



Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Mark M. Boie
Circuit Judge – 1st Circuit

1. State the main reason why voters should return you to the bench.

I have served the community for 18 years in this position. I was elected in 2000 and retained by the voters in 2006 and 2012. I possess the necessary legal knowledge and temperament, along with the fairness and impartiality to hear all the different types of cases that come before me. I have the requisite experience to handle complex cases as well as efficiently work through high volume court dockets. I currently serve on the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning and am Co-Chairman of its Compliance Sub-Committee. I am also a new judge mentor for the First Judicial Circuit and serve as a faculty member for the Judicial Education Conference.

2. What actions have you taken as a judge of which you are most proud?

Making the court accessible to local teachers to bring their classes to learn about the judicial process. This includes elementary, junior high and high school students. I encourage students considering a career in the legal profession to come and observe court proceedings and trials as well as making time to answer any questions they may have. I also work to assist pro se litigants to resolve their issues in an amicable manner without lengthy hearings. This is especially valuable in family cases involving parenting issues given the rising number of unrepresented litigants in these types of cases.

3. Name and describe one change you would make in the Illinois court system.

I am sure there are things about the court system that could be considered for change. However, I would like to see a mentoring program for newly licensed attorneys. I was fortunate to begin my career in my father's law practice and his lessons and mentoring remain invaluable to me to this day. I routinely see young attorneys and it sometimes appears that civility is not something that is being taught in law school.

4. One prominent Illinois judicial evaluation survey asks attorneys to evaluate candidates on Integrity, Impartiality, Legal Ability and Temperament. Critique yourself in these four areas as to how you personally approach your job as a judge?

I am the Presiding Circuit Judge in the small, rural county in which I grew up. I was taught several life lessons by my family, including respect, humility and to treat others as you would be treated. I approach my job in such a way. I have also had the experience of being a litigant in a contested dissolution case. That experience impressed upon me how the average litigant sees the court and the judicial process. Accordingly, I strive to treat every litigant with respect in the courtroom. Can I honestly state that I am the perfect judge. No, I am human and some days there are stressors that affect my life. However, I try my best to not let those things affect my handling of cases. Can I say that I am the foremost legal scholar. Absolutely not. However, in my 18 year career I have handled almost every type of case that can be filed, from simple traffic and small claims cases to murder and medical malpractice trials and everything in between. Based upon this, I believe I possess the necessary legal knowledge and experience to hear and proficiently handle any case that comes before me.