

Illinois Civil Justice League

ICJL 2018 Judicial Retention Questionnaire

Retention Judge
Judicial Position

Judge Regina A. Scannicchio

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

Since my appointment in 2011 and election in 2012 I have strived daily to carry out my work in an independent, fair and impartial manner. I continue to stay abreast of all statutory and legal changes in the area in which I am assigned – the Domestic Relations Division. I work to provide thoughtful and legally based decisions for individuals who are experiencing a very difficult time in their lives; including issue related to their minor children and finances. My recent Bar Association ratings for the 2018 Retention Election have all been favorable; the CBA stating “Judge Scannicchio is well regarded for her knowledge of the law, judicial ability, diligence and punctuality.” The Chicago Council of Lawyers stated “Judge Scannicchio is considered to have good legal ability. She is praised for her temperament and for always being well prepared. She is considered a solid jurist who does a good job of controlling her courtroom, and issuing accurate and timely decisions. “

I wish to continue my work as a Judge, bringing the highest level of legal skill, integrity, temperament and fairness to the bench.

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

My current assignment in the Domestic Relations Division is as an individual calendar judge taking cases from the initial filing, pretrial, trial and post-trial proceedings. When I was assigned to the calendar case were severely back logged and I have worked over the past few years to move the calendar forward, bring cases to resolution through pretrial conferences, settlement and expedited trials. I believe that families are most negatively affected by the delay in proceedings.

I was appointed to a committee which wrote and revised the handbook provided to all litigants with child related issues for the Cook County mandatory parent education program entitled FOCUS on Children. I implemented with the confirmation of my Presiding Judge a pilot program for children’s education in areas of parenting (visitation) and custody entitle Children and Teens Speak required for all children experiencing the parentage or divorce process.

3. Name and describe one change you would make in the Illinois Court System.

Our Court and Clerk system is currently undergoing changes with the implementation of E-filing. I would like to see this system accessible to all litigants. I have many self-represented litigants in my courtroom and they are having a very difficult time navigating this new process. I would like to see technological changes that assist litigants and ease of access to all documents to the judges.

4. One prominent Illinois judicial evaluation survey asks attorneys to evaluate candidates on Integrity, Legal Ability and Temperament. Critique yourself in these four areas as how you personally approach your job as a judge.

Integrity – This is a characteristic that is essential in every area of my work and life. Both personally and professional I strive for the most ethical positions and reasoning in my life and work decision. To be fair and impartial in my decision I must be balanced, honest and professional in all that I do.

Legal Ability - The area of law in which I currently preside has gone through many statutory changes in the past few years. It is necessary to continue my legal education regarding the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act and Illinois Code of Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence. I not only engage in ongoing CLE for the judiciary but have accepted the faculty positions and presented topics for judicial education and CLE programs.

Temperament – On a daily basis I am faced with litigants either represented by counsel or pro se, all of whom are experiencing a difficult time in their lives regarding their spouse, partner, children or, financial resources. I try to keep in mind that each person is unique and this may be their only experience with our judicial system. My temperament sets the tone for my courtroom. My respect for the process, the litigators and litigants carries through to them. It is vital that I remain impartial, calm and compassionate and well-reasoned in opinions and demeanor in my work.