



ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Elizabeth Mary Hayes Cook County Circuit Judge

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

I have been thoroughly vetted by the Alliance of Bar Associations and Chicago Bar Association. I have been recommended for retention by all. In addition, my career has focused on a commitment to justice. In my early career as a staff attorney for the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, I advocated for the legal rights of the mentally ill and disabled. As a hearing officer for the Illinois State Board of Education and with the Circuit Court of Cook County, and now as a judge, I have ensured that all parties received an opportunity to be heard, a fair hearing, and a timely well-reasoned decision.

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

The court system exists to serve those who come to it voluntarily, as well as those who are involuntarily summoned. I take personal responsibility for setting a tone of courtesy, efficiency and helpfulness toward all who come to court. I am currently assigned to the Domestic Violence Division in addition to the Fifth Municipal District. I was honored to be assigned. I hear criminal domestic violence cases as well as all orders of protection. Many of the litigants seeking and responding to orders of protection are pro-se. I am most proud of my ability to ensure that self-represented litigants are given a fair hearing.

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

I do not take a position on change to the Illinois court system.

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?

I have demonstrated the judicial temperament and integrity required to be an excellent judge. I have over twenty-five years of litigation experience prior to becoming a judge. As a hearing officer, arbitrator and now as a judge, I have heard and evaluated evidence, as well as made rulings on objections to the evidence presented. The decisions I have made have been sound decisions based on the facts presented

and the applicable law. Additionally, as I stated in Question 1 above, I have been thoroughly vetted in these specific areas by the bar associations and I have been found recommended for retention by all. Therefore, I believe I have the integrity, impartiality, legal ability, and temperament necessary for the position.