



## 2020 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

### Eugene P. "Gene" Daugherty Circuit Judge – 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit

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

**I have served exclusively in civil court for 19 years. I have endeavored to treat the litigants in these matters as I would wish to be treated, respectfully, fairly and timely. My experience involving cases ranging from medical malpractice to contested estates, contract disputes, mortgage foreclosures is an invaluable asset to our local bench. I continue to share that experience through local outreach (Rotary Talks, classroom talks to high school classes and IVCC our community college). I also share my experience with my colleagues through service on the ISC complex litigation committee, acting as a panelist at NBI seminars and working on benchbooks for judges such as Mortgage Foreclosure and Complex Litigation.**

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

**I am most proud of establishing in our county a mortgage mediation program. Initially, it was created as a response to the 2008 Mortgage Crisis. It has continued to the present because we remain in a national economic situation that impacts individual homeowners. The program requires the bank and debtor to meet and explore alternative means of work outs or repayment plans before resorting to foreclosure remedies. Over the years the program has succeeded in about 20% of the filings resulting in people keeping their homes.**

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

**The one change I would like to see in the court system is a more rapid response to cultural and societal changes that impact the legal system. I believe the court system reacted swiftly with shut downs and the use of remote technology to keep the process flowing during the pandemic. This timely direction from the Supreme Court would be useful in areas of "cultural topics".**

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 received favorable ratings in all categories from my evaluators. I try to approach these criteria with humility. I don't know everything**

**and try and remember that on the bench to keep an open mind to new arguments. I try to be mindful of implicit bias and consciously not let it determine my decision making. I realize that the parties and lawyers are adamant about their positions and I try to remain calm and avoid fueling the flames when explaining my rulings. Fortunately, I have never had to hold a litigant or lawyer in contempt for an outburst. I hope that reflects on the manner I run my court room. In short, I realize its not a perfect system and I am like others a work in progress.**