



## ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

### T. Scott Webb Circuit Judge – 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit

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

**Serving as a judge is the highest calling in the legal profession. I have been blessed and honored to serve as circuit judge for the 2nd judicial circuit for the past 5 1/2 years. As circuit court judges, we serve as gate-keepers to the legal system. Our faces are often a litigant's first encounter with the court system. First impressions, for better or worse, set the tone for future encounters. Litigants need to know and trust that the court system is accessible to everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, race, creed, or religion. I feel like I have accomplished that task want the voters to know that they can trust and rely on my fair and impartial service in the future.**

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

**Participating in the legal process can be extremely intimidating, especially with respect to pro se litigants. It is common for them not to understand the legal jargon and agree to things they don't understand. My proudest accomplishments have all occurred when I have helped someone when they needed it the most. These instances come in a variety of different shapes and sizes, from making sure a tenant is not evicted prematurely, to giving a drug addict a chance at redemption so that he/she can seek help with living a normal life.**

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

**The first thing that comes to my mind regards orders of protection. I feel that emergency orders of protection are often times abused. While I am a strong proponent of emergency orders of protection and believe they serve an incredibly important function—protecting abuse victims, in many instances they are also used inappropriately as mere leverage tools. Unfortunately, I do not have an easy solution. Victims need the process to ensure their safety, but a filter mechanism needs to be added to the process to help ensure that only victims receive such orders.**

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?

**All four of the areas listed above in the question are indispensable to a judge in carrying out his/her duties. I take great pride in presenting myself with the utmost integrity, impartiality, and temperament. I believe a judge should maintain impeccable integrity not only within the legal community, but also throughout general community. In addition, we should be absolutely impartial in each and every case we hear. No one should fear that they will not receive impartial treatment from the courts. We should also demonstrate patience and kindness while requiring respect for the courtroom. With respect for legal ability, I believe it is critical to be up-to-date on the latest laws and higher court decisions regarding issues before us. I work diligently to exhibit all these qualities to the best of my ability.**