

September 28, 2018

Illinois Civil Justice League
110 Schiller Street, Suite 207
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Via e-mail to: questionnaire@icjl.org.

Re: ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Dear Mr. Pastuovic:

I submit the following responses to the Retention Questionnaire.

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

I believe that through my performance on the bench I have demonstrated strong management and analytical skills, a solid work ethic, and a reputation for being prepared, efficient and fair. Furthermore I believe that I have demonstrated the temperament and patience, particularly with self-represented litigants ("SRL's"), necessary to perform the vital duties of a judge. It has been both a privilege and an honor to serve as a judge and I believe that my performance warrants retention.

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

I am most proud of my interaction with attorneys and litigants but particularly with SRL's. Contact with the court system for most citizens is often limited to a single case. Recognizing that reality I have striven to help litigants understand the process and the reasons behind the process. I believe this fosters greater confidence that the judicial system is fair and efficient. I have found that taking a little extra time to explain the process to SRL's can diffuse stressful situations and can often make the process more effective in the long run.

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

SRL's are often required to continuously return to court because they are unable to navigate the process. While I am encouraged by the availability of pro bono services, more assistance is needed. Additional funding for low and no cost legal services would ensure a more effective process by providing guidance for the individuals most in need of it. I have observed that SRL's are frequently unaware of the availability of resources. An improved method for making those resources more readily available would ultimately make the process more efficient.

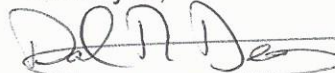
4. One prominent Illinois judicial evaluation survey asks attorneys to evaluate candidates on Integrity, Impartiality, Legal Ability and Temperament. Critique yourself in these four areas as to how you personally approach your job as a judge.

In order to effectively perform his or her duties a judge must first treat everyone, including courtroom personnel, with respect. Part of that respectfulness includes being punctual, being prepared, patiently listening to all litigants and clearly explaining your rulings. All parties, and particularly SRL's, must know that they are being heard and that they have had ample

opportunity to address all of their concerns. By consistently utilizing this approach I believe that I demonstrate the integrity, impartiality, legal ability and temperament required to perform my duties.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Degnan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel R. Degnan
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