



Candidate: Raymond Rossi

12th Circuit, Fifth Subcircuit, Additional Judgeship B

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

See Narrative Resume, supra.

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.

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I earned the highest ratings from peer attorneys for legal ability and ethics from an international non-partisan attorney rating service that establishes its ratings on the confidential opinions of members of the Bar and the Judiciary. Achieving the highest ratings shows that a lawyer has reached the height of professional excellence, has usually practiced law for many years and is recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity. I have been in court nearly every business day for some 29 years and been President and chief shareholder of my firm since its inception. I've always been a litigator, practicing all types of lawsuits with more than a fair share being complex. I've written legal articles and many federal and state appellate court briefs. As a mayor for 12 years, I interacted on a daily basis with people needing help, special interest groups, and many others from outside the municipality. During such interactions, I acquired a reputation for having integrity, impartiality and a sound temperament.

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

I won a two month trial against the U.S. Department of Interior who had attempted to wrongfully acquire the real estate interests of residents of a large island. Many of these residents were not well-to-do and the decision helped enhance their lives.

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

While a sitting judge I would like to work weekday nights and weekends as an arbitrator and mediator with the nominal fee for such service made to the county. The sole purpose of the task would be to bring a simple and economical solution to many of the problems facing small businesses, marriages, partnerships and the myriad conflicts that affect everyday life. Unfortunately, a Supreme Court Rule states that a sitting judge is prohibited from such practice.

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 Answer to #3, which under the present Illinois Constitution is within the province of the Illinois Supreme Court.

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

Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Illinois rules require that an attorney perform due diligence concerning the factual basis for any claim or defense. Because a frivolous defense or claim wastes the court's and the other parties' time, resources and legal fees, sanctions should be imposed by a court upon the party or the lawyer who presents the frivolous defense or claim.

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 Illinois Supreme Court appears set to rule on the constitutionality of the state's medical malpractice reform law which limits non-economic damages to \$500,000 for doctors and \$1 million for hospitals. This decision will impact and adjudicate the question posed.