



ICJL 2012 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Tim Londrigan 7th Circuit Court Judge – Appleton Vacancy

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

Unlike my opponent, I am not a career politician, but rather a practicing attorney with almost 30 years experience handling a very wide variety of cases. In addition to being a prosecuting attorney for almost 30 years, I have appeared in court on almost every conceivable type of case that a trial judge might be asked to handle. I have litigated cases in family law, probate, breach of contract, negligence, small claims, adoption, employment, bankruptcy, and many other areas, in addition to my experience in criminal law. I have written over 400 Appellate Court briefs, argued before the Supreme and Appellate Courts on a regular basis, and practiced in courts throughout the State of Illinois. My experience in the courtroom handling complex litigation has prepared me to be an effective and fair trial court 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.

To be effective, trial court judges must have a reputation for honesty. They cannot be seen as favoring one side over the other or having a bias or prejudice in favor of or against a party. They must have the legal experience and knowledge necessary to not only understand the law, but the goal which the law is attempting to accomplish and how the rules of law can be used by opposing parties to gain advantage over one another. Finally, a judge must be respectful of all parties who appear before him and patient with those unfamiliar with the law, while being firm and fair in his decisions. I feel I possess those qualities necessary to be a good judge.

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

My proudest moments as a lawyer have been helping the many, many clients who have placed their faith and trust in me obtaining justice on their behalf. I have had the distinct pleasure of representing so many good people who were forced to turn to the judicial system to address the wrongs that were committed against them. Helping these individuals find some sense of justice and a fair day in court has

been the most rewarding portion of my professional career and why I seek to expand that opportunity as a trial judge.

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

The Illinois Supreme Court prohibits judicial candidates from giving opinions on any subject which may come before them as a judge. As a consequence, I do not feel I can fully address this question. However, I can express my opinion that judges are not elected to create rules or laws, but rather to enforce and follow them. One idea being discussed by the Supreme Court with which I agree is opening the courts by allowing the use of cameras and microphones therein, with the hope and expectation that the general public will become better educated as to how the judicial system operates.

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?

I have been advised by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission that judicial candidates should refrain from offering opinions as to civil litigation reforms. However, as your question suggests, Circuit Court Judges do not make rules, laws or create policy.

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

Illinois State law empowers a judge with the ability to dismiss frivolous lawsuits and to penalize those who file them by requiring them to pay the expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by the opposing party in defense of these frivolous suits. Frivolous lawsuits serve only to burden the judicial process. As a judge, I would not hesitate to enforce the law punishing those guilty of filing frivolous suits.

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?

I have been advised by the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission that judicial candidates should refrain from offering opinions as to civil litigation reforms. However, Illinois law empowers Circuit Judges with the authority to issue remitters, lowering a jury's verdict of damages in instances where their verdict appears unduly swayed by emotion or otherwise not supported by the evidence. I would not hesitate to make use of this authority where I thought the circumstances required it.