

**Chicago Council of Lawyers
Report on Judicial Candidates in the March 17, 2020 Primary
For Vacancies on the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, First District,
Countywide Vacancies on the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Subcircuit Vacancies on
the Circuit Court of Cook County**

***(Candidates are listed in ballot order. Those designated with an (R) are found on the
Republican ballot. All other candidates are found on the Democratic ballot.)***

February 2020

Primary elections for state-court judges will be held on March 17, 2020. 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: Arab American Bar Association, 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.
- (10) appellate process: Each candidate will have the opportunity to appeal both their evaluation rating and their evaluation write-up. The appeal should be based on the content of the evaluation write-up, but candidates are encouraged to add any other information bearing upon their evaluation by the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

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 2020 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.

Illinois Supreme Court – Freeman Vacancy

Hon. Jesse G. Reyes -- Qualified

Hon. Jesse G. Reyes was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. Since 2012, he has served as a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Fourth Division. Previously he was a Cook County Circuit Judge, where his assignments included the Chancery Division's Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section (2005-2012); the Chancery Division, County Department and the First Municipal District, Municipal Department (2002-2005); the First Municipal District, First District (2001-2005, 1997-1999); and the Sixth Municipal District (Markham; 1999-2001).

Judge Reyes has good legal ability and has had substantial experience both as a trial judge and as an Appellate Court Justice. He is reported to be well prepared at oral argument and his opinions are reported to be well written and well-reasoned. The Council finds him Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr. – Well Qualified

Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1974. In 2018, he was appointed to serve as a Justice on the Illinois Supreme Court. He has also acted as a liaison to the IPI Civil Instructions Committee, the Illinois Rules of Evidence Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Committee. Previously, he served as Judge of the Appellate Court of Illinois (2004-2018) and as a Judge on the Cook County Circuit Court (1999-2004).

Justice Neville has been praised for his legal ability and for his diligence throughout his judicial career. His questioning during oral argument reflect his thorough preparation and understanding of the issues. He is generally praised for his integrity. Justice Neville has been involved in community activities and reform-minded efforts throughout his career. He is considered to be an excellent jurist with an understanding that judges can be active supporters

of reforms aimed at improving the effectiveness and fairness of our courts. He actively works for improving the fairness and effectiveness of Illinois courts, and he is praised by social justice advocates for positions he has taken as a Supreme Court Justice. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Hon. Sheldon A. Harris -- Qualified

Hon. Sheldon A. Harris was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1966. Since 2010, he has served as a Justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District. Prior to that, he served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where he was assigned to the Law Division, Trial Section (2008-2010), the First Municipal District (2005-2008), Mediation and Arbitration (2002-2005), the Chancery Division, as the designated pro bono mentor to attorneys representing litigants in the Circuit Court of Cook County under the CSA Access to Justice Pro Bono Project (2001-2002), and the Municipal and Divorce Division Supplemental and Miscellaneous Remedies (2000-2001). Prior to becoming a judge, he worked at his own law firm, Sheldon A. Harris and Associates (1974-2000), where he specialized in tort jury and non-jury litigation, and as Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago (1966-1970).

Judge Harris is considered to be knowledgeable and hard-working. Those with experience in the Appellate Court say that he is attentive during oral arguments and that his opinions are well-reasoned and well-written. The Council finds him Qualified for the Supreme Court.

Hon. Cynthia Y. Cobbs -- Qualified

Hon. Cynthia Y. Cobbs was admitted to practice in 1988. In 2014, she was appointed to the First District Appellate Court, and she remains in that position. Originally, appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in 2011 and then elected in 2014, her previous judicial duties included Forcible Entry and Detainer (2012-2015), Civil Jury Trials (2014), Pro Se Court (2012-2013), Small Claims/Debt Collector/Breach of Contract (2012), and Traffic Court (2011). Prior to becoming a judge, she served in a variety of positions at the Supreme Court of Illinois's Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, including Director of (2002-2011), Chief Legal Counsel (1999-2002), and Secretary to the Supreme Court Rules Committee (1997-1999). She is a member of a number of bar associations, including the Illinois State Bar Association, the Black Women Lawyer Association, and the Illinois Judicial Council, where she has served as Chair (2018-2019).

Judge Cobbs lacked litigation experience when she took the trial court bench, but has since established herself as both a solid trial court jurist and as an appellate court judge. She is praised for her legal ability and for always being prepared. She is reported to have good temperament. She is also praised for the quality of her written decisions. The Council finds her Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride – Well Qualified

Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1976. Since 1998, she has served as a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, where since 2018 she has been Presiding Judge of the Fourth Division. Prior to that, she served as a Cook County Circuit Court

Judge, where her assignments included Presiding Judge, Third Municipal District (1997-1998); Chancery Division, Calendar 2 (1994-1997); Law Division, Jury Call (1992-1994); Criminal Division (1990-1992); and Traffic Court, Misdemeanor Branch Courts, and Felony Preliminary Hearing Courts, First Municipal District (1987-1990). Before becoming a judge, she served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (for 10 years) and as an Associate at Egan & Keane, a general practice civil firm (for 9 months). Currently she serves as Elected Appellate Court Member of the Illinois Courts Commission (2007-present); a Member of the Illinois Supreme Court Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee (2011-present); Appointed Member of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee (2012-present); and a Member of the Appellate Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission (2015-present).

Justice McBride is considered to have excellent legal ability. She is reported to be well prepared for each case and to have an outstanding grasp of the law and facts. She is praised for the quality of her written opinions. She is reported to be exceptionally hard-working. Respondents say she has very good temperament – polite but firm. She is highly respected for her work with Supreme Court reform-minded committees. She has an excellent reputation for leading initiatives that lead to meaningful reforms and she is highly praised for her integrity. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Daniel A. Epstein – Not Recommended

Daniel A. Epstein was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2015. Since April 2019, he has been running full-time as a candidate for the Illinois Supreme Court. Prior to that, he served as an Associate at Jenner & Block, where he worked as a litigator on appellate and post-conviction, criminal, insurance, government contracts, and commercial and business torts matters.

Alliance for Judicial Screening rules say that all candidates with fewer than 5 years of experience must be found Not Recommended. However, in light of the importance of Supreme Court Justice position, the Council also says the following:

Daniel Epstein is a respected lawyer dedicated to advancing the rule of law, but who has very little litigation experience. Law is a second career for him.

Mr. Epstein demonstrates maturity and the ability to formulate and advocate for ideas for reform of the justice system. He has published, law-related works. More than one respondent said that they would consider him Qualified for a trial judge seat, despite his lack of litigation experience because of his dedication to use the position of Illinois Supreme Court Justice to move forward an agenda of reforms seeking to make the lower courts more fair, effective, and efficient.

The Council recognizes that only part of the Illinois Supreme Court's role is to improve access to and quality of the court system. Its role in deciding cases that include complex legal issues that affect state-wide policy as well as individual rights requires its Justices to have litigation experience in a variety of areas. While Mr. Epstein is to be admired for running a reform-minded campaign, he does not have that litigation experience. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Hon. Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. – Well Qualified

Hon. Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1976. Since 2009, he has served as a Justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District. Prior to that, he served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where he was assigned to the County Division (2001-2009), where he presided over Tax Deed, Real Estate Tax, Civil Forfeiture, and Adoption cases; and the First Municipal District, where he heard supplemental proceedings to enforce judgments as well as extraordinary remedies (2000-2001); served as floater judge on general assignment (1999-2000); and presided over traffic cases (1998-1999).

Judge Howse is considered to have excellent legal ability and is reported to demonstrate a good grasp of complex issues. His written opinions are praised as being well-written, well-reasoned, and thorough. Respondents say he is always well prepared for oral argument. His integrity is highly respected and his temperament is reported to be even-tempered. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Illinois Appellate Court – Neville Vacancy

Maureen P. O’Leary – Not Qualified

Maureen P. O’Leary was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002. Since 2014, she has been Vice President of Litigation and Claims for Aperion Care, Inc., where she provides oversight for the Nursing Home Care Act and medical malpractice litigation for over 50 long-term care facilities in Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas, as well as approximately 2,000 therapists in 140 long-term care facilities in 7 states. Previously, she was a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Maureen O’Leary, a general practice (2008-2013), an Associate at Susan E. Loggans & Associates, a medical malpractice and personal injury firm (2004-2007), a Prosecutor in the traffic court division at the Department of Law in the Chicago Corporation Counsel’s Office (2001-2003), and as a Cook County Law Clerk for Presiding Judge Jacqueline Cox (1999-2001). She served as a registered nurse before going to law school.

Ms. O’Leary is considered to have good legal ability and to be knowledgeable about her practice field. She is reported to have a very good, highly professional temperament. She had litigation experience in less complex matters earlier in her career and oversees medical malpractice litigation in her current position. However, the Council is concerned that Ms. O’Leary is running for the Illinois Appellate Court, and lacks both litigation experience in complex matters and demonstrated substantial published writing. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Illinois Appellate Court.

Hon. Carolyn J. Gallagher – Qualified

Hon. Carolyn J. Gallagher was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1982. Since 2018, she has been assigned to the Probate Division, County Department, where she hears Decedent’s Estates cases, Adult Guardianship cases, and Minor Guardianship cases. Her previous judicial assignments were in the Municipal Department of the First Municipal District, in the Housing Division (2017-2018) and the Traffic Division (2016-2017). Previously she was a Solo

Practitioner at the Law Office of Carolyn J. Gallagher (2004-2016), where she handled Appellate Law and Complex Commercial Litigation, Real Estate Law, and Financial Institution Law. She also worked as a Legal Writing Instructor at DePaul University College of Law (2000-2004) and again as a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Carolyn Gallagher Brocksmith (1996-2000).

Judge Gallagher is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to have a good temperament with a calm and respectful demeanor on the bench. She is praised for her integrity and diligence. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Hon. Sandra G. Ramos -- Qualified

Hon. Sandra G. Ramos was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. Since 2010, she has been a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where she is currently assigned to the Law Division/Trial Section. Her previous judicial assignments were at Traffic Court (2010-2013) and at the First Municipal/Branch 48 court (2013-2018), where she presided over felony preliminary hearings, and reviewed bonds and search or arrest warrants for execution. Prior to becoming a judge, she worked as a Solo Practitioner at S.G. Ramos Ltd. (1993-2010), where she handled criminal defense cases, and as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1986-1993).

Judge Ramos is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. Respondents find her a capable trial court judge, but the Council is concerned that she has had limited experience presiding over complex legal matters but she enjoys a reputation of being a solid trial court jurist. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Hon. Michael Hyman – Highly Qualified

Hon. Michael Hyman was admitted to practice in 1977, Prior to taking the bench, he spent two years with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and then began a career with the law firm of Much Shelist. Since 2013, he has been on the Appellate Court by appointment, including his appointment to the seat vacated when Justice Neville was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2018. He was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2008, elected in 2008, and retained in 2014.

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. Respondents spoke highly of his professionalism and temperament. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Illinois Appellate Court – Simon Vacancy

Hon. John C. Griffin – Well Qualified

Hon. John C. Griffin was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1976. Since 2018, he has served as a Judge of the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District. Prior to that, he served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where he was assigned to the Law Division – Commercial Calendar T (2011-2018; Supervising Judge, 2013-2018), the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section

of the Chancery Division (2008-2011), and Traffic Court in the First Municipal District (2008). Prior to becoming a judge, he was Partner/Owner at Griffin & Gallagher (1977-2008), where he handled civil litigation and real estate development and transactions.

Judge Griffin is considered to have excellent legal ability and to be both a sound researcher and hard-working. He is praised for the quality of his written opinions and he is reported to have good judicial temperament. He is a frequent contributor to judicial training sessions. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Hon. Sharon O. Johnson -- Qualified

Hon. Sharon O. Johnson was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996. Since 2010, she has served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where her assignments have included the Sixth Municipal District (2015-present), the Domestic Relations Division, Daley Center (2015), Domestic Relations – Parentage and Child Support (2011-2015), and the Traffic Division (2010-2011). Prior to becoming a judge, she was Sole Practitioner at the Law Office of S.D. Oden, P.C. (1999-2010), where she handled real estate, contract, corporate, and family law matters. She was also an Adjunct Professor at Olive Harvey College (2002-2006), where she taught business law.

Judge Johnson is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for being thoughtful and hard-working. Overall, she is reported to be an excellent jurist. The Council finds her Qualified for the Appellate Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – Bellows Vacancy

Tiesha L. Smith – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation process.

Cristin McDonald Duffy -- Qualified

Cristin McDonald Duffy was admitted to practice in 1996 and has been a career Cook County State's Attorney. She currently works in the Civil Division where she is currently the Deputy Supervisor of the Real Estate Tax Division.

Ms. Duffy has vast experience as a litigator in both criminal and civil matters. She is praised for her litigation skills. She is considered to have good legal ability and is reported to be always well prepared. She is also reported to have an excellent temperament and to be a mentor to less experienced attorneys in her office. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Kerrie Maloney Laytin – Qualified

Kerrie Maloney Laytin was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Prior to her appointment, she has served as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago's Department of Law, where she practiced

appellate law on behalf of the City of Chicago, City employees, and City agencies (2002-2019). Previously, she worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (2000-2002). Since 2010, she has volunteered for Columbia Law School, Social Justice Initiatives, as the regional adviser in Chicago for students involved in government and public interest careers.

Judge Laytin is considered to have very good legal ability as an appellate lawyer. She is praised for legal skills and for her professional demeanor, even in the midst of heated legal matters. She is reported to have good judgment and has the ability to resolve contested disputes. The Council is concerned that she has no notable trial experience but we believe that her appellate career has demonstrated the analytical thinking and management skills necessary to be a good Circuit Judge. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court

Circuit Court – Countywide – Coghlan Vacancy

Kelly M. McCarthy -- Qualified

Kelly M. McCarthy was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. She works as a supervisor in the First Municipal Division of the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Other positions that she has held at the Public Defender's Office include Assistant Public Defender in the Homicide Task Force (2 years); Felony Trial Division (12 years); and Civil Division (1 ½ years). She is a former board member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has volunteered as an evaluator and coach for mock trial and moot court competitions.

Ms. McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is reported to be knowledgeable and hard-working. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Aileen Bhandari – Qualified

Aileen Bhandari was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. She is an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she prosecutes criminal cases, including Armed Robbery, Criminal Sexual Assault, Attempted Murder, and Murder cases, for the Felony Trial Division. Her pro bono activities include participation in Lawyers in the Classroom (2015).

Ms. Bhandari is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial trial experience in more complex criminal law matters. Her temperament is described as calm and affable. She is a well-respected prosecutor who is described as having a commitment to understanding the needs of different communities and of crime victims from different backgrounds. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Elizabeth “Beth” Ryan -- Qualified

Elizabeth Ryan was admitted to practice in 2004 and concentrates her practice on civil litigation. After law school, she was a judicial clerk for Judge Martin Agran in the Chancery Division of Cook County Circuit Court. Ms. Ryan focuses her practice on representing plaintiffs in auto accidents, animal attacks, slip-and-falls, sexual battery, and Social Security disability claims.

Ms. Ryan is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her litigation skills and she has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James Thomas Derico – Qualified

James Thomas Derico was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, he was a partner and founding member of Derico & Associates, providing legal services to small and medium-sized businesses regarding real estate, contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and employee relations.

Judge Derico is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his temperament and pro bono work. Much of his practice involved legal counseling to businesses. However, he also had substantial litigation experience in the Probate and Chancery Divisions of the Circuit Court and in the Federal courts. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – Ford Vacancy

U. O’Neal – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez -- Qualified

Laura Ayala-Gonzalez was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. For the past 14 years, she has worked as an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Cook County State’s Attorney Office. Currently she is a first chair in the Felony Trial Division.

Ms. Ayala-Gonzalez is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her trial skills. She has substantial trial experience in complex matters. She is reported to have a very good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. John O’Meara – Qualified

Hon. John O’Meara was admitted to practice in 1995. He is currently employed by the Illinois Department of Labor, and he served as a Circuit Court judge from 2016-2018 after having been appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court. Before his appointment, he was a trial attorney at the Curcio Law Offices. Judge O’Meara is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – Funderburk Vacancy

Jacqueline M. Griffin -- Qualified

Jacqueline M. Griffin was admitted to practice in 2005. Since that time, she has been an Assistant State’s Attorney in the Cook County State’s Attorney Office, She is currently assigned

to the Sex Assault and Domestic Violence Unit of the Felony Trial Division. Since 2007, she has also been a Solo Practitioner with a focus on wills and real estate transactions.

Ms. Griffin is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters, The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Daniel L. Collins – Qualified

Daniel L. Collins was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1998. Since 2014, he has been President and Solo Proprietor of the Dan Collins Law Firm, where he handles worker compensation, business, and employment litigation. He also handled worker compensation litigation at Krol, Bongiorno, and Given, where he was an Associate from 2003 to 2014. From 1999 to 2003, he was an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where he tried preliminary hearing and misdemeanor cases and conducted felony review.

Mr. Collins is widely praised as having very good legal ability and excellent research and writing skills. He has substantial litigation experience and is reported to have very good litigation skills. He has a professional demeanor, and, in general, is a well respected practitioner with a variety of experiences. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mary T. Quinn – Qualified

Mary T. Quinn was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988. Since 2011, she has been a Solo Practitioner who handles criminal defense matters ranging from misdemeanors such as DUI, domestic violence, and traffic violations to felonies including drug cases, theft, robbery, and murder. Previously, she was an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she worked in the Auto Theft Unit (2006-2011), Felony Trial Division (2001-2006, 1992-1998), the Financial Crimes Unit (1998-2001), the Narcotics Division (1990-1992), and at the Bridgeview courthouse, where she prosecuted misdemeanors (1989-1990). She is a member of the Cook County Bar Association and the South Suburban Bar Association, where she serves as Vice President and volunteers for the pro bono program.

Ms. Quinn is considered to have good legal ability with litigation experience in criminal law matters. She is reported to have a good temperament and is praised for her knowledge of the law. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Celestia L. Mays – Well Qualified

Hon. Celestia L. Mays was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. She was elected to the bench by the Circuit Judges as an Associate Judge in December 2019. Before taking the bench, she was principal of Celestia L. Mays, P.C., where she practiced in family law and probate law, and handled real estate closings. She previously worked as an associate at Bourgeois & Bourgeois (1994-1997); and at the Los Angeles County law firms of McIntosh, Schmidt & Long (1991-1994, law clerk); and Mercer & Zinder (1988-1991, law clerk). She has served on the board of directors of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago; as the deputy regional director and treasurer of Region VII of the National Bar Association; and in a variety of offices at the Cook

County Bar Association, including president. She is a former board member of Legal Aid Chicago.

Judge Mays is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is reported to be an excellent practitioner with great integrity. She is praised for her litigation skills. She is exceptionally active in community activities. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide- Larsen Vacancy

Hon. Levander Smith, Jr. -- Qualified

Hon. Levander Smith, Jr. was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019, and was then elected in 2019 as a Cook County Associate Judge by the Circuit Judges. Before taking the bench, he was a litigation attorney at the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Previously he was supervisory regional counsel for DCFS (2011-2015) in St. Clair County, Illinois; Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in Missouri, Labor Division (2006-2011); associate at Cordell & Cordell, P.C. (2005); Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2003-2004); intermediate attorney in the St. Louis (Missouri) Family Court (2000-2003); and regional counsel and field regional counsel at DCFS in Cook County (1993-1999) and St. Clair County (1999-2000).

Judge Smith has substantial litigation experience and is considered to have good legal ability. He is praised for his trial skills. He is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Suzanne McEneely -- Qualified

Suzanne McEneely was admitted to practice in 2001. She is a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender with the exception of her first year of practice when she was an associate with a civil litigation firm.

Ms. McEneely is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her litigation skills and her diligence. She is also praised for her knowledge of the law. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex criminal law matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Megan Kathleen Mulay -- Qualified

Megan Kathleen Mulay was admitted to practice in 1999. Ms. Mulay is currently an Assistant State's Attorney within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She serves as a First Chair in the Felony Trial Division. Ms. Mulay is responsible for the prosecution of over 300 active felony cases assigned to her courtroom. As a Felony Review Trial Supervisor, Ms. Mulay also manages and supervises a team of assistants responsible for all felony cases called in during their shift. She personally responds to police departments in Cook County when needed and has also presented witnesses before grand juries regarding homicide cases.

Ms. Mulay is a well respected prosecutor who is praised for her integrity and her courtroom skills. She is considered to have good legal ability. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – Mason Vacancy

Arthur D. Sutton – Qualified

Arthur D. Sutton was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. He is an attorney at the Law Office of Arthur D. Sutton, where he is a general practitioner who focuses on litigation. He has also served as Deputy Chief of Parole in the Illinois Department of Corrections, and as an administrative law judge at the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. `

Mr. Sutton is considered to have good legal ability. He has substantial litigation experience, and is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bonnie Carol McGrath – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Jennifer Patricia Callahan -- Qualified

Jennifer Patricia Callahan was admitted to practice in 2006. She is a sole practitioner, but spent most of her career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She has substantial litigation experience including prosecuting complex felony cases in the Narcotics Prosecutions Bureau, and as a prosecutor in the Alternative Prosecutions Unit where she handled cases in Drug, Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Courts.

Ms Callahan is praised for her legal ability and knowledge of the law and she is reported to exhibit great patience and sensitivity toward those she has prosecuted and those she now defends. She is also praised for her litigation skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Christ Stanley Stacey – Qualified

Christ Stanley Stacey was admitted to practice in 1982. He is a sole practitioner focusing on civil litigation. He is exceptionally active in community affairs. Mr. Stacey is considered to have good legal ability and his praised as a solid practitioner with substantial litigation experience and good trial skills. He is reported to have a professional temperament, and his praised for his diligence and integrity. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Joy E. Tolbert Nelson -- Qualified

Joy E. Tolbert Nelson was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2000. Since that time, she has served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she is currently the lead Attorney in the Felony Trial Division at Maywood, District 4. She is a member of the National Black Prosecutor's Association, the Black Women's Lawyer's Association, and

the Chicago Bar Association, where she has served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee, the Environmental Law Practice Committee, and the Environmental Law and Energy Committee.

Ms. Nelson is considered to have good legal ability. As a prosecutor, she has substantial litigation experience and is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Joseph Chico – Not Qualified

Joseph Chico was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. Since 1995, he has been Managing Partner at Joseph Chico and Associates, P.C., a general practice. He is also a Hearing Officer at the City of Chicago's Department of Human Resources (1996-present) and the Chicago Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program (2012-present), as well as an Administrative Law Judge at the City of Chicago's Department of Administrative Hearings (1997-present). Previously he worked as a Law Clerk and Associate Attorney at two general practice law firms, Moreno & Hernandez, Ltd. (1993-1994) and James J. Conlon and Associates (1992-1993).

Mr. Chico is considered to have good legal ability and knowledge of the law. He is particularly praised for his temperament as an administrative hearing officer presiding over sometime emotionally charged hearings. In 2015, the Council said:

Mr. Chico is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has had a successful neighborhood law practice and serves as an Administrative Law Judge. The Council is concerned, however, that he lacks substantial litigation experience in more complex matters, and that his work as an Administrative Law Judge, while laudable, is not a sufficient substitute. He does report having published scholarly works.

Mr. Chico is respected as an administrative law judge but his career lacks substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – McCarthy Vacancy

Hon. Teresa Molina -- Qualified

Hon. Teresa Molina was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since July 24, 2019, she has served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge, where she is assigned to the Traffic Section of the First Municipal District. Before becoming a judge, she served as Chief of Prosecutions for the Division of Real Estate in the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (2016-2019) and as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2001-2016), where she prosecuted criminal felonies and misdemeanors as well as civil cases related to the enforcement of child support.

Judge Molina is considered to have good legal ability. She had received good marks as a hard-working prosecutor before taking the bench. She is considered to be a good jurist in the limited time she has been on the bench. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

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.

Circuit Court – Countywide- Murphy Gorman Vacancy

Sheree D. Henry -- Qualified

Sheree D. Henry was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1994. Since 1999, she has been an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County Public Defender's Office, where she represents indigent clients in felony cases. She has also worked as an Assistant Public Guardian in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office (1995-1999), where she represented abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court.

Ms. Henry is considered to have good legal ability with substantial bench and jury litigation experience in a variety of criminal law matters. Respondents generally say that she is a good lawyer with good trial skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Dan Walsh – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Amanda Moira Pillsbury – Not Qualified

Amanda Moira Pillsbury was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2004. Since 2005, she has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently serves in the Felony Trial Division at the Leighton Criminal Court building. Her previous assignments there included the Felony Trial Division Skokie Courthouse; the Branch 66 Homicide and Sex Crimes Unit; the Grand Jury Unit; the Preliminary Hearings Unit; and the Felony Review Unit.

Ms. Pillsbury is considered to have good legal ability. Most respondents praised her temperament but a few noted that she can, on occasion, be abrasive with opposing counsel. She has substantial litigation experience although some respondents noted that a substantial amount of her experience has been in less complex matters. Most respondents praised her trial skills, although there were a few respondents who questioned her diligence. Most respondents praised her as a prosecutor. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Keely Patricia Hillison – Qualified

Keely Patricia Hillison was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. She is a Partner in the law firm of Parrillo Weiss LLP, where she handles civil litigation and appeals, working primarily on personal injury and insurance matters. She previously worked as an Associate for two law firms: Sidney L. Berger (1987-1989), where she handled civil litigation, appeals, and bankruptcy matters, and William L. Needler and Associates (1985-1986), where she handled bankruptcy matters.

Ms. Hillison is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her knowledge of the law in her field, and for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience and is praised for her litigation skills. The Council notes that Ms. Hillison was involved earlier in her career in litigation matters where her firm was accused of filing frivolous claims. But in light of the totality of a well-respected career, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide- O'Brien Vacancy

Elizabeth A. Walsh -- Qualified

Elizabeth A. Walsh was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2006. Since 2007, she has been an Attorney at Bruce Farrel Dorn & Associates, where she handles insurance defense cases. From 2006 to 2007, she was an Associate Attorney at Paul H. Wharton & Associates, where she defended personal injury actions.

Ms. Walsh is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and for her responsiveness to opposing counsel. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Lloyd James Brooks -- Qualified

Lloyd James Brooks was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2013, he has been a partner at the Consumer Legal Group, P.C., where he focuses on insurance coverage, consumer protection, and real estate and mortgage foreclosure defense. Previously, he was owner of The Brooks Law Firm (2004-2013); an associate at Lord, Bissell & Brook (2002-2004); and an associate at Zevnik Horton (2000-2002). Since 2008, he has taken on pro bono cases for the Access to Justice Program at Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Mr. Brooks is considered to have good legal ability. He is considered to be well-prepared with a good grasp of the law and procedure. He is reported to have an excellent temperament – a zealous advocate while showing respect for opposing counsel and judges. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Heather Kent Jacobsmeier (Heather Anne Kent) -- Qualified

Heather Kent Jacobsmeier was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2006. Since that time, she has served as an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where her assignments have included Second Chair, Felony Trial Division (2016-present); Trial Supervisor, Felony Review Unit (2018); and Third Chair, Felony Trial Division (2013-2016); Preliminary Hearings and Grand Jury Unit (2013); Felony Review Unit (2011-2013); Delinquency Division

(2009-2011), Child Protection Division (2007-2009) of the Juvenile Justice Bureau; and the First Municipal Division of the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau (2006-2007).

Ms. Kent Jacobsmeier is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to have good temperament and respondents noted her high integrity. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – Patti Vacancy

Hon. Lynn K. Weaver (Lynn Weaver Boyle) – Qualified

Hon. Lynn K. Weaver was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1990 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, she was a partner at Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa, & Evinger, where she handled commercial litigation matters with a focus on contract, tort, product liability, and construction defects. Previously she was a partner at Grotefeld & Denenberg (1999-2007), and an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1990-1999), where she worked in the Felony Trial Division, as well as the Narcotics Unit and Gang Crimes Unit of the Special Prosecutions Bureau. She provides pro bono services for Wills for Heroes.

Judge Weaver is considered to have good legal ability. She has substantial trial experience, particularly while an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, and has had litigation experience more recently, as well. She is a respected practitioner with a good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court- Countywide – Roti Vacancy

Lorraine Mary Murphy – Qualified

Lorraine Mary Murphy was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2003. She is an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently is First Chair in a felony courtroom at the George Leighton Criminal Courthouse. She is a member of several bar associations, including the Chicago Bar Association, where she served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee.

Ms. Murphy is considered to have good legal ability. She is reported to have a good temperament and is praised for her trial skills. She has substantial experience in complex litigation matters and is currently a lead prosecutor in a felony trial courtroom. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James Patrick Crawley – Qualified

James Patrick Crawley was admitted to practice in 1990. He is currently a sole practitioner. From 1999 to 2002 he was Deputy General Counsel in the Cook County Treasurer's Office. Before 1999 he was a lawyer in small law firms handling personal injury litigation work. He has substantial experience handling more complex personal injury litigation. Mr. Crawley is praised a

solid litigator who is hard-working with a good temperament. He is considered to have good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Araceli Reyes De La Cruz – Qualified

Araceli Reyes De La Cruz was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001. Since 2016, she has been the General Counsel/Chief Administrative Officer for Arcero Schools, a larger Chicago charter school network. There, she handles a variety of matters, including student law, labor and employment, and corporate transactions. Previously, she was Chief of General Prosecutions at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (2014-2016); Deputy Chief of Staff (2009-2011) and Chief Safety and Security Officer (2011-2014) of the Chicago Transit Authority; and an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office (2001-2009). She provides pro bono services to the Casa Central Social Service Agency.

Ms. De La Cruz is considered to have very good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters. She is reported to always be prepared and is praised for her litigation skills. Her career has included a variety of legal areas, and she has demonstrated that she is adept at learning new law and applying that law to a variety of approaches. She is reported to have an excellent temperament – respectful while being a zealous advocate. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court- Countywide – C. Sheehan Vacancy

Deidre Baumann – 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.

Respondents in our evaluation say Ms. Baumann has good legal ability, and that she has a good temperament. Ms. Baumann is reported to be a respected attorney with substantial litigation experience and a demonstrated commitment to court reform. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maura McMahon Zeller -- Qualified

Maura McMahon Zeller was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993. For the past 15 years she has been is an Attorney and Solo Practitioner at Maura McMahon Zeller, Attorney at Law, where she focuses on Child Representative, Guardian Ad Litem, and mediation matters. Prior to that, for ten years she served as an Assistant Public Guardian at the Office of the Public Guardian in Chicago, Illinois.

Ms. Zeller is considered to have good legal ability and she is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience, although her area of practice is narrow. However, she is highly respected for her knowledge and for her skills, including her work in a Special Litigation

Unit in the Office of the Public Guardian where her office filed Section 1983 civil rights actions on behalf of children who were injured or killed while in foster care. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Russell W. Hartigan – Well Qualified

Hon. Russell W. Hartigan was admitted to practice in 1976. He served as a Circuit Court judge between 2010 and 2017. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2010. As a lawyer he practiced for 34 years before becoming a judge and has practiced since retiring from the bench in 2017. He has been exceptionally active in bar association activities.

As a lawyer, Judge Hartigan had substantial litigation experience in both civil and criminal law matters, including appellate court experience. He was praised for his litigation skills, for his temperament, and for his integrity. As a judge, he spent much of his career in the Bridgeview Courthouse hearing a variety of cases. He was a well-respected jurist who was praised for his courtroom demeanor and management skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Countywide – K. Sheehan

Jill Rose Quinn – Qualified

Jill Rose Quinn was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. Ms. Quinn began her career at Michael Barford as an associate. She then spent three years at Mevorah and Associates. In 1988, she worked at Jegen and Associates handling municipal law matters. She worked there until she started a solo practice in 1996, focusing on real estate. Additionally, she has worked as a Cook County arbitrator and a DuPage County arbitrator.

Ms. Quinn is considered to have good legal ability and temperament, and has substantial litigation experience in more complex legal areas. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James S. Worley -- Qualified

James S. Worley was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2004. Since 2019, he has been the Managing Attorney at Gottreich, Grace, & Thompson, where he handles domestic relations matters and represents police officers before the Citizens Organization for Police Accountability and the Chicago Police Internal Review Board. Previously, he was Owner of the Law Offices of J. Samuel Worley, LLC, where he handled domestic relations matters (2009-2018), and an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where he worked in the Felony Review department (2009); the Preliminary Hearing and Grand Jury Division (2008-2009); the Maywood courthouse, where he prosecuted misdemeanor cases (2006-2008); and the Child Enforcement Division (2004-2006).

Mr. Worley receives high praise for his legal knowledge, ability, and experience. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Wendelin “Wendi” DeLoach – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – First Subcircuit – Brooks Vacancy

Krista D. Butler – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – First Subcircuit – Crawford Vacancy

Hon. Tyria B. Walton – Well Qualified

Hon. Tyria B. Walton was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1997 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Public Defender and a Grade IV Murder Task Force Attorney at the Law Office the Cook County Public Defender.

Ms. Walton is considered to have very good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in complex matters. She is praised for her trial skills, her diligence and for her integrity. She is considered to be exceptionally knowledgeable and serves as a mentor to less experienced attorneys. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Second Subcircuit – “A” Vacancy

Hon. Sondra Nicole Denmark – Qualified

Hon. Sondra Nicole Denmark was admitted to practice in 2004 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2018. Before taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Will County State’s Attorney since 2008, and was an Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney from 2004 to 2007. Ms. Denmark is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall -- Qualified

Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1996. Since 2006, she has served as an Enforcement Attorney in the Illinois Department of Securities. Previously, worked for the Administrative Hearings division of the Illinois Secretary of State as an Administrative Formal Hearing Officer (2000-2006) and a Prosecutor/Representative (1999-2000). She provides pro bono services at the Apostolic Church of God, where she organizes legal workshops, and at the annual Second Chance Expungement Summit at the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court of Cook County.

Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall is considered to have good legal ability and has a variety of legal experiences. She is generally praised for her professional demeanor. 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.

Circuit Court – Third Subcircuit – Filan Vacancy

Hon. Daniel Edward Maloney -- Qualified

Hon. Daniel Edward Maloney was admitted to practice in 2001. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, Judge Maloney served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. He was assigned to the Complex Narcotics Unit of Cook County State's Attorney's Office. For two years, he had been the sole Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the DEA/HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Strike Force. While there, Mr. Maloney assisted law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of high level narcotics dealers. Judge Maloney had been employed within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office from 2001 to his appointment to the bench. He has also worked within the Special Prosecutions Bureau and the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau.

As a lawyer, Judge Maloney is considered to have good legal ability and has substantial experience in prosecuting complex criminal law matters, including murder cases. He is praised for his courtroom skills and for his temperament. He is reported to be an excellent mentor to less experienced lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court- Third Subcircuit – Flynn Vacancy

Lauren B. Glennon -- Qualified

Lauren B. Glennon was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2003. Since 2017, she has been a Solo Practitioner at Glennon Law LLC, where she handles general legal matters, including traffic tickets, commercial and residential real estate transactions, and property tax appeals. Previously, she worked as a Senior Associate at Odelson & Sterk, LTD (2014-2017), a Senior Associate at Worsek & Vihon, LLP (2006-2014), and Assistant Corporation Counsel for Buildings and Land Use Litigation at the City of Chicago's Law Department (2000-2006).

Lauren Glennon is considered to have good legal ability, and is praised for her litigation skills. She is reported to have experience in a variety of legal areas and to have good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

David Alan Bonoma – Qualified

David Alan Bonoma was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1988. He is a Partner in Chicago office of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP, where he serves as the firm's representative in interacting with current or potential governmental clients, and for business development in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Previously he served as Acting Director of External Affairs, North Region, of Commonwealth Edison (2012-2014), as Founding Partner of Reyes & Bonomona, Ltd. (2005-2011), as Shareholder in the Government Group of Greenberg & Traurig, LLP (2003-2005), as Chief of Staff and Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1997-2003), and as an Associate Attorney with Phelan Pope & John, Ltd./Shefsky Froelich & Devine, Ltd. (1988-1997). He provides pro bono services for the Maryville Academic, a Catholic social services organization, where he is currently Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee.

Mr. Bonoma is considered to have good legal ability, and is reported to be exceptionally hard-working and a good problem solver. He has vast experience handling transactional work, but has never handled a jury trial. He has some litigation experience in more complex matters, and is praised for his integrity and for his temperament. The Council is concerned about his lack of substantial litigation experience, but he has excelled in a variety of settings throughout his career. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Regina Mescall -- Qualified

Regina Mescall was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2008, but has practiced since 2004. Since 2008, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently serves as a First Chair in the Felony Trial Division and previously served in the Felony Review Unit (2018—Jan. 2019, 2015-2016, 2008-2009), the Felony Trial Division (2016-2018, 2012-2015), and the Preliminary Hearing/Grand Jury Unit (2009-2012). Prior to that, she was Assistant District Attorney in the state of New Mexico (2004-2008). She is a member in good standing of the National District Attorney's Association.

Ms. Mescall is considered to have good legal ability and handles some of the most complex matters in the State's Attorney's Office. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her professional demeanor. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

James John Knibbs – Qualified

James John Knibbs was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. He is Of Counsel at Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff, where he handles civil litigation in state and federal court. He began his legal career at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where he served as an Assistant State's Attorney from 1985 to 1989 and from 2002 to 2008. He has also worked at several private law firms where he handled personal injury and wrongful death matters.

Mr. Knibbs is considered to have good legal ability with substantial litigation experience in both criminal and civil matters. He is praised for his work ethic, knowledge of the law, and demeanor. He is also praised for his litigation skills and is reported to be always prepared. He is reported to have good temperament and to be diligent and punctual. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas Condon, Jr. -- Qualified

Thomas Condon, Jr. was admitted to practice in 2001 and is currently in private practice. In the past has been an attorney with the Chicago Department of Law. He has substantial litigation experience in tort matters and commercial disputes.

Mr. Condon is considered to have good legal ability with substantial experience in a variety of legal areas. He is praised for his temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Brad S. Telander – Qualified

Brad S. Telander was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1983. Since 2014, he has been the Owner of Telander & Associates, where he handles traffic, misdemeanor, and felony matters. Previously he was a Partner at Telander & Telander (1992-2014), an Attorney for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad (1991-1992), and an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney Office (1983-1991), where he worked in the Felony Review unit, the Preliminary Hearings unit, the Felony Trial Division, and Gang Crimes unit.

Mr. Telander is considered to have good legal ability. He is reported to be a solid practitioner with good legal knowledge and trial skills. He has substantial litigation experience, and is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Scott Lipinski – Not Qualified

Scott Lipinski was admitted to practice in 2002. He is a career Assistant Cook County Public Defender, currently assigned to the felony rotation in the Markham Courthouse where he now handles felony defense matters. He handled misdemeanor and other less complex matters for much of his career, but he now has begun defending more complex cases. He is considered to have good legal ability and many lawyers report that he is a zealous advocate for his clients. However, there were several reports that Mr. Lipinski can be abrasive and lack courtesy. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Third Subcircuit – Murphy Vacancy

Hon. Erin Haggerty Antonietti – Qualified

Hon. Erin Haggerty Antonietti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1991. She was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in June 2019. Prior to taking the bench, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she was assigned to Central Bond Court, a position she held for more than 17 years. Between 1991 and 1994, she was an associate at Bresnahan & Garvey, an insurance defense firm. Since June 2019 she has been assigned to the First Municipal District assigned to traffic, civil non-jury, eviction, and pro se courtrooms. She has presided over bench trials, motions to dismiss, motions for sanctions, and motions to quash arrest and suppress evidence.

As a lawyer, Judge Antonietti has spent most of her professional career in Central Bond Court, where she was praised as professional, knowledgeable, and organized. She had litigation experience in more complex matters earlier in her career. As a Judge, she is reported to demonstrating good legal ability, temperament, and the ability to manage high volume courtrooms. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thomas G. O'Brien – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – Sixth Subcircuit – Nega Vacancy

Jamie Guerra Dickler -- Qualified

Jamie Guerra Dickler was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2005. Since that time, she has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where since 2013 she has been assigned to various felony courtrooms and has served as lead counsel on over one hundred bench trials. Her other assignments at the State's Attorney Office include various preliminary hearing courtrooms and the Grand Jury, Sex and Homicide Unit, as well as the Felony Review Unit. She also handled various misdemeanor cases there, including domestic violence.

Ms. Dickler is praised for her legal ability and for her integrity in negotiating with opposing counsel. She is reported to be highly professional and always well prepared. All reports indicate that Ms. Dickler is an ethical prosecutor with good abilities. She is active in the community. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Anne I. Shaw – Not Qualified

Anne I. Shaw was admitted to practice in 1995. Since 2003, she has been the founder and owner of Shaw Legal Services, Ltd. (formerly known as Shaw & Associates), where she focuses on civil litigation, civil rights, business transactions, real estate, bankruptcy, and estate planning matters. Previously, she was an Associate at the Law Offices of Robert Orman (1995-2003).

Ms. Shaw is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council would find her Qualified for the Circuit Court but we are concerned about her role in a problematic ethics issue. The Council notes a recent court case involving her role in questionable real estate matters. She has offered an explanation. While Ms. Shaw admits offering the use of her real estate license, she claims to have never been an active part of the family company involved in the dealings. However, she also states that she trained the staff and licensed real estate sales agents and was responsible for compliance with all laws, rules and regulations for the first two years it operated. In light of the various issues raised by the court case and the need to maintain the highest levels of integrity in the Circuit Court, the Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Sixth Subcircuit – Pantle Vacancy

Eileen Marie O'Connor – Qualified

Eileen Marie O'Connor was admitted to practice in 2006. She specializes in civil litigation and has worked in several private law firms. Her focus is in personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, railroad and construction negligence, workplace injuries, and civil rights matters. She has handled other cases including criminal law on child abuse matters pro bono. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised as being hard-working. She has substantial motion practice in more complex legal matters. She is considered to have a good temperament and to be diligent and punctual. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Cory Oshita – Not Qualified

Cory Oshita was admitted to practice in 2008. He has been a sole practitioner since 2011 with a focus on domestic relations case. He also serves as an administrative hearing officer for the Chicago Board of Education. He was an attorney in a small firm between 2008 and 2010. Mr. Oshita is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for his knowledge of domestic relations law. He is reported to be diligent and have a very good demeanor. He has bench trial litigation experience. While the candidate is well respected as a lawyer, the Council is concerned about the depth and breadth of his practice, particularly in light of the relatively small number of years that he has been a lawyer. The Council finds him Not Qualified at this time.

Anthony Lucafo – Qualified

Anthony Lucafo was admitted to practice in 2006. He is an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney currently assigned to the Felony Trial Division at the Leighton Criminal Courts Building. He is described as a trial attorney who has good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters and is praised for being willing to help train younger prosecutors. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Seventh Subcircuit – Jackson Vacancy

Owens J. Shelby -- Qualified

Owens J. Shelby was admitted to practice in 2007. He has been a career Cook County Assistant State's Attorney working as a second chair prosecutor in a felony trial courtroom. He served for less than a year as the Assistant Counsel to the Speaker of the Illinois House, and as a contract attorney with Loevy & Loevy in 2007 to 2008. Mr. Shelby is considered to have good legal ability with a very good temperament. He is praised for his diligence. Most lawyers praise his abilities although a few say he lacks adequate experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Marcia O'Brien Conway – Well Qualified

Marcia O'Brien Conway was admitted to practice in 1984. She was a sole practitioner between 1986 and 1991. She retired from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 2018 after having served there since 1993. She represented Cook County and County officials in real estate tax

litigation between 2008 and 2018. She drafted and negotiated purchase and sale agreements between 1994 and 2008. She was in private practice between 1994 and 1988, including at the law firm of Winston & Strawn.

Ms. Conway is praised for her legal ability and knowledge. She was often cited as an expert in real estate and taxation law. She is reported to always be well prepared and she is praised for her litigation skills. She is considered to have a very good temperament with a patient but effective demeanor. She is said to be exceptionally hard working. The Council finds her Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Pamela Reaves-Harris – Qualified

Pamela Reaves-Harris was admitted to practice in 1992. She was an Illinois State Representative for the 10th District. From 1996 to 2015 she was a sole practitioner and served as Assistant Vice President/Compliance Officer for Citibank between 1993 and 1995. She has served as an Administrative Law Judge for several municipalities. She is considered to be smart and knowledgeable. She has an extraordinary record of community service and is well respected for her work as a practicing attorney and as an administrative law judge. She has an exemplary temperament. The Council is concerned that she has little litigation experience but we note that her overall experience demonstrates the ability to be a good judge. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Mable Taylor – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Kristen Marie Lyons – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – Eighth Subcircuit – Fleming Vacancy

Jonathan C. Green – Qualified

Jonathan C. Green was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1986. He is senior counsel/supervisor of the Department of Law at the City of Chicago, Federal Civil Rights Litigation Division, where is responsible for all aspects of civil rights and torts litigation. From 2003 to 2013, he worked as a principal of the Law Offices of Green and Green, P.C., and of counsel at Rock, Fusco & Garvey Ltd. At both firms his practice included domestic and international civil litigation, including business and construction litigation, real estate and commercial transactions, and international law.

Mr. Green is viewed by many respondents as knowledgeable about substantive and procedural law with good legal ability. To these lawyers, he is a solid practitioner. Most respondents report that he has a good temperament. In general, he has had an impressive legal career with substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Bradley R. Trowbridge -- Qualified

Bradley R. Trowbridge was admitted to practice in Illinois in 2000. Prior to law school he served as a social worker. Since 2004 he has served as a solo practitioner focusing on domestic relations issues. He has worked as a staff attorney at the Chicago Department of Law; a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago; and as an associate with Audrey Gaynor & Associates. He has handled domestic violence order of protection pro bono work.

Mr. Trowbridge is considered to have good legal ability. He has had substantial litigation experience in a variety of areas. Judges and practitioners praise his litigation skills. A few respondents questioned his temperament, but on balance, the Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Eighth Subcircuit – Gubin Vacancy

Hon. Michael A. Forti -- Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Forti was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. In 2016, he was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court and was elected by the Circuit Judges in 2019 as an Associate Judge. He is currently assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Previously he was Chief Counsel and Ethics Officer at the Illinois Department of Transportation (2012-2015); Deputy Corporation Counsel (1999-2012) and Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel (1994-1998) for the City of Chicago Department of Law; and associate (1980-1988) and equity and income partner (1988-1994) at Bell Boyd & Lloyd (now K&L Gates), where he handled commercial litigation and antitrust counseling.

Judge Forti was considered to be a good attorney with good legal ability and temperament. As a judge, he continues to receive very positive marks. He has demonstrated his ability to handle a high volume call and is praised for his handling of pro se litigants – respectful and informative without going beyond the role of judge. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Ninth Subcircuit – Axelrood Vacancy

Pamela J. Stratigakis -- Qualified

Pamela J. Stratigakis was admitted to practice in 2001. She is Partner/Of Counsel at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, where she handles cases involving long-term care and elder law, health care, and medical malpractice. From 2003 to August 2019, she served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where her assignments included Felony Trial Division, First Chair, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Division; Special Prosecutor, Office of Violence Against Women, Women VOICES Campus Initiative Grant (2015-2018); the Special Litigation Unit; the Post-Conviction Unit; the Narcotics Division; and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. From 2001 to 2003, she was an Associate Attorney at the Huppert Richard and Wood Law Firm, where she handled civil litigation, contracts for commercial and corporate transactions, business agreements, acquisitions, and sales mergers.

Ms. Stratigakis is considered to have good legal ability and has litigation experience in both criminal and civil matters. She is praised for her litigation skills and for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Thomas Maloney Cushing – Well Qualified

Hon. Thomas Maloney Cushing was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1988. He was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, he was 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.

As a lawyer Judge Cushing is reported to have been 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.

Ira I Silverstein – Not Qualified

Ira I Silverstein was admitted to practice in 1985. He was an elected official serving as a State senator of the 8th District from 1999 to 2018. He has been a sole practitioner from July 1988 to the present, handling civil litigation and probate. From 1988 to approximately 1990, he co-counselled for a collection law firm, handling more than 30 trials a year. He was accused of harassment but was cleared after an investigation by the legislative inspector general. But the inspector general's report found that he behaved in a way "unbecoming of a legislator." He lost his re-election bid in 2018.

Mr. Silverstein is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has had litigation experience throughout his extensive legal career. The Council is concerned about his past ethical lapse. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Timothy Patrick Carter – Qualified

Timothy Patrick Carter was admitted to practice in 1995. He has been in private practice since 2012 and served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1992 to 2012. He is considered to a solid practitioner with good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his litigation skills, and has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court- Ninth Subcircuit – Luckman Vacancy

Thomas P. Kougias – Not Qualified

Thomas P. Kougias was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1988. Mr. Kougias is in private practice handling criminal defense work. He served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for most of his career, leaving the State's Attorney's Office in 2012. In 2013, the Council said, "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." While the current investigation shows some improvement in these areas, the Council's previous concerns continue to exist. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Julie Bess Aimen – Well Qualified

Julie Bess Aimen was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1984. She has had a solo private practice since 1986, specializing in criminal, family, municipal, and civil rights law. From 1984 to 1986, Ms. Aimen was an Assistant Appellate Defender with the Office of the State Appellate Defender (OSAD). She has also been a Hearing Officer for the City of Chicago Department of Revenue (1992-1997). She has taught Trial Advocacy and, since 1999, has been a judge for the National Trial Advocacy Competition. Ms. Aimen has been a chair-qualified Cook County Arbitrator since 1990 and is a past president of Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

Ms. Aimen is considered to have very good legal ability and a good temperament. She has extensive complex litigation experience in the areas of criminal law, family law, civil rights, and appellate law. She is considered to be a zealous advocate for her clients. Her integrity is unquestioned. Ms. Aimen is highly regarded as an excellent practitioner and she is praised for her work in improving the administration of justice through her pro bono efforts. The Council considers Ms. Aimen to be Well Qualified to serve in Circuit Court.

Hon. Michael A. Strom – Well Qualified

Hon. Michael A. Strom was admitted to practice in 1977, and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Prior to his appointment, he had been in private practice. He had a litigation practice with Strom & Associates. From 1997 to 2011 he was Staff Counsel to CNA while in private practice. He was a lawyer and then a partner with Schaffenegger, Watson & Peterson from 1978 to 1984. Mr. Strom has good legal ability and has been widely praised for his good temperament. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer on a variety of challenging cases. He is also involved in community activities such as the Chicago Coalition for Law-Related Education. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Basileios "Bill" John Foutris -- Qualified

Basileios "Bill" John Foutris was admitted to practice in 2000. His practice has been devoted to representing victims of police misconduct. As a civil rights lawyer, he has been involved in litigating wrongful death, police shootings, police brutality, illegal searches, false arrest, coerced confessions, malicious prosecution and other police misconduct. He has substantial litigation

experience in both state and federal courts. He is praised for his knowledge of the law. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Tenth Subcircuit – Allen Vacancy

Hon. John Mulroe – Qualified

Judge John Mulroe was admitted to practice in 1988. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before being appointed to the bench, he served in the Illinois legislature as a Senator from 10th Senate District. Judge Mulroe has served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, a hearing officer with the Chicago Park District and an arbitrator with the Cook County Mandatory Program. His professional background includes working as a Certified Public Accountant.

As an attorney, Judge Mulroe was considered to have good legal ability and was respected for his trial skills and for his integrity. He was reported to have a very good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Tenth Subcircuit – McGing Vacancy

John Garrido – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Jon K. Stromsta -- Qualified

Jon K. Stromsta was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1985. He is a partner at the Enterprise Law Group, where he focuses on civil litigation in commercial, chancery, intellectual property, and family law cases. He has also worked as an attorney at Pasulka & Associates (2008-2010); an Assistant Appellate Defender in the Office of the State Appellate Defender, Post-Conviction Unit (2004-2008); a solo practitioner (2000-2004), an attorney at the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Health and Welfare and Pension Funds (1997-2000); and an associate and partner at Ross & Hardies (1985-1997). He provides pro bono services at the Expungement Summit sponsored by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Cabrini Green Legal Aid (2016-present), and as a courtroom facilitator in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Domestic Relations Division (2009-present).

Mr. Stromsta is considered to have good legal ability and is widely respected for his knowledge of the law in a variety of areas. He has litigation experience both at the trial court and at the appellate court levels. He has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maire A. Dempsey -- Qualified

Maire A. Dempsey was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2002. Since 2016, she has served as a Partner at Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., where she is a medical malpractice defense litigator. Previously, she also handled medical malpractice defense matters at Hickey Mella & Associates, where she was an Associate Attorney (2008-2015).

Ms. Dempsey is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and her litigation skills. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Tenth Subcircuit - O'Brien Vacancy

Hon. Daniel Alexander Trevino – Well Qualified

Hon. Daniel Alexander Trevino was admitted to practice in 1999 and became a Cook County Associate Judge in 2018. Before taking the bench, Judge Trevino spent his entire career at Hinshaw and Culbertson, where he has been a partner. Since 2007 this practice had focused on product liability, toxic exposure and wrongful death matters. Judge Trevino had also served as a commissioner on the Illinois Medical District Commission (IMD).

As a lawyer, Judge Trevino handled complex litigation matters and was considered a “go-to” person at his firm on legal questions. He is praised as having very good legal ability and is exceptionally knowledgeable. Respondents praised his character and integrity. He was active in mentoring less experienced attorneys. He is reported to have an exceptional temperament – a strong advocate but always professional in his dealings with opposing counsel. He is also praised for his litigation skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

John N. Hourihane -- Qualified

John N. Hourihane was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1998. He is a partner, founder, and member manager at Murphy & Hourihane, LLC, where he represents clients in commercial transactions, private securities transactions, commercial litigation, appeals, probate, and real estate matters. He handled civil litigation and commercial appeals as an associate at the following firms: Bryan Cave, LLP (2004-2005), Horwood, Marcus & Berk, Chtd. (2001-2004), and Quinlan & Chrisham, Ltd. (1999-2001).

Mr. Hourihane is considered to have good legal ability and is described as a solid practitioner. He has substantial litigation experience and is reported to have good trial skills and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Audrey Victoria Cosgrove -- Qualified

Audrey Victoria Cosgrove was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1990. Ms. Cosgrove volunteers her time as a pro bono attorney at the National Immigrant Justice Center for DACA and Special Immigrant Juvenile cases. Since 1998, she has been owner of The Cosgrove Law Firm, specializing in criminal defense, traffic and real estate, with limited scope in family law and guardianship. Ms. Cosgrove is also of counsel at the Law Office of Sheldon Sorosky. From 1990-1994, she was an Assistant Public Defender at the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Ms. Cosgrove acts as a State of Illinois hearing officer contractor and WBE subcontractor. She also acted as an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Department of Employment Security for seven years. Ms. Cosgrove has a variety of experiences as a lawyer –

including litigation in more complex matters earlier in her career. She is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Mary Catherine Marubio -- Qualified

Hon. Mary Catherine Marubio was admitted to practice in 1997, and became an Associate Judge in 2016. Before taking the bench, she was an Administrative Law Judge within the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for the State of Illinois. She presided over formal adversarial hearings throughout the state involving various licensed professionals, such as physicians, real estate brokers and public accountants. Judge Marubio also served as an ethics officer for IDFP employees and professional boards, where she provided guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the State Employees and Officials Ethics Act. From 1997 to 2012, she was a sole practitioner focusing on criminal defense and immigration matters. She participates in numerous pro bono and charitable community activities.

As a lawyer, Judge Marubio was considered to be a smart, solid practitioner with a variety of litigation experiences. She is praised for her temperament. She is praised for being able to master the various areas of law that her career has involved, including financial regulation, criminal defense, and immigration. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Liam Kelly – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – Twelfth Subcircuit – Hanlon Vacancy

Hon. Patricia Maria Fallon -- Qualified

Hon. Patricia Maria Fallon was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2001 and was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before taking the bench, she served as Chief of Human Resources for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. From 2004 to 2017, she worked for the Labor and Employment Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she served as an Assistant State's Attorney and also as a Supervisor (2015-17) and Deputy Supervisor (2013-2015).

Judge Fallon is considered to have good legal ability with litigation experience in both state and federal court. She is described as hard-working with good temperament, and is praised for her supervisory skills. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Howard Jay Wise -- Qualified

Howard Jay Wise was admitted to practice in 1997. He has been a sole practitioner since 2001 focusing on Criminal Law, Traffic, and Personal Injury matters. He served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney between 1998 and 2001.

Mr. Wise is considered to be a solid practitioner with good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Carmine Vincent Trombetta – Qualified

Carmine Vincent Trombetta was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1983. Since 1984, he has worked as a Solo Practitioner at the Law Firm of Carmine V. Trombetta in Schaumburg. He represents clients in criminal cases, civil litigation, real estate, wills and trusts, and bankruptcy matters.

Mr. Trombetta is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He has substantial litigation experience in a variety of both criminal and civil matters. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Frank Rocco DiFranco – Qualified

Frank Rocco DiFranco was admitted to practice in 1987. He has been in private practice as a sole practitioner or as a lawyer within a small firm since 1995 handling criminal defense and personal injury cases. From 1987 to 1995 he served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Mr. DiFranco is reported to have good legal ability. He enjoys a reputation of being a zealous and knowledgeable advocate. Most respondents say he has a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Thirteenth Subcircuit – Kulys Hoffman Vacancy

Joseph Michael Gump (Joe Gump) – Qualified

Joseph Michael Gump was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1987. He has spent his legal career at the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, and went into private practice after retiring from the Public Defender's Office.

Mr. Gump is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being a zealous advocate. He has substantial litigation experience in complex matters, and is praised for his knowledge of the law as well as for his research skills. He is praised for his judicial temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Matt Flamm – Well Qualified

Matt Flamm was admitted to practice in 1978. He is a partner in a small law firm focusing on both litigation and transactional work. He is exceptionally active in bar association and community activities. Mr. Flamm is considered to have excellent legal ability. He is a "go to" person in his practice fields, and is reported to be very knowledgeable with a very good temperament. He has substantial experience in a variety of litigation matters. The Council finds him Well Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Michael H. Minton – Qualified

Michael H. Minton was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1971. Since 1985, he has been a Partner and Sole Shareholder in The Minton Firm, P.C., where he handles domestic relations, family related matters including adoptions, paternity, wills, estates, and real estate closings. Previously he was an Associate and Partner at Facchini & Minton (1975-1985), where he handled personal injury matters and domestic and family law, and an Associate at Biestek & Facchini (1971-1975).

Mr. Minton has extensive experience as a practitioner in the domestic relations area. He has earned a good reputation for his legal knowledge and ability. He is reported to have a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Susanne Groebner –Qualified

Susanne Groebner was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 2000. Since 2001, she has worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where she currently works in the Felony Trial Division in Rolling Meadows, IL (2013-present). She previously served in the Felony Trial Division in Chicago (2008-2013); in the Felony Review, Preliminary Hearings, and Grand Jury Units (2004-2008); in the Juvenile Division (Abuse and Neglect/Delinquency, 2001-2004); and in the Child Support Division (2001).

Ms. Groebner is considered to have good legal ability. Respondents to this evaluation say that she has good litigation skills and that she is an honest and fair prosecutor. She has substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Michael P. Gerber – Qualified

Hon. Michael P. Gerber was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1980. He was appointed to the bench as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2016. He presides over criminal misdemeanors, felony preliminary hearings, and traffic matters. Previously, he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, where he prosecuted criminal matters (1984-2016); as an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County (1981-1984), where he handled motions and trials and, during his last 18 months there, felony preliminary hearings; and as an associate for Martin S. Gerber (1980-1981), where he handled civil municipal and misdemeanor cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

As a lawyer, Judge Gerber was considered to be an outstanding practitioner with very good legal ability and temperament. He was respected for his litigation skills and he had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters. He is reported to be exceptionally knowledgeable. As a judge he is reported to be handling a high volume call with efficiency and fairness. On the basis of this 2017 evaluation the Council would have found Judge Gerber to be Well Qualified.

However, subsequent to the evaluation the Council conducted in 2017, the Council notes that a post conviction judge vacated a murder case conviction that then Mr. Gerber had prosecuted

many years earlier. In vacating the conviction, the judge stated in regard to Mr. Gerber, as the prosecutor, that he had made “factually false arguments to the jury” about a key piece of evidence. The judge further stated,

"This Court cannot say the prosecutor's improper remarks did not contribute to petitioner's conviction; a jury could have reached a contrary verdict had the improper remarks not been made. * * * Indeed, such statements amounted to a purposeful due process violation that led to petitioner's conviction. As such, petitioner was prejudiced by appellate counsel's failure to raise this claim."

The defendant was exonerated. The Council considers these findings to be exceptionally serious. However, the Council also must consider the totality of Judge Gerber's well-respected career. In a close call, the Council finds Judge Gerber to be Qualified for the Circuit Court.

(R) Angel Garcia – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

(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 – Fourteenth Subcircuit – Bertucci Vacancy

Hon. Gerardo Tristan Jr. -- Qualified

Hon. Gerardo Tristan Jr. was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2002 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019. Before becoming a judge, he worked at Tristan & Cervantes as an associate, assisting the partners in their day-to-day legal obligations, focusing on labor, estate and business law. Then in 2003, Mr. Tristan began serving as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

Judge Tristan is considered to have good legal ability and had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters before becoming a judge. He is reported to have a good temperament and respondents praised his fairness. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Steve Demitro – Not Recommended. Did not participate in the evaluation.

Circuit Court – Fourteenth Subcircuit – Lacy Vacancy

Hon. Daniel O. Tiernan – Qualified

Daniel O. Tiernan was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1995. He was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2019, but was then elected by the Circuit Judges in December 2019 as an Associate Judge. Before becoming a judge, he was an Investigator at the Office of the Cook County Independent Inspector General, where he oversees investigations into fraud, waste, mismanagement, and criminal activity by employees of Cook County and vendors doing business with Cook County. Previously, he was a partner/owner at Delgado & Tiernan, P.C., where his practice focused on criminal defense, probate, real estate, and immigration (2007-2015). From 1995 to 2007 he worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office, where for three years he served as first chair in a felony courtroom.

Judge Tiernan is considered to have good legal ability and is respected as a very capable lawyer. He has had substantial litigation experience in more complex matters during the course of his career. He is reported to have a professional temperament, and is praised for being knowledgeable and for being willing to mentor other lawyers. The Council finds him Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Perla Tirado -- Qualified

Perla Tirado was admitted to the Illinois bar in 2005. Since 2016, she has served as the Supervising Attorney of Beyond Legal Aid, a nonprofit legal services provider, where she handles criminal defense, criminal records, traffic, immigration, removal defense, and family law matters. Previously she handled criminal defense, traffic, immigration, and domestic relations matters as a Solo Practitioner at the Law Office of Perla Tirado (2008-2016), as a Partner at TYT Law (2010), and as a Partner at Tirado Winters, LLP (2007-2008). She has also worked as a Contract Attorney for Genson & Gillespie, where she worked on a criminal case involving financial crimes and SEC violations (2007), as an Assistant Public Defender in the Cook County Public Defender Office (2005-2007), and as Staff Attorney at the Cabrini Legal Aid Clinic (2005).

Ms. Tirado is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her knowledge of the law. She is reported to have good temperament and has substantial litigation experience in a variety of areas. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Circuit Court – Fifteenth Subcircuit – Griffin Vacancy

Heather A. Begley -- Qualified

Heather A. Begley was admitted to practice in 2003. She is an Associate at Cunningham, Meyer and Vadrine, P.C., where she focuses on malpractice defense. Before that, she was a Solo Practitioner at Begley Law Offices, P.C. (2013-2014), where she handled personal injury matters. She handled personal injury and wrongful death matters as an Associate with first chair and second chair experience at the Law Offices of Jeffrey J. Kroll (2007-2013), and also as an Associate (2003-2006) at Clifford Law Offices, P.C.

Ms. Begley is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her litigation skills. She is reported to have a good temperament and respondents often noted her high integrity when dealing with opposing counsel. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Nicole Catina Patton – Qualified

Judge Nicole Catina Patton was admitted to practice in 1997 and was appointed to the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2018. Before taking the bench, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, focusing on court proceedings involving mental health commitments. From 1997 to 2001 she served as an Assistant Cook County State's attorney doing both civil and criminal matters. From 2001 to 2002, she was an attorney with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and from 2003 to 2010, she was with small firms or worked as a sole practitioner. She is considered to be knowledgeable about the law and is described as a "go to" person in the State's Attorney's Office. She is considered to have good legal ability and is praised as a good lawyer – a zealous advocate who is trustworthy and respectful both to clients and opposing counsel. She is active in community matters, and is the author of a recent article on expert witnesses. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.