



ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Margaret Stanton McBride Appellate Justice – First District

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

The main reason why I believe voters should retain me for the Illinois Appellate Court is because I possess the qualities required for this judicial position. Those qualities include legal knowledge and ability, impartiality, independence, integrity, good temperament, sensitivity to diversity and bias, diligence, punctuality, and good physical and mental health.

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

My service as a judge began in 1987. I consider the position of judge to be one of service, service to each individual litigant appearing before me and service to the public at large. Rather than pinpoint specific actions of which I am most proud, I am honored to have served in numerous divisions and levels of the judiciary. In addition to my judicial duties, I have also served on numerous court committees over the years, and have spent several of those years volunteering my time teaching lawyers and judges in various areas of the law. I have always striven to do the best possible job I can in the administration of justice and will continue to do so each day I am privileged to serve.

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

If I were in a position to implement a change in the Illinois court system I would require judges to rotate assignments every couple of years.

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?

As pointed out above, I have served as a judge for 31 years and believe that I possess the qualities of integrity, impartiality, legal ability and temperament. I was appointed an associate judge in 1987 and elected a Circuit judge in 1990. I was elected to the Appellate Court in 1998 where I have now served for almost 20 years. I was retained as circuit judge in 1996 and as an appellate judge in 2008.

While an associate and circuit judge, I served in the First Municipal District, the Criminal, Law and Chancery Divisions of the Circuit Court of Cook County. I also served as the Presiding Judge of the 3rd Municipal District overseeing the day to day operations of the suburban courthouse located in Rolling Meadows. As an Appellate Court judge I have authored over 2,000 decisions by way of summary order, unpublished Rule 23 decisions, and published Opinions.

I have always approached my judicial position as one of service to the Rule of Law. Fairness and the ability to hear both sides is one of the most important hallmarks of justice. I believe I approach the position of judge as one who is fair to both sides. My abilities have been tested and critiqued many times by the numerous Bar Associations which evaluate candidates for election and retention. Those ratings which have always been favorable, reflect positively on how I approach the position of judge as one of service and honor and as one who is dedicated to the fair, impartial, independent, and honest administration of justice.