



Illinois Civil Justice League

Candidate: Douglas L. Jarman

Circuit Judge, Fourth Circuit, Coady Vacancy

1. State the qualifications and experiences that make you qualified to serve on the bench in Illinois.

Prior to being appointed to the bench in October of 2009, I practiced law for 24 years. My practice was general practice handling all the types of cases that come before the court in the Fourth Circuit. I handled various cases, both civil and criminal, for both plaintiffs and defendants. A substantial part of my practice was as municipal attorney for the City of Hillsboro for over 15 years and various other municipalities and Townships.

A Judge in the Fourth Circuit should also be involved in the community so that the common sense so acquired can be applied to the cases coming before the court. I have been privileged to have served my community for 25 years in various capacities such as chairman of the Montgomery County Red Cross, serving on the board of the Hillsboro Area Hospital, the last 2 years as chairman, member of the Montgomery County Multidisciplinary Committee, a committee of the Health Department established for the protection of the elderly, and as a coach of youth sports when our children were younger. Prior to college and law school, I spent 3½ years in the US Army, also gaining life experience which is useful to a Judge.

2. 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 they make you qualified to serve on the bench.

The factors mentioned are important qualities in a Judge. I am proud that they are also qualities which I have always stressed in my professional and personal life. That has been reflected in the high ratings in those categories which I received from my colleagues and peers.

3. Describe the case in which you are most proud of your work as a lawyer.

I handled a case in which, for a long time client, I was able to combine a creative legal theory with a lot of research and work in the courtroom to obtain a result which saved my client substantial tax and other expenses. Two subsequent generations of the family have benefited from the outcome of the case and have become good friends and clients.

4. Name one change you would make in the Illinois court system.

I support the use of technology which can make the court system more efficient and accessible to the public.

5. Are there civil litigation reforms that you would like to see enacted to remedy particular problems that you have detected, either as a practicing lawyer or as a sitting judge? Are there reforms that would benefit the civil justice system? What needs to be changed? Should the enactment of any such changes be the province of the legislature, the Supreme Court or by Constitutional amendment?

See the answer to number 4.

6. Do you believe that our judicial system adequately deters and penalizes frivolous litigation? If not, what reforms would you like to see?

The current rules regarding sanctions provide safeguards against frivolous litigation. It is the responsibility of the trial Judge to make sure those safeguards are adequate.

7. Do you believe the Illinois Constitution precludes legislative establishment of limitations on civil damages? Are there or should there be distinctions among economic, non-economic and punitive damages?

The Code of Judicial Conduct prevents me from expressing an opinion on a matter that may come before me. I am committed to maintaining my impartiality on any such matters.