

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Hon. Mark A. Vandewiele
Circuit Court Judge
14th Circuit

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

I am completing my 18th year as a judge and continue to perform at a high level. In addition to my regular trial court duties, I strive to improve the legal system through my work on committees and workgroups of the Illinois Judges Association and the Illinois Supreme Court.

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

Earning peer respect. I am one of 28 judges who serve on the Committee on Judicial Education. As part of that work I chair a workgroup of judges tasked with developing curriculum for the new Illinois Judicial College with a goal to positively shape and improve judges' knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes.

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

Improve funding/staffing for the Office of Public Defender. This Office plays a vital role in the administration of justice and has historically been underfunded.

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?

In both 2006 and 2012 attorneys that appear in my courtroom gave me very high marks in all four categories in the referenced judicial evaluation survey. Since 2011 my superiors have assigned me to mentor and help train other judges. These are good indicators I display the desired integrity, impartiality, legal ability, and temperament to remain a judge in this state.