

Don R. Sampen
Candidate for First District Appellate Court (O'Brien Vacancy)
ICJL 2012 Submission, Narrative Resume

I am a candidate for the First District Appellate Court because I want to contribute to an improvement in the quality of, and the perception of fairness in, the Cook County judicial system. The following is a narrative summary of my background.

Personal: My wife and I have been married since 2001 and currently live in Lincolnwood. I was born in 1950.

Employment: I currently am a partner in the Chicago-based law firm of Clausen Miller, P.C., and my practice focuses on appellate advocacy and insurance-related matters. My professional career in general has focused on commercial litigation, and I have been a partner in both large and small Chicago law firms. I also spent seven years with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, where I was Chief of the Public Interest Division and Chief of the Special Litigation Bureau. In addition, upon graduation from law school, I spent a year as law clerk to Judge Philip W. Tone on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Education: I was a top student at Northwestern Law School in Chicago, where I served as an editor of the Law Review and graduated magna cum laude in 1975. I attended undergraduate school at Northwestern University in Evanston, where I majored in economics and political science and graduated with distinction. I grew up in El Paso, Illinois, and attended the El Paso High School where I was class valedictorian.

Teaching: I have taught or participated in the teaching of many law school courses. For the past nine years have I taught insurance law at Loyola School of Law in Chicago. Prior to then, I taught pretrial litigation at Northwestern; advanced trial practice at Loyola; a course on remedies at Loyola and Chicago-Kent College of Law; and trademarks at Chicago-Kent.

Writing and Seminars: I have written and published many articles and book chapters. They are too numerous to name here and are listed in a separate attachment. They include a column I publish twice monthly on insurance law in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. I also have spoken as part of, and moderated, many seminars over the years.

Bar Activities: I am a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Appellate Lawyers Association. I have been active in bar association activities, having twice chaired the CBA Federal Civil Procedure Committee and the ISBA Antitrust Law Section Council, and I served as editor of several bar association newsletters.

Pro Bono Work: My pro bono work currently consists of my teaching activity and, in the past, serving as a pro bono advocate on behalf of indigent prisoners.

Honors/Distinctions: I have been designated a "super lawyer" by the publishers of Chicago Magazine. I have held an "AV" rating (highest) from Martindale Hubbel for the past 25 years.