

Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Retention Judge

Judicial Position

Circuit Judge Donald C. Hudson

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

The main reasons for my retention are my years of judicial experience, my established record of performance in office, and my demonstrated commitment to faithfully performing my judicial obligations and responsibilities. I have served as an Associate Judge, Circuit Judge, Chief Judge, and I am now serving as the Presiding Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, Second District (on assignment). I have also served as the Chair of the Judicial Inquiry Board, Appellate Court Administrative Committee, and as the Chair of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Evidence, which resulted in the first set of codified Rules of Evidence in Illinois.

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

As Chief Judge of the Sixteenth Circuit, I established the County's first Mental Health Court. I was also instrumental in establishing a new internet program to assist the victims of domestic violence in Kane County. Kane County was the first County in the State of Illinois to develop and implement this program. The program is an internet based electronic program by which victims of domestic violence can begin the process of obtaining an order of protection at a local domestic violence shelter by the use of an internet program (Wizard). I also was instrumental in establishing a self-help legal center in Kane County to assist and educate the public on how to use available legal resources.

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

Currently, Illinois is in the process of applying the principles of evidence-based practices in the operation of the criminal justice system in certain selected pilot areas. Evidence-based practices are principles that have been empirically proven to reduce recidivism by determining a defendant's individual risk factors (drivers of criminal behavior) and then targeting those risk factors for intervention and treatment. These principles are analogous to the operation of drug courts and

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mental health courts. I believe these principles should be applied in all appropriate criminal cases with the goal of reducing recidivism, which would also enhance public safety and save taxpayers money.

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?

These qualities are absolutely essential in carrying out one's judicial responsibilities. I have always remained conscious of and committed to exemplifying these qualities in carrying out my judicial responsibilities. I have always received the highest rating given by the Kane County Bar Association (Highly Qualified) on every occasion I have been evaluated since becoming a judge. In addition, on the Illinois State Bar Association Judicial Advisory Poll, I have always received a rating of over 90% approval in all of these categories since becoming a judge. In addition to following the law and always applying the law fairly and equally, I believe a judge should always strive to do what is right and fair under all of the circumstances. I believe it is also important for a judge to always have respect for the people who appear in his or her courtroom and for the judge's special position of public trust.