



Candidate: Raymond W. Mitchell

Background Narrative

I want to thank the Illinois Civil Justice League and you—its members—for considering my qualifications for the Circuit Court of Cook County. In completing this questionnaire and reflecting on my professional accomplishments, I am reminded just how deeply I am indebted to my family, friends and colleagues.

This evaluation process and my gratitude for the trust and confidence others have placed in me underscore in my mind the personal modesty that distinguishes the role of the judge. The inscription over the door in the courtroom in the Illinois Supreme Court makes the point: *"Audi Alteram Partem"*—"Hear the other side." Those words serve as a reminder of the humility that is inherent in the judicial function.

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed me to the bench in October 2008. I serve in the Hayes vacancy for which I am now a candidate. Over the last year, I have presided over 100s of trials and 1,000s of cases, and I have earned a reputation as a fair and hardworking judge. I am the *only* candidate in my race with judicial experience.

Based in part on my judicial service, the Illinois Bar Association has found me **"Highly Qualified."** The Chicago Bar Association has noted that I receive **"high marks"** for my **"knowledge of the law, legal ability, diligence and integrity."** Those qualities—experience and integrity—are critical in selecting good judges. Based on my record and bar evaluations, I am the *most qualified* candidate in my race.

Prior to my appointment, I was a litigation partner at the law firm of Winston & Strawn in Chicago. In practice, I worked on a number of complex cases in both the trial and appellate courts. Each year, I devoted in excess of 100 hours to pro bono representation of indigent defendants as well as not-for-profit entities like the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Children's Museum, and the ABA Commission on Effective Criminal Sanctions. I served as an adjunct professor of law at the Northwestern University Law School, and in 2005, *Chicago Lawyer* named me one of the top 40 lawyers under 40.

For me, it is a great personal honor to serve as a judge, and I am working hard to let the voters know about my qualifications and experience. I have travelled to virtually every ward and township in Cook County, and have had the opportunity to meet a great many voters and hear their concerns. I am proud to say that my candidacy has the support of scores of ward and township organizations. I am the only candidate in my race endorsed by the Cook County Democratic Party.

My candidacy has received strong support from organized labor: I am the only candidate in my race endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor. I have also been endorsed by the Chicago Firefighter's Union Local 2, the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades Council and the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Union Local 130

I have approached this evaluation process—indeed, the electoral process itself—as a learning experience, and it has been that. I have learned firsthand from the voters that the people of Cook County want qualified and hardworking judges with integrity. The people deserve no less. And that word “integrity” encompasses personal honesty, transparency and authenticity.

I have no agenda other than to be a good judge. When I took the judicial oath in October 2008, I promised to serve the people of this State and to approach my service with an even hand, hard work and profound humility. If I am elected, I promise to do everything that I can to continue to be a good judge and to be worthy of that great trust that you have placed in me. For all of those people in Cook County who care about having good judges, I ask for your support and your vote on Election Day.

To learn more about my candidacy, please visit my campaign website at **www.ElectJudgeMitchell.com**.