



Illinois Civil Justice League

## ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

**Paul G. Lawrence  
Circuit Judge – 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

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

**I have served the public for the last 33 years as a lawyer, associate judge and now circuit judge. I was appointed associate judge in 2002, appointed as a circuit judge in 2010 and was elected as a circuit judge in 2012. I have presided over nearly every type of case from traffic and small claims to murder and major civil litigation. I have presided over 156 jury trials. I presently serve as the presiding judge of the civil division of McLean County.**

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

**I have presided over the McLean County Foreclosure Mediation Program for McLean County since its inception on March 1, 2012. The program has reduced the burden of expenses sustained by lenders, borrowers and taxpayers and it has aided the administration of justice by reducing the number of foreclosure court cases.**

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

**As the presiding judge of the civil division in McLean County, I preside over cases with attorneys from out-of-state and from all parts of the State of Illinois. I frequently have attorneys appear remotely by telephone for non-evidentiary matters such as status hearings. By doing so, the cost of time spent traveling to court is avoided. I encourage other judges to engage in such practices.**

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 excel in all of these qualities that are essential to being a good judge. In my last judicial advisory bar poll (2012), I received a rating of 96.53% for integrity, 95.14% for impartiality, 93.71% for legal ability and 97.22% for temperament.**

