

The Chicago Council of Lawyers Evaluation Report:

Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2008 General Election and Candidates Seeking to Fill Judicial Vacancies in Contested Elections

October 3, 2008

The Chicago Council of Lawyers, in this report, releases its evaluation of the 70 judges seeking retention in the November 4th general election. We also include in this report our evaluation of the candidates who won their primary election held in February 2008 and who are on the November ballot in contested races.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY FOR RETENTION CANDIDATES

The criteria for the Council's evaluations are whether the retention 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 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 the Judicial Inquiry Board (“JIB”).

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”) and the Chicago Bar Association. The Alliance includes the following bar associations: Asian American Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar Association, 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 and the Chicago Bar Association 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 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 and the Chicago Bar Association;
- (6) review of any information concerning the candidate provided by the ARDC or the JIB;
- (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;
- (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.

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 evaluating candidates, the Council expresses written reasons for its conclusions. Without knowing the reason for a recommendation concerning a candidate, the public cannot use the bar's evaluations intelligently to draw its own conclusions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RETENTION ELECTIONS

The retention elections provide the voter with an opportunity to remove those judges whose judicial performance has been, in some respect, unsatisfactory. Retention elections provide the only practical opportunity for the voters as a whole to focus on the performance of judges, with a realistic opportunity to defeat those candidates who deserve to be defeated.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES IN CONTESTED ELECTIONS

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.”

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. Accordingly, it should be recognized and expected that we will rate some good lawyers “not qualified.”

Judges Seeking Retention in the November 2008 General Election

Hon. Gerald C. Bender – Not Qualified

Hon. Gerald C. Bender was elected to the bench in 1996 and has served in the Domestic Relations Division since that time. The reports on Judge Bender are mixed. Some lawyers praise his legal ability, but many say that his decisions too often do not reflect an adequate knowledge of the law. Some lawyers praise his integrity, but many others claim that he is not always impartial – inappropriately favoring some litigants over others. Some lawyers appearing before him report that Judge Bender has a good temperament, but there are many reports that he sometimes demonstrates an inappropriate temper. Judge Bender has acknowledged that he has been ill and some of the behavior prompting the harsh comments by lawyers may be attributable to this situation. But the investigation included numerous comments questioning his judicial performance. The Council finds Judge Bender Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Andrew Berman – Well Qualified

Hon. Andrew Berman was elected to the bench in 1996. He has been assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division since 1997. He began his judicial career in the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. He was an Assistant Cook County Public Defender from 1979 through 1996. Before that, he served for four years as an Assistant in the Office of the State Appellate Defender. Attorneys give him uniformly highly positive marks on his legal knowledge and ability, temperament, professional conduct, integrity, and character. He is praised for taking the time to thoroughly explain his rulings to the juveniles and their parents or guardians who appear before him. He is active in juvenile justice reform efforts. The Council finds Judge Berman Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Margaret Ann Brennan -- Qualified

Hon. Margaret Ann Brennan was elected to the bench in 2002. She is assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. Before taking the bench she worked as an assistant general counsel for Exelon Corporation (formerly Commonwealth Edison); as an attorney for the City of Chicago's Law Department, where she prosecuted traffic cases; in private practice, handling personal injury matters; and for the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Prepaid Legal Services and the American Prepaid Legal Institute. She was admitted to practice in 1987. Judge Brennan is considered to have good legal ability and is especially praised for her temperament and for her courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Eileen Mary Brewer – Well Qualified

Hon. Eileen Mary Brewer was elected in 2002 and has sat in the Domestic Relations Division since 2003. Before that, she was assigned to the Traffic Court. From 1994 until 2002, she was Chief Counsel to Cook County Board President John Stroger. From 1988 to 1994, she worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Before that, she spent one year as an associate attorney at Jenner & Block. Judge Brewer is considered to be a solid jurist with excellent legal ability and a very good temperament. The Council found her Qualified for the Illinois Appellate Court when she ran in 2006. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Hon. Janet Brosnahan – Not Qualified

Hon. Janet Brosnahan was admitted to practice in 1990 and worked as an associate in a number of small law firms, where her practice consisted primarily of civil litigation matters. Although lacking substantial trial experience, she was elected to the Circuit Court in 2002. After a

brief assignment in the 1st Municipal District, she was assigned to the 5th District in Bridgeview, where she has sat for the last five years and, until last year, presided in misdemeanor jury trials. She now handles civil matters. Lawyers appearing before her report that she has adequate legal knowledge and ability, though there are persistent complaints that she is slow to grasp legal issues and slower still to decide them. Her motion call, in particular, is reported to run slowly and often begins late. Some lawyers believe that Judge Brosnahan can be too short with counsel, while others see any abruptness as necessary to moving a high volume call. The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. James R. Brown -- Qualified

Hon. James R. Brown was admitted to practice in 1990 and was elected to the bench in 2002. He served as an Assistant State's Attorney from 1990 to 1994, and then practiced in Chicago (as an associate and then solo) in both civil and criminal matters. He sits in Branch 44, presiding over felony preliminary hearings. Judge Brown is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his willingness to explain his rulings to defendants and to provide advice to younger lawyers after their case is resolved. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Anthony Burrell -- Qualified

Hon. Anthony Burrell was elected to the bench in 2002 and currently sits in the First Municipal District, hearing civil non-jury trial cases. He has in the past presided over forcible entry and detainer cases. Before his election to the bench, he worked with the Chicago Public Schools as a consultant, as a solo practitioner, and as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Burrell is reported to be doing well in his current high volume court call. He is considered to have good legal knowledge and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Diane Gordon Cannon -- Qualified

Hon. Diane Gordon Cannon was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and has sat in the Criminal Division since 2000. She hears felony trials, motions, and post-conviction petitions. She has served in the Criminal Division since 1997, first in Evening Narcotics (1997-1999) and, in 1999, as a floating trial court judge. In 1997, she sat in the Juvenile Justice Division. Her first assignment was in the First Municipal District. Before her election, Judge Cannon had been an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Judge Cannon is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds Judge Cannon Qualified for retention.

Hon. Evelyn B. Clay – Not Qualified

Hon. Evelyn B. Clay was initially assigned to the First Municipal District after her election to the Circuit Court in 1996. In 1997, she was transferred to the Felony Trial Division, where she sat in the Evening Narcotics Section and as a floating judge. She has been in her present assignment, hearing felony trials, since April 2000.

She spent her entire career before becoming a judge as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, first in the Child Support Division and then in the Criminal Division. In her 2002 evaluation, she was credited by lawyers for her honesty, sensitivity and temperament. Judge Clay is reported to treat all parties before her with respect and impartiality. Nonetheless, she was also regarded by lawyers contacted in the 2002 evaluation as weak on the law and unable at times to control the lawyers appearing before her. These reports were persistent and serious enough to compel the Council, at that time, to find Judge Clay Not Qualified. In the current investigation, some lawyers reported that her judicial performance has marginally improved, but that she still sometimes exhibits indecision on the bench and inconsistencies in her rulings. There are questions raised about the methods by which she selects a jury. The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan -- Qualified

Hon. Mary Ellen Coghlan was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in March 1995 and was elected to a full term in 1996. She has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 1995. She was initially in the Evening Narcotics Section, where she rose to the

position of Supervising Judge in 1997. In late 1997, she was transferred to the Day Division. Upon being appointed, her initial assignment was to the First Municipal District. She is regarded as a good jurist who possesses the requisite legal knowledge and ability. Some lawyers report that she can be short with lawyers and litigants, but most respondents say her temperament is adequate. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman -- Qualified

Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and has served in the Law Division, Jury Section since 2002. She has also served in the Child Protection Division. From 1989 to 1993, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney doing civil litigation. From 1984 to 1989 she served as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Judge Coleman has demonstrated very good legal ability and courtroom management skills. She is praised for her integrity, character, and professional conduct. Judge Coleman won the February 2008 primary election to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Appellate Court. The Council found her Qualified for the Appellate Court and finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Clayton Jay Crane – Well Qualified

Hon. Clayton Jay Crane was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He has sat in the Criminal Division since 1998 and currently hears felony cases. In 1998, and from 2000 to 2001, he was a floating judge. From 1998 until 2000, he was in the Evening Narcotics Section. He was assigned to the Traffic Court from 1996 to 1998. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Crane had varied experience, including his work as Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, a term as Village Attorney and Prosecutor for the Village of Streamwood, and private practice.

Judge Crane is well regarded by both prosecutors and defense attorneys who practice before him, and he is considered one of the fairest judges in the Criminal Division by attorneys who practice before him. He is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his pioneering work in the Mental Health Court at the Criminal Courts Building. The Council finds Judge Crane Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. John Thomas Doody, Jr -- Qualified

Hon. John Thomas Doody, Jr. was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1974. He was elected to the bench in 2002 and currently sits in the Criminal Division, hearing drug-related cases. Before being elected to the bench, he was a sole practitioner. He also worked in government service, holding the positions of President of the village of Homewood and State Representative. Judge Doody is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Lynn M. Egan -- Qualified

Hon. Lynn M. Egan was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1995 and was elected the following year. Since March 2002, Judge Egan has been assigned to the Individual Calendar Section of the Law Division. After her appointment, she served in Traffic Court. From 1997 to 1998, she was assigned to the Administrative/Assignment call in the Law Division. She was then transferred to the Fifth Municipal District. In 2001 she was appointed to the Commercial Calendar Section. She is generally regarded as a solid jurist with the very good legal ability and integrity. In her 2002 investigation, some attorneys raised concerns regarding her temperament. Judge Egan recognized that this was an area on which she needed to improve. In the current investigation, lawyers report that she has a good temperament. She is still considered to have very good legal ability and integrity. She is praised for her courtroom management skills, and is reported to be hard working and always prepared. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Richard J. Elrod – Well Qualified

Hon. Richard J. Elrod was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1988 and was elected to the bench in 1990. He has served in the Law Division, Trial Section for his entire judicial career. He began his career in the Chicago Department of Law, where he was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for 13 years. From 1969 to 1970, he was a State Representative in the Illinois General Assembly. He was Cook County Sheriff from 1970 to 1986. For two years prior to his

appointment, Judge Elrod was the Senior Assistant Attorney General. In 2002, the Council found that practitioners report that Judge Elrod had excellent legal ability and had demonstrated skill and diligence in bringing cases to equitable settlement and in conducting jury trials. The Council praised Judge Elrod as one of the hardest working judges in the Circuit Court. The 2008 investigation made similar findings. He is a solid jurist with an excellent judicial temperament. The Council finds Judge Elrod Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Candace J. Fabri – Well Qualified

Hon. Candace J. Fabri has sat in the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Court since her election to the bench in 1996. She previously had experience as a law clerk for then-U.S. District Court Judge Joel Flaum, an Assistant Professor of Law at Loyola University, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and as a partner in the firm of Sachnoff & Weaver. Through the investigation and interview process, Judge Fabri distinguished herself as highly engaged by her present assignment. She is reported to have excellent legal ability and is considered to be exceptionally hard-working. She has the ability to be assigned anywhere in the Circuit Court. There are some reports, however, that Judge Fabri can be rude in court – at times directing her anger against lawyers and caseworkers who she thinks is not doing their job properly. While we believe this behavior should not be exhibited in the courtroom, we also believe that Judge Fabri is an exceptionally smart judge who cares deeply about the children, parents, and guardians who appear before her. The Council finds Judge Fabri Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Peter A. Felice -- Qualified

Hon. Peter A. Felice was admitted to the bar in 1976 and was elected to the bench in 2002. He sits in the Fifth Municipal District hearing misdemeanor jury cases. He has presided over bench and jury trials at Domestic Violence Court. Before taking the bench, he was a sole practitioner. Judge Felice is reported to have good legal ability and is generally described as a patient judge who is well prepared and decisive. He is described as being respectful of both lawyers and litigants who appear before him. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Thomas E. Flanagan -- Qualified

Hon. Thomas E. Flanagan has been a judge since his election in 1984. He was assigned to the First Municipal District until 1991, when he was transferred to his current assignment in the Law Division, Trial Section. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and find him knowledgeable, patient, and very hard working. He was reported to be fully able to stay on top of the complex tort cases tried before him. The Council finds Judge Flanagan Qualified for retention.

Hon. James P. Flannery, Jr. -- Qualified

Hon. James P. Flannery, Jr. has been a judge since 1988. He currently serves in the Law Division, where he has been sitting since 1997. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District. He then spent more than three years assigned to the Fourth Municipal District before he was transferred to the Criminal Division in 1992. Judge Flannery had extensive legal experience as a lawyer before becoming a judge and is now a well respected jurist. He is described as being hard working, well prepared and knowledgeable. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and for ruling promptly. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. John J. Fleming -- Qualified

Hon. John J. Fleming was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996, and has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 2001. From 1998 to 2001, he was assigned to the Narcotics Preliminary Hearing call and Central Bond Court. His first assignment as a judge was to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. Judge Fleming is reported to have good legal ability and handles his assignment efficiently. He has good temperament and is considered to be fair and unbiased. Some lawyers complain that he is not punctual in taking the bench, but Judge Fleming explained during this evaluation process that he is working in chambers when not hearing cases. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Michael Gallagher – Highly Qualified

Hon. Michael Gallagher was elected to be an Illinois Appellate Justice in 1998 and was

elected to the bench as a Circuit Judge in 1988. He served in the First Municipal District and the Law Division before being appointed to the Appellate Court in 1997. Judge Gallagher was widely respected as an outstanding trial judge and is considered to be an excellent Appellate Court justice. He has outstanding legal ability and is fair and exceptionally hard-working. He has several published articles. The Council finds him Highly Qualified.

Hon. Rodolfo Garcia -- Qualified

Hon. Rodolfo Garcia was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. His first assignment was to the general trial call in the Fourth Municipal District. He was transferred to the Criminal Division in 1997, initially to Evening Narcotics, and, later as a floating judge. He began hearing felony trials in 1999. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2003. Judge Garcia was admitted to practice in 1981. After beginning his legal career by spending one year in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, he was in private practice, specializing in criminal defense and immigration matters, until the time of his election. Judge Garcia is considered to have good legal ability and is known for being prepared. His opinions are reported to be well-reasoned and his is considered to be well prepared at oral arguments. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. James J. Gavin -- Qualified

Hon. James J. Gavin was elected to the bench in 1996. He has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division since then, and presently sits in the Sixth Municipal District. He is reported to have good legal ability and a good temperament. Lawyers describe him as a competent and fair judge. The Council finds Judge Gavin Qualified for retention.

Hon. Robert E. Gordon – Well Qualified

Hon. Robert E. Gordon was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1996, after a long career as a litigator. He served as a jury trial judge in the Municipal Division from 1997 to 2003. Since 2003 he has served as a jury trial judge in the Law Division. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2005. He was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1962. He is regarded as having excellent knowledge of law and procedure. He has a strong work ethic and is considered to be well prepared for oral arguments. His opinions are reported to be well reasoned. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Vanessa A. Hopkins – Not Qualified

Hon. Vanessa A. Hopkins was first assigned to the Traffic Division following her election in 1996. She has been assigned to Juvenile and Municipal Districts, and presently hears jury cases in the First Municipal District. Judge Hopkins came to the bench with just two years of legal experience. In her 2002 evaluation, the Council questioned her ability to manage her call. In her 2008 investigation, while some lawyers say she has improved, there are continuing negative reports about her courtroom management. Lawyers complain that she too often loses control over her courtroom, has an impatient temperament, and is sometimes not punctual. The Council finds Judge Hopkins Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Rickey Jones -- Qualified

Hon. Rickey Jones was elected to the bench in 1996. His first assignment was to the Domestic Violence Court. He has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 1999. Judge Jones is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for being fair and impartial. He is considered to be a solid jurist. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Themis N. Karnezis – Highly Qualified

Hon. Themis N. Karnezis has served as an Associate Judge, and later Circuit Judge, on the Circuit Court of Cook County since 1982. He was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2002. From 1983 until 1998, he was assigned to the criminal division hearing the full range of felony criminal cases. From June of 1998 to February of 1999, he was assigned to the Law Division, where he presided over a variety of civil jury trials involving personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice, and Structural Work Act matters. He became the Presiding Judge of the Fourth Municipal District in Maybrook in 1999. Lawyers report that Judge Karnezis is

both an excellent appellate and trial judge. They remark favorably upon his legal knowledge, integrity, temperament, and diligence. He was regarded as one of the Circuit Court's best trial judges. In view of Judge Karnezis' depth and breadth of experience as a trial judge and appellate justice, the Council finds him Highly Qualified.

Hon. Kathleen Kennedy -- Qualified

Hon. Kathleen Kennedy was admitted to the bar in 1982 and, prior to her election to the Circuit Court in 1996, she worked as a law clerk to Illinois Appellate Court Justice Rizzi and to (then) U.S. Magistrate Lefkow. She was a supervising attorney in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office for approximately 5 years, and a Circuit Court hearing officer in child protection cases for approximately 2 years. Her initial assignment as a judge was to the expedited child support calendar, and since 2003 she has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division as an expedited hearing judge. She is regarded as well-informed in the law and thorough in her handling of the matters coming before her. She is diligent and has an excellent temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Kerry M. Kennedy -- Qualified

Hon. Kerry M. Kennedy was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1979, and was elected to the bench in 2002. Mr. Kennedy had been an Assistant Public Defender for his entire career prior to taking the bench. He currently sits in the Fifth Municipal District. Lawyers report that Judge Kennedy is knowledgeable and has a good temperament. He is praised for his diligence and courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. William G. Lacy – Well Qualified

Hon. William G. Lacy was first elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He has been assigned to the Criminal Division since 2001. Before that, he was a back-up judge in that division. From 1998 to 2000, he sat in the Evening Narcotics Section. His first assignment, from 1996 to 1998, was in the First Municipal District, where he sat in Traffic Court, Branch 44, and Branch 66. He also handled felony preliminary hearings and bond hearings for prisoners arrested overnight. He is considered to have good legal ability with a temperament described as respectful and even-handed. He is praised by attorneys for decisiveness and is generally well regarded by those who practice most frequently in his courtroom. The Council finds Judge Lacy Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Marjorie C. Laws -- Qualified

Hon. Marjorie C. Laws was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. She is a former Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. She has been assigned to a felony trial courtroom in the Criminal Division since 2002. She was recently appointed to be a supervising judge overseeing the caseloads of five other judges. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is especially praised for her courtroom management skills and for her willingness to spend the time trying to understand the circumstances of the defendants before her so she can consider alternative programs when sentencing. The Council finds Judge Laws Qualified for retention.

Hon. Casandra Lewis – Not Qualified

Hon. Casandra Lewis was elected to the bench in 2002. She currently hears jury and bench trials in the First Municipal District. Prior to becoming a judge, she spent nine years in private practice and two years as an Assistant Kane County State's Attorney. Judge Lewis has adequate legal ability for her current assignment and is praised for her temperament. She receives mixed reviews, however, for her work ethic – many lawyers complain that she is not well-prepared and is often not punctual in taking the bench. The Council has received reports that some lawyers will take a substitution of judge rather than appear before her. The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Thomas J. Lipscomb -- Qualified

Hon. Thomas J. Lipscomb was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1973. He was elected to the bench in 2002 and now sits in the First Municipal District. Before being elected, he was in private practice since 1977, first as a solo practitioner and then as a partner in Lipscomb & Yuknis. From

1973 to 1977, he was an Assistant Public Defender. Lawyers report that he has good legal ability and that he well prepared. He is praised for courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Noreen Valeria Love – Well Qualified

Hon. Noreen Valeria Love was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989 and was elected to the bench in 2002. She is assigned to the Fourth Municipal District. Before being elected, she spent most of her career as a lawyer in the Cook County Public Defender's Office in the felony division. Judge Love was considered to be an excellent litigator before she took the bench and she is now considered to be a very good jurist. She is reported to have good legal ability and an excellent temperament. She is always professional and courteous on the bench, but is praised for moving her cases forward expeditiously. She participates in numerous professional and civic activities, and is involved in legal reform efforts. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Michele F. Lowrance -- Qualified

Hon. Michele F. Lowrance has been a judge since 1995, serving all of that time as a trial judge in the Domestic Relations Division. After her admission to the Illinois bar in 1975 and prior to taking the bench, she was in private practice in Chicago, engaged primarily in civil litigation, including domestic relations. Attorneys appearing before her report that she knows the law very well and is committed to effecting settlement of cases. The comments regarding her character, temperament and competence are strongly positive. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Patricia Manila Martin – Well Qualified

Hon. Patricia Manila Martin was elected in 1996 and served in the Child Protection Division through July 1998, when she was transferred to the Law Division. She returned to the Child Protection Division as Presiding Judge in January 2000. She spent her entire legal career before becoming a judge as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender, where she became a trial supervisor (1989-1994) and Deputy Chief of the Fifth District (1994-1996). Judge Martin is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for the leadership she has brought to the Child Protection Division. She is reported to have an excellent demeanor, listening to all sides but focusing the arguments toward relevant facts and issues. She is reported to be fair to all parties and her opinions are well reasoned. She is praised for legal reform efforts. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Mary Anne Mason – Well Qualified

Hon. Mary Anne Mason was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in September 2000. She currently sits in the Chancery Division, although she spent much of her judicial tenure in the Juvenile Justice Division. She was admitted to the bar in 1977. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1979 to 1985. From 1985 until 2000, she practiced commercial litigation in a small law firm. Judge Mason is considered to possess very good legal ability and temperament. She was an excellent trial lawyer and as a judge is said to be well prepared and dedicated. She receives high marks for fairness and courtroom management skills. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Veronica B. Mathein -- Qualified

Hon. Veronica B. Mathein has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court since her election in 1996. Before election to the bench, Judge Mathein was in private practice. Judge Mathein is very well regarded among practitioners who appear before her. She is praised for her very good legal ability and temperament. She is considered to be hard-working. There are some reports that Judge Mathein can be biased in favor of women litigants in her rulings. On balance, the Council finds Judge Mathein Qualified for retention.

Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride – Well Qualified

Hon. Margaret Stanton McBride has been an Illinois Appellate Justice since 1998. She has served as the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District. As a lawyer, she served as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. As a judge, she has also served in the First Municipal

District, the Criminal Division, the Law Division, and Chancery. She has outstanding legal ability and was widely praised as an excellent trial judge. As an appellate justice, she is considered to be smart, well prepared, and hard working. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Carol Pearce McCarthy -- Qualified

Hon. Carol Pearce McCarthy was elected to Circuit Court in 1996. After her initial assignment to the Abuse and Neglect Division of Juvenile Court, Judge McCarthy has heard jury cases in Law Division since January 2000. She previously served as an Assistant States Attorney for nine years where she served in a number of capacities including Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Division. Judge McCarthy is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her courtroom management. However, some lawyers say that she can be rude to lawyers and litigants, and the Council urges Judge McCarthy to address this issue. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Barbara Ann McDonald -- Qualified

Hon. Barbara Ann McDonald has sat in the Law Division since June 2001. From the time of her election in 1996 until her transfer to her current assignment, she sat in the First Municipal District. Judge McDonald is well respected by those who appear before her. She has written articles on Illinois Supreme Court Rule 213, the admissibility of prior injuries in personal injury cases, and the issue of when notice is required in premises liability cases. Some lawyers question her temperament, saying that she can be rude and condescending to lawyers and courtroom personnel. Other lawyers find her temperament to be fine. The Council urges Judge McDonald to address her temperament issues, but on balance the Council finds Judge McDonald Qualified for retention.

Hon. Sheila M. McGinnis -- Qualified

Hon. Sheila M. McGinnis was elected to the bench in 2002. She is currently assigned to the Fifth Municipal District. Before her election, she served as an Assistant State's Attorney since her admission to the Illinois bar in 1989. Before then, she had been employed as a victim/witness specialist with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Lawyers give Judge McGinnis positive remarks for her judicial performance. She is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills and she is hard working. Based on her judicial performance, Judge McGinnis would warrant an unquestioned qualified for retention. However, Judge McGinnis was accused of drunk driving and arrested by the Tinley Park Police after she hit a car on May 9, 2008. She was initially assigned by Chief Judge Evans to administrative duties but as of May 20, 2008, she was assigned to a call doing civil cases. Her case is pending at the time of this evaluation. Judge McGinnis has not been convicted of a crime, although she has been arrested. The Council is concerned about the pending charges against Judge McGinnis, but finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Dennis McGuire -- Qualified

Hon. Dennis McGuire was elected to the bench in 2002. He currently is assigned to the First Municipal District hearing torts and contract actions. Before being elected, he spent much of his legal career doing civil work as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. He was admitted to practice in 1987. Judge McGuire is considered to have good legal ability and does a good job of handling his current assignment. Some lawyers question his temperament, but most find that he has a professional demeanor. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Kathleen McGury – Not Qualified

Hon. Kathleen McGury was appointed as a Circuit Judge in 1995 and was subsequently elected to a full term the following year. As a lawyer, she spent her entire career as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, doing both civil and criminal work. She began her judicial career in the First Municipal District and in the Child Protection Division. In August 1997, she was transferred to the Fourth Municipal District in Maywood, where she heard traffic and misdemeanor cases. She now sits in the Probate Division. In her current assignment, lawyers complain that she avoids confrontation, allowing matters to sit for unnecessarily long periods of time. Some also complain that she is too results oriented, sometimes ignoring the controlling law.

The Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Barbara M. Meyer -- Qualified

Hon. Barbara M. Meyer was elected to the bench in 2002 and now sits in the Domestic Violence Court. She obtained her license in 1980, and has served as the Corporation Counsel for the Village of Skokie. Judge Meyer is considered to have good legal ability and she is praised as well organized and hard working. She is reported to have good temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Mary Alice Mulhern -- Qualified

Hon. Mary Alice Mulhern was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. She was transferred to the Law Division, Trial Section in July 2002. She was first assigned to the Child Protection Division from 1996 to 1999. After that, she served in the First Municipal District and in the Law Division. Immediately prior to her current assignment, starting in March 2002, she was assigned to the Commercial Calendar Section. She is considered to have good legal ability and solid courtroom management skills. She is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Lewis Nixon – Well Qualified

Hon. Lewis Nixon was admitted to practice in 1974 and was appointed to the bench as an Associate Judge in 2001. He was elected to the bench in 2002 and now is assigned to the Chancery Division, Mechanic's Lien Section. Before becoming a judge, he served at different times as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a private attorney in civil practice, and counsel to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a lawyer, he received uniform praise for his legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament. As a judge, lawyers report that he is highly respected with good temperament and knowledge of the law. He is praised for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. William O'Brien -- Qualified

Hon. William O'Brien was elected to the bench in 2002. Before his election, his legal career was with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He is dually assigned to the Criminal Division and to the Second Municipal District. As a lawyer, Judge O'Brien was highly respected. As a judge, he is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for being hard working, punctual, and always well prepared. He has a professional and low key demeanor. Some respondents who are defense practitioners complained that he is too willing to accept police officer's testimony. Most lawyers find that he is fair. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Lawrence D. O'Gara -- Qualified

Hon. Lawrence D. O'Gara was elected to the Circuit Court in 2002. He was admitted to practice in 1969 and was an Assistant State's Attorney for the next 16 years. He then was a sole practitioner, handling criminal defense matters and some civil matters. Since his election, he has worked in the 1st Municipal District, first hearing traffic cases and then misdemeanor bench and jury trials. For the last year, he has presided in Room 1501 of the Daley Center, hearing pretrial motions in civil cases. Judge O'Gara is reported to have excellent temperament. He is punctual, and his high-volume call runs efficiently. He is patient with attorneys and pro se litigants, listening carefully to arguments and explaining his rulings. Some attorneys assert that Judge O'Gara favors defendants, especially insurers, the CTA and the City of Chicago. Most attorneys find him to be fair and very capable. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Sandra R. Otaka -- Qualified

Hon. Sandra R. Otaka was admitted to practice in 1987. She was appointed to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2000 and elected to the bench in 2002. She is assigned to the Child Protection Division. Before becoming a judge, she was a Section Chief for the U.S. EPA. During her time with the EPA, she also spent one year as an Assistant State's Attorney by appointment. From 1987 to 1990, Ms. Otaka was in private practice at Sidley & Austin. Judge Otaka is considered to have good legal ability. She is hard working and lawyers report that while her

temperament was a problem in the past, they now describe it as good. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Sebastian T. Patti – Well Qualified

Hon. Sebastian T. Patti was appointed as a Circuit Judge in March 1995 and was elected to the bench in the following year. In 1998, he was transferred to the First Municipal District to assist in the reorganization of the Housing Court. He is currently Supervising Judge of the Housing Section of the First Municipal District. Lawyers who practice before Judge Patti report that he has very good legal knowledge, an excellent temperament, and is praised for his dedication to reform and for his excellent judicial demeanor. He is viewed as a leader among judges and a mentor to new judges. He displays sensitivity to the needs of litigants and attorneys. The Council found him Qualified when he was being considered for appointment to the Illinois Appellate Court. The Council finds Judge Patti Well Qualified for retention to the Circuit Court.

Hon. Edward N. Pietrucha – Not Qualified

Hon. Edward N. Pietrucha was elected to the bench in 1996. He began his judicial career with an assignment to the First Municipal District. Since 1998, he has sat in the Juvenile Justice Division, where he has been a floating judge since January 2002. Judge Pietrucha is considered to be a smart and hard working judge. However, during his evaluation, many judges, defense counsel, prosecutors, and probation officers expressed outrage at the temperament displayed by Judge Pietrucha. He is reported to exhibit bullying behavior toward lawyers, children, and their parents and guardians. Some lawyers commented that he can be inconsistent in his rulings. Others commented that he inappropriately does not take into account the recommendations of probation officers – an important part of the juvenile justice system. The Council finds him Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Edmund Ponce de Leon -- Qualified

Hon. Edmund Ponce de Leon was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. From his election until 2001, he sat in the Domestic Relations Division. After that, he sat for one year in the Individual commercial calendar Section of the Law Division. Since February 2002, he has been the Presiding Judge in the Fourth Municipal District. Judge Ponce de Leon is considered to have good legal ability and temperament. He is praised for his willingness to hear all sides in administrative matters as the Presiding Judge. He is praised equally for his courtroom management skills. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. James L. Rhodes -- Qualified

Hon. James L. Rhodes was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. Since 1999, he has sat in the Sixth Municipal District, where he currently hears felony misdemeanor and traffic cases. Before his current assignment, he heard Misdemeanor & Traffic Violations and Miscellaneous Bonds. From 1998 to 1999, he was in the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. From the time of his election until late 1998, he was assigned to the Juvenile Court. In practice, Judge Rhodes spent his career as an Assistant Public Defender. Judge Rhodes is considered to have good legal ability. He is diligent, hardworking, and punctual. While there are a few reports that he can be rude and condescending toward lawyers, most lawyers find his temperament appropriate. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Barbara Ann Riley -- Qualified

Hon. Barbara Ann Riley was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and currently sits in the Domestic Relations Division. With the exception of a brief assignment to the Child Protection Division in 1997, she was assigned to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court Division from the time of her election until 2001. Judge Riley is considered to be a good judge in the Domestic Relations Division. She has a professional demeanor and is decisive. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. James G. Riley -- Qualified

Hon. James G. Riley was admitted to the bar in 1982 and until his election in 1996 practiced with family members in a small suburban firm. After an initial assignment in the Traffic

Division of the 1st Municipal District, he was assigned to the Probate Division, where he has remained for the last 10 years. He now hears adult guardianship matters almost exclusively. He is regarded as knowledgeable on the law and as a common-sense problem-solver; the latter attribute is particularly important on a call involving social service issues as much or more than legal issues. Some practitioners comment that Judge Riley may adopt a view of a matter too quickly, but even those voicing that criticism note that he will hear the parties out and is willing to change his mind. A few lawyers report that he can be inappropriate in his manner of expression. On balance, the Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Cheryl A. Starks -- Qualified

Hon. Cheryl A. Starks was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. She served in Traffic Court and the Child Protection Division before being assigned to the Law Division in December 1999. She has served in the Law Division since then, hearing jury trials. Prior to her election, Judge Starks was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago and an Assistant Attorney for the Chicago Board of Education. Attorneys appearing before her report that she is hard-working and well-prepared. Where legal issues are new to her, she is willing to learn and to reverse herself if warranted. She is fair and courteous to litigants and lawyers, and makes juries feel at ease. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. David Paul Sterba – Well Qualified

Hon. David Paul Sterba was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He had previously practiced for five years as an Assistant States Attorney and seven years in a private general practice. Judge Sterba has served in the Fifth Municipal Department courts in Bridgeview, spending the last five years in different Criminal Division assignments. Since January 1999, he has conducted felony trials. He currently serves as the acting Presiding Judge. Both the prosecutors and defense counsel who practice before him consider Judge Sterba intelligent and hardworking with a good judicial temperament. He is praised for his courtroom management skills and for the innovations that he has implemented as an administrator. The Council finds Judge Sterba Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Jane Louise Stuart -- Qualified

Hon. Jane Louise Stuart was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. Before being elected she did civil matters as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. She served as a teacher before becoming a lawyer. As a judge, she has served in the First Municipal District and currently sits in the Probate Division. Judge Stuart is considered to have good legal ability and is described as being serious and even-tempered on the bench. She is reported to be well prepared and impartial. However, Judge Stuart has a serious and persistent problem with starting her court call on time. The Council urges Judge Stuart to correct this problem that has a negative impact on lawyers, litigants, and court personnel. Judge Stuart, however, is a well respected jurist in all other respects. On balance, the Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Laura Sullivan -- Qualified

Hon. Laura Sullivan was elected to the bench in 2002 and was admitted to practice in 1987. She was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney for her entire career as a lawyer. She currently sits on the Central Bond Court rotation. She has been assigned to the Third Municipal District and to the Domestic Violence Court. Judge Sullivan is considered to have good legal ability and is praised for her temperament. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Donald Joseph Suriano – Well Qualified

Hon. Donald Joseph Suriano was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He has sat in the Civil Jury Trial Section of the First Municipal District since 1999. His first judicial assignment was one year in Traffic Court. From 1997 to 1999, he sat in the Domestic Violence Bond Court. He currently sits in the Law Division. Judge Suriano is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for managing his court call while allowing the lawyers to make their record. He is considered to be well prepared, to have a good grasp of the legal issues, and to be decisive. The Council finds Judge Suriano Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Shelley Sutker-Dermer – Well Qualified

Hon. Shelley Sutker-Dermer was appointed Circuit Judge in 1995 and elected to a full term in 1996. She is currently a Supervising Judge in the Criminal Division and the Presiding Judge of the Second Municipal District. She was initially assigned to the First Municipal District, Traffic Court. She spent her entire career before becoming a judge as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Lawyers report that Judge Sutker-Dermer has very good legal ability. She is distinctively hard-working and diligent. She is well respected for both her skills as a judge and as an administrator. The Council finds her Well Qualified for retention.

Hon. Michael P. Toomin – Highly Qualified

Hon. Michael P. Toomin was appointed to the bench in 1980 and elected to the Circuit Court in 1984. He has been in the Criminal Division since 1984, and has been a supervising judge there since 1994. From 1980 to 1984, he was assigned to the Second Municipal District, where he heard felony, misdemeanor, civil, and traffic cases. He was recently appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court. Judge Toomin is considered to have excellent legal ability and is exceptionally hard working. He is regarded as being impartial and having a professional demeanor. He has a reputation of being a stellar jurist. The Council finds him Highly Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Hon. Sandra Tristano -- Qualified

Hon. Sandra Tristano was elected to the bench in 2002 and was admitted to practice in 1977. Before being elected, she worked with the National Labor Relations Board. In that capacity, she reviewed decisions reached by hearing boards, while maintaining a small solo practice. She currently sits in the Third Municipal District. Judge Tristano is considered to have good legal ability. While she had little litigation experience when she came to the bench, she is praised for being hard working and diligent about learning what she needs to know. She has a very good temperament and is impartial. The Council finds her Qualified for retention.

Hon. Valarie E. Turner – Not Qualified

Hon. Valarie E. Turner was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1991 and thereafter was an associate in a large law firm (6 years), an Assistant United States Attorney (2+ years), and a business consultant and researcher (2 years). She was elected to the Circuit Court in 2002. Judge Turner was initially assigned to the 1st Municipal District where she heard traffic cases and then domestic violence cases. In 2005, she was assigned to the 6th Municipal District, where she now sits in Domestic Violence Court. Some lawyers appearing before her find her to be well-versed in the relevant law, impartial, and fair. Others question her grasp of the law or her confidence in her own understanding of points of law. She is generally well-prepared for hearings, though some lawyers question her diligence, believing that she under-schedules her calendar. Judge Turner's temperament is strongly criticized by some lawyers, who report that she becomes too easily frustrated with attorneys and litigants and sometimes reprimands or chastises them in ways that may be inappropriate. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Raul Vega -- Qualified

Hon. Raul Vega was elected to the bench in 2002 and currently serves in the Domestic Relations Division. He was admitted to practice in 1982 and was in private practice before becoming a judge. He is considered to have good legal ability and is especially praised for being hard working. Lawyers report that he has a good temperament. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Kenneth J. Wadas -- Qualified

Hon. Kenneth J. Wadas has been a judge in the Criminal Division since 1996. As a lawyer, he had substantial civil and criminal court litigation experience. Judge Wadas is considered to have very good legal ability and is praised for his professional demeanor. He has strong court management skills. Regarding his legal ability, he is described by those who practice before him as a student of the law. The Council finds Judge Wadas Qualified for retention.

Hon. Shelli D. Williams-Hayes – Not Qualified

Hon. Shelli D. Williams-Hayes currently sits in the First Municipal District. Before her

current assignment, she was in the County Division. Judge Williams-Hayes is reported to have performed ably in her assignments in the County Division and in her current assignment hearing civil jury trials in the First Municipal District. Judge Williams-Hayes manages a high-volume courtroom, sometimes hearing several trials a day. While many lawyers say she is a good jurist, many others complain about the length of time it takes to get to trial in her courtroom. Some lawyers report that she can get frustrated during court and make grossly inappropriate remarks to lawyers and litigants. Some lawyers also complain about her punctuality. On balance, the Council finds her Not Qualified for retention.

Hon. Gregory J. Wojkowski -- Qualified

Hon. Gregory J. Wojkowski was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. He currently sits in the First Municipal District, Civil Trial Division. Before his current assignment, he served in the Housing Court and at the Traffic Center. Judge Wojkowski is considered to have very good legal ability and temperament. He inherited a large backlog of cases and by all accounts has substantially reduced that backlog in a way that is considered fair to all parties. Many lawyers say that he has the ability, temperament, and courtroom organizational skills to be promoted to a more complex assignment. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Hon. Frank Zelezinski --Qualified

Hon. Frank Zelezinski was elected to the Circuit Court in 1996 and has served his entire career in the Sixth Municipal District in Markham. He was a Supervising Judge there from 1998-99, and from 2001 until last year. He currently is a felony trial judge. Prior to his election, he was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County. He is described as very knowledgeable in the law, hard-working, and fair. The Council finds him Qualified for retention.

Judicial Candidates Seeking to Fill Vacancies in Contested Races in the November 2008 General Election

Fourth Subcircuit

Pat Rogers – Not Qualified (evaluated for the March 2006 judicial primary)

Pat Rogers was admitted to practice in 1983. He has been in private practice since 1988 and, is currently a solo general practitioner handling municipal, criminal and traffic cases. From 1983 until 1988, he was an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney. Since 1993, he has been a Supervisor for the Township of Lyons and also serves as an Administrative Hearing Officer for several other cities. Mr. Rogers is considered to knowledgeable about his practice areas, which are mainly limited to traffic and municipal matters. His integrity is unquestioned and he has a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that he has little experience in complex litigation matters and does not have the range of experience necessary to be judge. The Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Maureen H. Masterson-Pulia – Not Qualified (from the 2006 Associate Judge evaluations)

Maureen Pulia was admitted to practice in 1984. From 2003 to present, she has

been an Arbitrator with the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission. From 1997 to 2003 she was Senior Public Service Administrator and Staff Attorney for the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission. Ms. Pulia is reported to have good legal ability and temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that her practice has been narrow and that she lacks sufficient litigation experience as a practitioner in complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Twelfth Subcircuit

Pamela E. Loza – Qualified

Pamela E. Loza has been a lawyer since 1977. She is currently a sole practitioner specializing in family and criminal defense law. From 1984 to 2003, she handled similar cases as a lawyer in the firm of Cameron, Loza & Associates. From 1978 to 1981, she did appellate work as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability and that she is a zealous, but fair advocate for her clients. She has substantial litigation experience. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Laura J. Morask – Not Qualified

Laura Morask is running to fill a judicial vacancy in the 12th Subcircuit. For the February 2008 primary, she refused to cooperate with any of the ten bar associations comprising the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening. As a result, she was found either Not Recommended or Not Qualified by all of these bar groups. The Chicago Council of Lawyers followed its policy of finding Not Recommended any judicial candidate who refuses to submit materials to the Council for evaluation. However, upon further analysis, it is clear why Ms. Morask refused to be evaluated by the Council – a bar group which has been evaluating judges since 1970. For the past nine years, she has been cited numerous times by both the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Supreme Court for prosecutorial misconduct. As a career Cook County prosecutor, Ms. Morask has the job of upholding justice – convicting guilty defendants while upholding the ethical framework of the criminal justice system. Based on court opinions she has done the former but has ignored the latter. In 1999, the Illinois Appellate Court found that Ms. Morask "acted contrary to the spirit of discovery rules and that her conduct "troubled" the court." In 2000, the Illinois Appellate Court reversed a murder conviction and remanded for a new trial due to Ms. Morask's "pervasive misconduct" in rebuttal argument. The Illinois Supreme Court rebuked her performance in a 2001 decision. In 2002, the Illinois Appellate Court found that she engaged in "intentional and systematic misconduct" that "called into question the State's commitment to fair and just enforcement of the law." In 2003, the Illinois Appellate Court concluded that Ms. Morask misstated the law, but that her misconduct did not affect the outcome of the case. In 2004 an Illinois Appellate justice described Ms. Morask's courtroom statements as "uncivil and overly sarcastic, if not downright boorish" and had "no place in a trial." In 2006, the Illinois Appellate Court in an unpublished decision found that Ms. Morask's closing argument mischaracterized the evidence to the jury.

The Council believes that Ms. Morask's history demonstrates that she cannot be impartial as a judge and we change our finding to Not Qualified.

Thirteenth Subcircuit (James T. Ryan vacancy)

Ann Catherine Brady – Not Qualified

Ann Catherine Brady has been a lawyer since 1987. She has handled principally domestic relations cases in private law firms throughout her career. Lawyers report that she has good legal ability and a good temperament. The Council is concerned, however, that her practice is narrow and too often involves non-complicated litigation matters. She has no jury trial experience. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Annie O'Donnell – Not Qualified (Evaluated for the March 2004 Primary Election)

Annie O'Donnell received her license to practice law in 1987. She has been a solo practitioner engaged in criminal defense work since 1995. Before that, she served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Ms. O'Donnell has good legal ability and a good temperament. The Council is concerned about the narrowness of her practice, including lack of sufficient courtroom experience in complex matters. The Council finds her Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Thirteenth Subcircuit (Karen T. Tobin vacancy)

Carol L. Barnes – Not Recommended

Carol L. Barnes did not submit materials for evaluation. She is Not Recommended for the Circuit Court.

Margaret Kulys-Hoffman – Qualified

Margaret Kulys-Hoffman has been a lawyer since 1983. She was appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2006. She currently presides over traffic court and misdemeanor courtrooms in the Rolling Meadows courthouse. The Council, in an earlier evaluation done before she took the bench, found Judge Kulys-Hoffman Not Qualified due to insufficient litigation experience. The Council's current evaluation is based on her performance as a judge. She is considered by lawyers appearing before her to have good legal ability and temperament. She is praised for her courtroom management skills in high volume courtrooms. The Council finds her Qualified for the Circuit Court.

Fifteenth Subcircuit

Anna Helen Demacopoulos – Well Qualified (Evaluated for Associate Judge in 2002)

Anna Helen Demacopoulos was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1985. Ms. Demacopoulos has spent her entire career with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and is currently the Supervisor, Special Grand Jury, in the Narcotics Bureau at 26th and California. Prior to that she was a Deputy Supervisor in Felony Review (3 years), a Deputy Supervisor in the First Municipal Division (5 years), and an Assistant State's Attorney (8 years). From 1987 to the present, she has been an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School teaching all levels of trial advocacy. Since 1997, she has been the Grant Reviewer and Program Consultant on Domestic Violence, Stalking, Hate Crimes and Community Prosecution for the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, Violence Against Women's Office. The investigation of this candidate confirmed her talent as a lawyer, her integrity and her work ethic.

Ms. Demacopoulos identified two cases in which her professional conduct has been commented on by the Appellate Court. A Chicago Tribune investigation also uncovered a 1989 Batson violation that the district judge found to be the product of the candidate's inexperience. Upon review, we regard these matters as insufficiently serious or current to disqualify the candidate. The Council finds Ms. Demacopoulos Well Qualified to serve in the Circuit Court.

Peter A. Fera – Not Qualified

Peter A. Fera has been a lawyer since 1968. Mr. Fera is considered to be a highly experienced attorney in will and estates, trusts, banking regulations and compliance, mortgage law, and real estate work. He is considered to have good legal ability in transactional work. While his litigation work is limited, he has done some insurance defense litigation and eviction work during his career. Mr. Fera is a highly respected transactional lawyer who has demonstrated solid ability. The Council is concerned, however, that judges need to have substantial litigation experience before going on the bench. On balance, the Council finds him Not Qualified for the Circuit Court.

