



Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

**Erica L. Reddick
Cook County Circuit Judge**

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

For the past seven and a half years, I have consistently demonstrated that I am fair, ethical, and knowledgeable in the law. I also fully understand that I am accountable to the people of Cook County and my oath to uphold our laws and Constitutions. I ensure that everyone who comes before me has a full and fair opportunity to present his or her case while treating all with respect and dignity without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, education, or income. I remain passionate about justice. I also work to improve our judiciary by training new judges, serving on judicial committees, and remaining engaged with the community.

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

My daily service is a source of pride because I recognize the trust the voters have placed in me and the tremendous responsibility that comes with it. I serve in the criminal division hearing felony cases. Daily I see the ravages of drug and alcohol addiction. A specific area of pride for me has been working to change the lives of people who appear before me for non-violent felony offenses by focusing on therapeutic intervention versus punishment. Working with other criminal justice partners, we have been able to help restore many people to "useful citizenship". This change directly impacts the lives of families who often depend on those fighting addiction.

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

I would focus on ensuring that self-represented litigants have a clear understanding of each division of our unified court system by creating online videos with downloadable standard forms explaining in detail and using simple language, the functions of each division, the way the functions occur, and the roles of the court personnel. This information would be accessible online as well as by an onsite kiosk located in each division. The videos would also include information about how to obtain legal services, including any specific legal services for the indigent. The information would be available in different languages.

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?

These are the four qualities I am guided by every day I serve. To serve with integrity I ensure that I know the Judicial Code of Ethics. When I am unsure about a decision or action that could negatively impact my service, I consult the rules and scholarly writings and seek the advice of other experienced, ethical judges. Legal Ability is critical to justice. I continue to study the law and keep abreast of changes in the law. I explain my rulings in detail so that people appearing before me understand my decisions and the reasons for them. Maintaining impartiality is critical to public confidence in the judiciary. I am proud of my reputation for impartiality. Finally, maintaining an appropriate judicial temperament is critical to the people we serve having confidence that they can appear and be heard while being treated with dignity and respect. I maintain each of these qualities to the best of my abilities, and will continue to do so as long as I serve.