



## ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

### Cynthia Ramirez Cook County Circuit Judge

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

**I believe I am qualified to continue serving as a Circuit Court Judge because I have the breadth of experience and qualifications necessary to be retained as a Circuit Court Judge. During my six years as a Circuit Court Judge in Cook County I have presided over both civil and criminal matters in First Municipal Division, Traffic Section and various Misdemeanor and Preliminary hearing courts throughout Cook County, the Domestic Violence Division, Civil Orders of Protection, and the Juvenile Justice Division. Specifically, I have presided over numerous civil and criminal bench trials, various complex civil motions, three murder trials and four jury trials. Additionally, I have been evaluated by various Bar Associations, including the Chicago Bar Association, The Chicago Council of Lawyers and the Illinois State Bar Association, and have been found qualified by all.**

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

**I am most proud of the educational awards program that I began and personally fund for minors that are on probation in my courtroom. Every year, at the end of the school year I award Target gift cards and certificates of accomplishment to the probationers with the best grades and school attendance. I also have a pizza party for them and award them their certificates and gift cards. I meet with them and give them an opportunity to get to know me and my background.**

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

**I would change the filing fees currently required to initiate court actions to be based on income and financial ability so that all litigants have equal access to the 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?

**As a public servant, I have always strived to serve the citizens of Cook County with integrity and impartiality to the best of my legal abilities. I do so understanding that every litigant deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. As previously mentioned, I have been evaluated by various Bar Associations specifically on the issues of Integrity, Impartiality, Legal Ability and Temperament; after a full investigation and numerous interviews, including by the Chicago Bar Association, The Chicago Council of Lawyers, the Illinois State Bar Association, and various other local Bar Associations I have been found recommended for retention by all.**