



## 2020 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

### Robert C. (R.C.) Bollinger Circuit Judge – 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit

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

**I am about to conclude my 12th year of judicial service. I have presided over nearly every type of court case in our county. Regardless of the nature or volume of the call, I have and will continue to treat each person involved with the utmost respect, patience and dignity. I always strive to ensure that each party is given an opportunity to be heard and I carefully consider each position on every issue. It is important to me that all persons appearing before me leave the courthouse feeling they have been heard and were treated fairly regardless of the outcome.**

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

**I have found my work with at-risk youth in juvenile court, children in family/marital cases and individuals with serious mental illness to be both personally fulfilling and rewarding. I have always tried to take a creative approach to impact positive change and achieve successful outcomes. When I presided over our juvenile delinquency cases I helped develop a community juvenile justice forum and strived to identify needed community resources to help at-risk youth in our community. I work hard to ensure that decisions are consistently made in the best interest of the children impacted in family and marital cases. I have ensured that our Mental Health Court is in full compliance with the Illinois Supreme Court Problem-Solving Courts Standards as demonstrated by our specialty court certification by the Illinois Supreme Court.**

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

**We have made significant efforts to ensure that procedural fairness and access to justice is incorporated in our court system. More work needs to be done in that regard. I have been appointed the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Education (COJE). Through the work of the COJE, numerous course curriculum has and continues to be developed in these core areas. Ultimately, I will work to develop a comprehensive online library of training videos to aid the work of the Illinois Judiciary.**

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 have been honored to regularly receive very positive ratings in these areas from our local bar during my years of judicial service. It is extremely important to me that all ethical rules are strictly adhered to and that my conduct both on and off the bench is consistent with those rules. As a new judge mentor, I try to develop that mindset with each new judge I have had the opportunity to work with. I want all persons entering my courtroom to leave with a feeling that I have fully considered both sides of each case, correctly applied the law, gave all sides an opportunity to be heard, promptly arrived at a decision without unnecessary delay and treated each participant fairly, and in a dignified and respectful manner.**