

**HONORABLE DENNIS R. RUTH, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ILLINOIS CIVIL JUSTICE LEAGUE RETENTION QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE**

For the sake of brevity and to avoid duplication, questions 1, 2, and 4 are being answered together in one response. Thus question 3 is at the end and out of order.

Response to questions #1, 2, and 4:

In short, the voters should return me to the bench precisely because of the matters of which I am most proud, including my reputation for integrity, impartiality, legal ability, and my temperament.

Asking a judge what actions he or she is proud of seems to imply a results oriented approach. Most if not all judges have cases they can point to where the result for one or even both litigants seems very appropriate and satisfying. However, a judge's primary concern isn't about a satisfying final result for one litigant or another, but whether the law is correctly applied to the facts of any particular case in a judicious and impartial manner.

Thus, I am most proud of my record of fairly and impartially applying the law to the facts in a correct manner. This can be measured both by how often my decisions are appealed and the outcomes of those appeals. In my nearly twelve years on the bench, I have been assigned several thousand major civil cases, yet only a few decisions per year were either appealed or attempted to be appealed with the majority of my decisions being affirmed. I believe that were I not acting impartially or if I were applying incorrect legal analysis, both my appeal rate and reversal rate would be much higher.

As for integrity and temperament, it's hard to empirically prove a judge, or any person, possesses those characteristics. Conversely, it's generally easy to identify judges who do not. What I can say is my professional record, both as a judge and attorney, has been complaint free. My approach on the bench is a simple one: I treat attorneys and litigants the way I wanted to be treated when I was an attorney appearing in court.

I am very proud of my reputation for integrity, impartiality, legal ability and temperament, and believe my actions warrant the citizens of Madison and Bond Counties returning me to the bench.

Response to question #3:

With our courts' successful implementation of remote hearings, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it seems clear that we as a system were no doubt wasting attorneys and litigants' time, money and resources traveling to and waiting around courthouses. I would suggest Illinois' courts begin a serious effort at exploring and setting up permanent remote hearing protocols and infrastructure.