



## ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

### Larry G. Axelrod Cook County Circuit Judge

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

**Voters should retain me because I have been an effective judge since June 1, 2005 with a consistent record of being held in high regard by all of the bar associations that have evaluated me. My experience and training prepared me for the judiciary. I have been in the Law Division since July of 2014 after being duly assigned to the Criminal Division and 2nd District for a number of years. Above and beyond my assignments, I presided over two specialty courts, Veterans and mental health court. I should be retained because I'm a hard-working, experienced judge with a proven record of managing a call effectively and presiding over jury trials, motions and hearings successfully.**

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

**I am most proud of starting and presiding over two specialty court calls: Veterans and Mental Health court. Each of these court calls provided treatment alternatives to incarceration for specific defendants. It was very rewarding to watch people improve their circumstances through hard work and the resources provided.**

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

**I would love to see expungements streamlined and a way to redact news stories on media websites where arrests were reported and the person is ultimately acquitted. The prosecutor's office should not be able to object to expungements of acquittals and dismissals after a finding of no probable cause.**

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?

**All of the bar associations have consistently given me the highest reviews for integrity, impartiality, legal ability and temperament. On a practical level, lawyers seek me out to preside over complex trials that allow the parties to narrow their possible judges to an agreed list of 5. Also, I consistently am one of the busiest pre-trial judges.**