



Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Beatriz Santiago Cook County Circuit Judge

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

A judge should be qualified, experienced, and knowledgeable with a good judicial temperament. I am pleased to state that the CBA and Alliance of Bar Associations have found me qualified or recommended thus far. I think it is important to treat everyone that walks into my courtroom with dignity and respect and walk out feeling that they have been treated fairly.

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

I am proud of the fact that in my courthouse, I am unanimously considered favorably by attorneys, litigants and court staff. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve the public in this role and it brings me great satisfaction to know that I am doing an adequate job.

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

It is important that Illinois courts reflect the diversity of the community that they serve and the legal profession. Bringing diverse experiences and perspectives to bear allows judges to make better informed decisions and increases public confidence in their rulings.

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 judge, I strive to consistently be patient, open-minded, courteous, tactful, understanding, and compassionate to everyone. I am very conscious of how a judicial decision will affect the people appearing before me. I try to communicate with counsel, jurors, witnesses and parties calmly and courteously, as well as be willing to listen to and consider what is said on all sides. I am not being influenced by the identity, race, gender, political status, wealth or relationship of the party or lawyer that appears me. I make factual findings based only on the evidence presented by the parties, and take the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt seriously. Lastly, I attend legal education programs to stay current in the law.

