

Elizabeth Dow
www.elizabethdow.org
Illinois Civil Justice League
Resume and Questionnaire Responses 1/5/08

Thank you for the opportunity to present my qualifications to serve as a Circuit Judge in the 2nd Subcircuit of the 12th Judicial Circuit (Will County). I have set forth below the resume materials that you requested, which include my education, legal career, and personal status.

I received my undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Yale University and earned my law degree *cum laude* from Boston College Law School. I began my legal career as an associate in the business litigation and bankruptcy groups at Lord Bissell & Brook, a major Chicago law firm.

After leaving Lord Bissell, I worked for several years at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh in Joliet, specializing in litigation and municipal law. One of the highlights of my tenure at Spesia Ayers was the opportunity to serve as the principal attorney for the Village of Rockdale. I also spent a significant part of my time in court prosecuting traffic and other ordinance violations for other villages in Will County, including New Lenox, Minooka, and Manhattan.

After my third child was born, I left the law firm to accept a position as a senior attorney at the Will County Legal Assistance Project. During my time at WCLAP, I ran the senior citizens program, providing legal advice and assistance to low income senior citizens. My work at WCLAP seemed to require a lot more negotiating and counseling and a lot less litigating than my prior jobs, which I found to be a new challenge that expanded my skill set as a lawyer.

Currently, I am in private practice in Joliet, concentrating on business litigation and occasional probate matters. In 2006, I was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, which distributes funds to civil legal service programs throughout Illinois.

In nearly fifteen years as a lawyer, I have practiced in a wide range of legal environments, including a large Chicago-based firm, a small Joliet firm, a solo practice, and a not-for-profit legal services agency. In those jobs, I have represented plaintiffs and defendants and I have worn many hats – litigator, counselor, prosecutor, and mediator, to name a few. In addition, for the past several years, I have taught Constitutional Law at the University of St. Francis and Business Law at Joliet Junior College. All of these experiences provide me with the academic and professional credentials to serve the people of Will County as a Circuit Judge.

I have been married for 16 years. My husband, Bob, and I have four children – Michael (10), William (8), Claire (6), and Dulce (4). We are members of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Parish in Joliet, where our children attend school. I serve on the Parish Administration Commission and coordinate the Parish's volunteer activities at the Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet.