



Illinois Civil Justice League

**Candidate: Abbney Fishman Romanek**

**Cook County Circuit Court, Ninth Subcircuit, Otaka Vacancy**

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

**My 22-year legal career has given me a broad base of legal knowledge in both Criminal and Civil Law as both defense attorney and prosecutor. I have worked in the public sector and the private sector. I have worked for large firms, small firms and as a solo practitioner. The depth and breadth of my experience allows me to see and understand the issues in a wide range of cases and gives me a unique understanding of the challenges facing both litigants and attorneys. I have a professional temperament and will run a courtroom in an efficient manner treating all persons fairly and equally, with dignity and respect. All of my qualifications and experiences are included in the attached resume.**

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.

**In the opinion of *Nelson v. Christ* 1-03-2509, Presiding Justice McNulty wrote:**

**“Finally, we wish to comment on the exemplary conduct of the parties, their attorneys, the trial court and the jury throughout the proceedings. The pretrial hearings and the trial here show that persons involved in litigation can conduct themselves civilly and with integrity”.**

**Based upon this opinion and the information provided in my answer to question number, I believe I have the integrity, impartiality, legal ability and temperament necessary for a cook county jurist.**

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

**The case I am most proud of is the case named above, *Nelson v. Christ*. One, because of the rare comment made by Justice McNulty regarding my conduct as the attorney for one of the defendants, and, two, because it was an exceptionally long trial with extraordinarily complex issues which I was able to grasp and comprehensively explain to the jury which ultimately found in favor of my client.**

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

**One of my goals as a Cook County Judge is to work to make the system work more efficiently and effectively.**

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?

**Delay and inefficiency are the biggest issues that need reform within the system. Any changes made must be done in partnership with Judges, the Sheriff, the County Board and the legislature. No reform can occur through one body without the input and cooperation of all.**

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

**Our system attempts to reduce frivolous lawsuits in certain areas with the enactment of the requirements of expert reviews. I do not believe this has adequately reduced the number of cases filed. As the constitution requires all person be allowed to have their day in a court of law, I am not sure what other safeguards can be constitutionally enacted.**

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?

**Yes, I think the Illinois Constitution precludes legislative establishment of limitations on civil damages. In my experience as a trial attorney, there have always been distinctions made between economic, non-economic and punitive damages in my cases.**