



ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Dave Hylla
Circuit Judge – 3rd Circuit

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

I ask the voters to return me to the bench because I have kept my oath to treat people fairly and equally under the law regardless of race, creed, gender, age, financial status or political persuasion. I have also worked diligently as Chief Judge and Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges for the State of Illinois to increase access to the court system through improvements in technology and policies that assist self-represented people.

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

I am most proud of always ruling fairly and justly based solely on the law and proven facts. I am also proud of creating a self-help center, with full time staff and JusticeCorps volunteers to allow service to hundreds of self-represented litigants each month. I created the positions of Law Clerk and Judicial Assistant in our court to assist judges with legal research and writing to allow for better and faster decisions.

I am the first Chief Judge from the Third Judicial Circuit elected Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges for the State of Illinois. As Chief Judge, I also instituted National Adoption Day, Second Chance Saturday and the Red Mass in Madison County. The Supreme Court appointed me to be the first Chairman of its e-Business Policy Advisory Board and have served since 2014, working with the Board and Supreme Court to develop policies to implement electronic filing of pleadings and remote access to court records.

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

One thing I would change in the Illinois Court system would be to have Judges run for office without party affiliation, similar to municipal elections. Judges should be removed from partisan politics as much as possible.

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?

As to legal ability, I have worked very hard to make sure I have never ruled on a case before I completely understood the law related to the case. As to temperament, I have always tried my best to keep cool, listen and stay patient when hearing a case and have never let anger or frustration influence a decision I have made. As to integrity and impartiality, I took an oath to treat everyone equally under the law and not be improperly influenced in any decision. I can say that I have always upheld my oath.