



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County

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PRESS RELEASE
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Associate judge finalists announced

CHICAGO (February 10, 2023) Circuit Court of Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans and the court's Nominating Committee today announced the names of the 44 candidates who will be on the ballot for circuit judges to vote to fill 22 associate judge vacancies.

"I am pleased to submit the names of these candidates for consideration to join the bench of the Circuit Court of Cook County," Chief Judge Evans said. "I am grateful for the hard work of the Nominating Committee in putting together this list of capable and

talented candidates. The candidates received positive ratings from all bar associations which have completed evaluations."

"My colleagues and I considered the candidates' variety of legal experience as well as diversity of race, ethnicity and gender," Judge Evans said. "We also examined the applicants' bar ratings, career achievements, and whether they could be fair and impartial adjudicators."

The Nominating Committee is made up of the following circuit judges:

Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge
Honorable Erica L. Reddick, Presiding Judge, Criminal Division
Honorable James P. Flannery, Jr., Presiding Judge, Law Division
Honorable Sophia H. Hall, Administrative Presiding Judge, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section and Interim Acting Presiding Judge, Chancery Division
Honorable Sanjay T. Tailor, Justice, Illinois 1st District Appellate Court
Honorable Jill C. Marisie, Presiding Judge, Third Municipal District
Honorable Shelley Sutker-Dermer, Presiding Judge, Second Municipal District
Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., Presiding Judge, First Municipal District

Chief Judge Evans said the Nominating Committee interviewed 176 applicants over a 6-month period, and the selection of the 44 candidates was unanimous. A total of 212 attorneys originally submitted applications for consideration, and 36 applicants withdrew from the process.

Below is the list of the 44 candidates that was forwarded to the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts:

AHMAD, Mohammad Abedelal

CARROLL, John P.

BAE, Jennifer Eun

CASTILLO, Nicole

BAHENA, Hilda

COLEMAN, Jennifer Frances

BARRIDO, Jerome Celis

CORBIN, Torrie Luciana

BHAVE, Sunil Shashikant

COSGROVE, Audrey Victoria

BISCEGLIA, Joell Claire

deCASTRO, Pablo F.

CALLAHAN, Jennifer Patricia

DE MATTEO, Gabriel Joseph

DESAI, Debjani Dasgupta
DUFFY, Cristin
FINKLE, Lester Wolfe
FRENTZAS, Athena James
GEMSKIE, Michele Ann
HEGGIE, Corinne Cantwell
JHA, Lakshmi Elkhanialy
JOHNSON, Sarah Rodak
KANTER, Sharon Arnold
KNIBBS, James John
MALONEY, Edward James
MORRIS, Tisa Lynne
NORRIS, Scott
PATTAROZZI, Michael Nando
PATTERSON, Monique Leneé

PETERSON, Krista Susan
PLANEY, Mary Anna
PORTER, Brian Randall
REYNA, Mariano Ricardo
RODRIGUEZ, Federico Martin
ROE-TAYLOR, Parle M.
RUFFIN, Anthony
SAINDON, Pamela
STUDENROTH, David Lawrence
TOLLER, Natosha Cuyler
TULLY, John J.
TZINBERG, Scott William
VINES, Michael James
WARD, Torrick Alan
WILSON, John Wellington

The candidates constitute a diverse group, racially and ethnically, and include 21 men and 23 women. The group includes both government attorneys and attorneys in multiple areas of private practice.

The 239 circuit judges have the constitutional authority to fill associate judge vacancies, using the procedures outlined in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 39. Under Rule 39, the Nominating Committee must select twice as many qualified candidates as there are vacancies to be filled; in this case, 44 candidates were selected for 22 vacancies.

The Chief Judge must then notify the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts of the names of the candidates selected by the Committee and request the Director to begin the balloting process. Within 14 days after the Chief Judge's notification, the Director mails a secret ballot with the names of all candidates to each circuit judge. The judges may vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled, and must return the ballots to the Director within 14 days of the date the ballots were distributed. The Director then counts the ballots, which are accompanied by a

signed card, tabulates the results, and certifies them to the Chief Judge – at all times maintaining the secrecy of the ballots.

Bar evaluations for associate judge applicants were conducted by The Chicago Bar Association and the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, at the request of Chief Judge Evans. The Alliance is made up of the Illinois State Bar Association and the following 11 minority and ethnic bar organizations: Arab American Bar Association of Illinois, Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Chicago’s LGBTQ+ Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and Women’s Bar Association of Illinois.

Each bar association issues its own ratings for all individual associate judge applicants. Chief Judge Evans thanked The Chicago Bar Association and the Alliance for their work in evaluating the associate judge applicants.

During the next few weeks, the candidates will present circuit judges with their credentials, including a short video, resume, and one-page biography. Presiding Judges will set up video or in-person meetings to enable circuit judges to meet with all the candidates.

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EVALUATIONS

Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening and The Chicago Bar Association 2023 Associate Judge Candidates

	Last Name	First Name	AABAR	AABA	BWLA	CBA	CCL	CCBA	DSL	HBA	HLAI	ISBA	LABGAC	PRBA	WBAI
1.	Ahmad	Mohammad Abdelal	R		R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	Q	Q	HR	R	R
2.	Bae	Jennifer Eun		Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
3.	Bahena	Hilda	R	R	R		Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
4.	Barrido	Jerome Celis		Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
5.	Bhave	Sumil Shashikant		Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
6.	Bisceglia	Joell Claire	R	R	R	Q	WQ	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
7.	Callahan	Jennifer Patricia	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	HQ	HR	R	R
8.	Carroll	John P.	R		R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
9.	Castillo	Nicole	R	R	R		Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
10.	Coleman	Jennifer Frances	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	R	Q	R	R	R
11.	Corbin	Torrie Luciana	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R		Q	HR	R	R
12.	Cosgrove	Audrey Victoria	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	HR
13.	De Matteo	Gabriel Joseph		Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
14.	deCastro	Pablo F.	R	R		Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
15.	Desai	Debjani Dasgupta	R	R	R	Q	WQ	R	R	R	HQ	Q	HR	R	R
16.	Duffy	Cristin McDonald	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
17.	Finkle	Lester Wolfe	R		R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	HQ	Q	R	R	R
18.	Frentzas	Athena James	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	Q	R	R	R
19.	Gemskie	Michele Ann	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	HQ	R	R	HR
20.	Heggie	Corinne Cantwell	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	Q	HR	R	HR
21.	Jha	Lakshmi Elkhaniyal	R	R	R	Q	WQ	R	HR	R	Q	HQ	R	R	R
22.	Johnson	Sarah Rodak	R		R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	HR
23.	Kanter	Sharon Arnold	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	Q	HQ	R	R	R
24.	Knibbs	James John	R	Q	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	Q	R	HR	R
25.	Maloney	Edward James		Q	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	R	Q	HR	R	R
26.	Morris	Tisa Lynne		Q	R	Q	WQ	R	R	R	R	Q	R	R	R
27.	Norris	Scott	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	HQ	HQ	HR	R	R
28.	Pattarozzi	Michael Nando	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
29.	Patterson	Monique Lenee'	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
30.	Peterson	Krista Susan	R		R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	HR	R	R
31.	Planey	Mary Anna	R	R		Q	WQ	R	HR	R	HQ	HQ	HR	R	R
32.	Porter	Brian Randall	R		R	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
33.	Reyna	Mariano Ricardo	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	Q	Q	HR	R	HR
34.	Rodriguez	Federico Martin	R	R	R	Q	WQ	R	HR	R	HQ	HQ	R	R	R
35.	Roe-Taylor	Parle M.	R	R		Q	WQ	R	HR	R		HQ	R	R	R

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Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening and The Chicago Bar Association
2023 Associate Judge Candidates

36.	Ruffin	Anthony	R	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	R	Q	R	R	R
37.	Saindon	Pamela	I	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	Q	Q	R	R	R
38.	Studenroth	David Lawrence	I	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	R	Q	R	HR	R
39.	Toller	Natosha Cuyler	R	I	Q	Q	R	HR	R	HQ	HQ	HR	R	HR
40.	Tully	John J.	R	R	Q	Q	R	HR	R	Q	Q	R	R	HR
41.	Tzinberg	Scott William	R	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	R	Q	R	R	R
42.	Vines	Michael James	R	I	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	Q	R	R	R
43.	Ward	Torruck Alan	R	I	Q	Q	R	R	R	HQ	Q	R	R	R
44.	Wilson	John Wellington	R	R	Q	WQ	R	R	R	Q	HQ	HR	R	R

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Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening and The Chicago Bar Association 2023 Associate Judge Candidates

The Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening is comprised of:

- Arab American Bar Association (AABAR)
 - Asian American Bar Association (AABA)
 - Black Women Lawyers Association (BWLAA)
 - Chicago Council of Lawyers (CCL)
 - Cook County Bar Association (CCBA)
 - Decalogue Society of Lawyers (DSL)
 - Hellenic Bar Association (HBA)
 - Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI)
 - Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)
 - Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association (LAGBAC)
 - Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA)
 - Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI)
- working collaboratively to improve the process of screening judicial candidates in Cook County, Illinois

Ratings Legend:

WQ – Well Qualified	HQ – Highly Qualified	Q – Qualified	NQ – Not Qualified
HR – Highly Recommended	R – Recommended	NR – Not Recommended	NR – Not Recommended
¹ - Not Evaluated through no fault of the candidate (no bar representation in the hearing room)			
Pursuant to Alliance <i>Guidelines – Section IV – “Minimum Years of Experience”</i> , candidates with less than ten years of experience at the time of the application shall be given a rating of NR (not recommended).			
Pursuant to Alliance <i>Guidelines – Section V – “Failure to Participate”</i> , candidates who fail to participate in the evaluation process shall receive a NR (not recommended).			

Judicial candidates are rated by the member bars of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening based on detailed information supplied by candidates, a background check by trained lawyers/investigators, and interviews of each candidate. Ratings reflect the Alliance’s opinion of whether candidates have the necessary qualifications for judicial service and are not a reflection of the candidates’ abilities as lawyers. The ratings are advisory and shall not be considered as an endorsement of any candidacy.