



Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

**Rebecca S. Foley
Circuit Judge – 11th Circuit**

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

In over 20 years of practice as a lawyer and service on the bench, I have had experience in every type of case and legal proceeding that is presented to the trial court. As a civil attorney, I tried cases, both jury and bench trials, in multiple counties in the State of Illinois. As an appointed associate judge in McLean County, I heard a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, ranging from traffic and misdemeanor cases to small claims, dissolution of marriage, family, and forcible entry and detainer cases. As an elected resident circuit judge of McLean County, I have presided over matters ranging from felony murder, lawsuits for significant money damages, mental health commitments, guardianships, and mortgage foreclosures. I have presided over mental health court and worked with McLean County Administration and treatment providers in developing additional court programs for persons with mental illness and substance abuse.

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

I helped establish a Small Claims Mediation program for self-represented litigants, which I believe to be the first of its kind in the State of Illinois. Non-attorney, trained mediators assist the parties in reaching a mutual agreement outside of the court process. As mentioned in my response to question 1, I have been very involved in the court and county's efforts to explore and develop and maintain programs for persons with mental illness, including mental health court, assisted outpatient treatment for persons who might otherwise be involuntarily committed to a state psychiatric hospital, and in-house restoration programs for persons who are unfit to stand trial.

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

I would continue to improve efforts to reduce the time to complete cases. Delay in resolving a case is not beneficial to either party, financially or emotionally.

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?

Each of these qualities is extremely important to any judicial position. In my most recent evaluation by the Illinois State Bar Association (2012), I received ratings over 95% in all four categories.