



ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Edward M. Maloney Cook County Circuit Judge

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

Rather than one main reason why voters should return me to the bench, I can think of a few that are important. Before becoming a Judge, I practiced law for 33 years handling cases in every division in Cook County and some in DuPage. The last fifteen years, I did mostly criminal cases but I was also a union lawyer. Wearing many hats as a lawyer gives you the chance to interact with a broad section of society. This is important to me now because I see such a divergent group of defendants. I remind myself that each case is different from the last one and each defendant deserves my upmost attention.

Another reason to return me to the bench is I try and be respectful to all parties which includes starting on time every day. Lawyers and people appearing in court have other places to be so Judges must start on time. I always disliked it when a judge would stroll out 30 minutes late. Also, another reason is whenever possible, I amend bonds so defendants can continue working or going to school while the case is pending. I believe this shows I care about the individuals appearing before me.

I really enjoy my job. Everyday is different and I feel that I can actually help make a difference in someone's life or their attitude about the Court system.

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

There is not one action that stands out because many times I don't know what happens with a case once it leaves my courtroom. I have been a Judge now for five and one/half years. I started out in the Daley Center hearing traffic but for the last four years I have been assigned to BR 44 at Harrison/Kedzie on Chicago's west side handling felony preliminary hearings. There are some days I may have 50-60 cases on my call. But as I stated above, each is separate from the other and involves a different human being. So, I carefully review motions to reduce or amend bonds so people can continue to work or attend school.

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

The Court system is controlled by the Legislature, The Supreme Court Rules and General orders sent by the Presiding Judge of each District.

Individual judges are not empowered to make major policy changes. However, I do believe the changes to the setting of bail is an important one.

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?

Many times we see in ourselves qualities that others don't see which is because we have convinced ourselves they are there when they are not. However, without trying to get too introspective, I will do my best to take an honest look at myself. The Supreme Court Rules on these are guidelines to follow.

Integrity - Supreme Court Rule 63 A(1) requires Judges to be unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism. A Judge's integrity is just as or more important than your integrity as a lawyer. A judge has to be mindful that he/she will be held to a higher standard of conduct than others.

I remind myself of that every day and try to act accordingly.

Impartiality - Supreme Court Rule 63 A(9) requires a Judge to be patient, dignified and courteous to all those who the Judge deals with in his official capacity and perform his duties without bias or prejudice and shall not use words or conduct that would suggest otherwise. This is very clear on how to treat people.

Every defendant and attorney deserves a fair and impartial decision based on the facts of their case and not outside factors. Again, this is something I remind myself of daily.

Legal Ability - Supreme Court Rule 62 A requires Judges to respect and comply with the law, be faithful to it and maintain a professional competence to it.

When I got my current assignment of a felony preliminary hearing call, I went to the library and found a treatise on conducting these hearings. I copied it and refer to it often. I also receive the ISBA daily case notes on recent Appellate and Supreme Court decisions. Many of these contain case citations that are helpful to me.

Temperament - I have been described by several bar associations as being "slow to anger" of which I am proud. I also keep on my desk a copy of a Chinese Epigram

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow". I read that every day as I start my call.