



Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

**Diann K. Marsalek
Cook County Circuit Judge**

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

I had 21 years of jury trial experience before I became a Judge. I was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2011 and elected Country Wide as a Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2012. I am the Supervising Judge in Traffic Court for the First Municipal District in the Daley Center. I am the Co-Chair of the Language Access Sub-Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court to ensure access to the courts for individuals in which English is not the first language. I have been evaluated by the Alliance of Bar Associations and the Chicago Bar Association. The Chicago Bar Association wrote that I effectively manage a high volume call, is well regarded for her knowledge of the law and has a fine demeanor. The Chicago Council of Lawyers wrote that I am considered to have good courtroom management skills and is fair and respectful to all parties. I am knowledgeable about the area of law and is reported to be well prepared. I have been recommended for yes to be retained by many other Bar Associations including the Illinois State Bar, Women's Bar and the Hispanic Bar Association. I give individuals their day in court, listen to what they said and treat everyone fairly with respect and dignity. It is vital to have qualified and experienced Judges on the bench.

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

I treat everyone in my courtroom with dignity and respect. I ensure that non speaking litigants understand what is being said after the translator has relayed the proceedings and ask if they have any questions. I use my discretion as a Judge when available. I also train many of the new Judges as Traffic Court is their first assignment. I encourage them to be fair, listen to the parties, treat individuals with respect, be punctual and follow the law.

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

I have worked with and trained lawyers with the CBA pro bono program to assist indigent defendants in cases to restore their driving privileges. I attend many of the ethnic bar association's events to encourage individuals to consider becoming a Judge to bring diversity to the bench. I am a Co-Chair of the Language Access Sub-Committee for the Language Access Committee created by the Illinois Supreme Court. I try to address and work on access and understanding of the court system for non lawyers.

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 distribute the Cannons of Judicial Conduct to all my new Judges. I follow the cannons everyday and try to be the best Judge possible. I treat everyone fairly and am impartial to both sides. I read new cases and stay current with the new law which I also share with my Judges. I try to greet everyone that appears in front of me and always maintain good temperament. I am patient with pro-se individuals and listen to what they have to say. I always try to calm individuals when they are upset or frustrated with the court system. The numerous Bar Associations have recommended yes to retain me as a Judge based upon my integrity, knowledge of the law, legal ability and temperament as referenced to their findings in Response #1.

The 2018 Retention website is www.cookcountyjudges.org