

# Justice Michael B. Hyman, Candidate for the Neville Vacancy, Appellate Court

Justice Hyman is the Democratic Party's endorsed candidate for the Neville Vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court, First Division. Based on his experience, qualifications, reputation, he has been rated "Highly Recommended" or "Highly Qualified" by the Illinois State Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

The Chicago Council of Lawyers gave Justice Hyman its only "Highly Qualified" rating in *any* judicial race. In doing so, the Chicago Council of Lawyers said:

*"Justice Hyman is considered to have excellent legal ability and is reported to be always prepared. He is reported to be an active and thoughtful during oral arguments. In addition to opinions, he has published extensively and is actively involved in court reform efforts. Respondents spoke highly of his professionalism and temperament. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Appellate Court."*

The diversity and breadth of the organizations finding Justice Hyman "Highly Recommended" or "Highly Qualified" speaks not only to the entire body of his work throughout his career, but especially to his values and how they inform his decisions. The Illinois State Bar Association found all of his opponents unqualified for the appellate court.

The Supreme Court assigned Justice Hyman to the Appellate Court in 2013, and he now must be elected to remain there. Justice Hyman joined the bench in 2006 as the final appointee of Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow before her retirement. In 2008, after Justice Eugene Pincham nominated him for endorsement before the Democratic Party of Cook County Democratic Party, he won the endorsement and then election to the Circuit Court.

Justice Hyman is concerned and committed to improving how justice is dispensed in our county. He is concerned and committed to improving the legal system so litigants and the public place their trust and confidence in us, without which the rule of law becomes a hollow incantation. He is concerned and committed to improve the quality of justice for the vulnerable, marginalized, and unrepresented. He is concerned and committed to providing legal assistance to more litigants. He is concerned and committed to educating the bench and bar about unconscious bias, and how to counter its influence. Most of all, however, he is concerned and committed to working to improve the criminal law system, especially as it relates to minorities. Over 70% of our caseload on the appellate court involves criminal cases.

For many years, Justice Hyman has taught classes for judges on judicial conduct and ethics, judicial decision-making, legal writing, and unconscious (implicit) bias. He frequently speaks to groups of law students and lawyers on these and other topics. He is a prolific writer of articles on legal subjects (and the life and character of Abraham Lincoln), including a quarterly column in the *Chicago Lawyer* on legal history and in the *Illinois Bar Journal* on legal writing.

Justice Hyman has served in numerous leadership positions, including President of the Chicago Bar Association, Chair of the American Bar Association's Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice, Chair of the Illinois Judicial Conference Strategic Planning Committee, president of a national legal writing association, and President of the Illinois Judges Association. For about a decade he has been a member of the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee. He also is a former chair of the Lawyers Conference of the ABA's Judicial Division, where he initiated *Perceptions of Justice* to address issues involving the perceptions of the courts by people of color.