroff Steffen was admitted to practice in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court for a second time in 2015. In 2013 she was a sole practitioner and from 2013-2015 she served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Circuit Court in 2010 and served as a Circuit Judge between 2010 and 2013. From 1991 to 2010, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She is considered to have good legal ability. As a lawyer, she enjoyed a reputation as a trusted and experienced litigator. As a judge, she is praised for her ability to grasp the issues, for her courtroom management, and for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Kevin M. O'Donnell -- Qualified

Kevin M. O'Donnell was admitted to practice in 1988. He has been a sole practitioner for most of his career, although he practiced with small firms for several years early in his career. His current practice concentrates on estate planning, probate, litigation, corporate work, and real estate matters. He is active in community activities. He is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He reports handling relatively few trials, but he has been involved in

substantial pretrial practice activities in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Gary W. Seyring -- Qualified

Gary W. Seyring was admitted to practice in 1978. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. He is a solo practitioner focusing on domestic relations, real estate, estate planning, tax planning, and business law. A substantial percentage of Mr. Seyring's practice involves litigation. He is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Cook County (Fourteenth Subcircuit) / To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Lisa Ruble Murphy

Matthew Link – Not Recommended

Matthew Link failed to submit materials for evaluation. The Council finds him Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

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