



Illinois Civil Justice League

2020 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

**Thomas M. Welch
Appellate Justice – 5th District**

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

I have been doing this job for over 39 years and believe I have something to add, stability. One of the main things a judge should remember is that he is not the governor, legislature, or the supreme court. It is our job to interpret what the legislature says or what the supreme court has told us how to interpret what the legislature has said, or if it is new law, then determine how it should be applied. I understand the position of appellate judge, and having taken part in over 4000 cases, should be retained.

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

I am proud just to be a judge. One must remember that the most important thing to each party is their case and that should not be forgotten.

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

I would only make changes that are needed as difficulties arise. We have a good system and it should be maintained.

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?

The Illinois State Bar Association survey has given me high marks. My approach is to retain their perspective.