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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
PUBLISHES EVALUATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR  
RETENTION AS CIRCUIT JUDGE**

The Lake County Bar Association has just completed two separate evaluation processes for the current slate of candidates for Retention as Circuit Judge. The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in Lake County currently has 15 Circuit and 24 Associate judge positions.

The LCBA evaluates judicial candidates in two different ways. The first way is a member survey, in which every active attorney member of the LCBA receives a ballot by e-mail, regarding the candidates' qualifications for judicial office. Members are asked to respond yes or no to questions relating to the candidates' integrity, impartiality, legal abilities, temperament, and court management ability. Members are asked to evaluate only those candidates they know, and a final question asks generally whether the member believes the candidate meets the requirements for judicial office. The complete results of the member survey regarding the candidates for Retention as Circuit Judge are enclosed with this press release (the LCBA only releases results for those candidates rated by at least 25% of the members responding).

The second way the LCBA evaluates candidates is through the Association's Judicial Selection and Retention Committee (JSRC). The Committee is comprised of 16 members of the Association who are appointed for staggered three-year terms. The Committee meets when judicial positions need to be filled and vets candidates based on an extensive application and interview process.

After interviewing each candidate, the Committee votes anonymously, with each member choosing one of three rankings: highly qualified, qualified, or not qualified. Candidates receive a "highly qualified" rating if at least 60% of the Committee's voting members select that rating. Candidates are "qualified" if at least 60% of the Committee's members select either "qualified" or "highly qualified." Those candidates not receiving a 60% affirmative vote are rated as "not qualified."

The LCBA's bylaws do not provide for the Association to make endorsements regarding judicial re-appointments. Opinions expressed by individual members of the Lake County Bar Association do not constitute endorsements by the Association or by any of its committees.

### **Ratings of 2014 Candidates for Retention as Circuit Judge**

**James K. Booras -- Qualified**

**Valerie Ceckowski – Highly Qualified**

**Christopher C. “Kip” Starck – Highly Qualified**

**Jay W. Ukena -- Qualified**

The Lake County Bar Association is headquartered in Waukegan, Illinois and has a membership of over 850 lawyer members, as well as 100 non-lawyer associate members. Among other goals, the Association's members seek to foster respect for the administration of law, to increase attorneys' and the public's knowledge of law through continuing legal education, and to uphold the honor and dignity of the legal profession. For more information, visit [www.lakebar.org](http://www.lakebar.org).

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Donald Morrison, Chair of the Judicial Selection & Retention Committee, please call Christopher Boadt at (847) 244-3143 or email [cboadt@lakebar.org](mailto:cboadt@lakebar.org).

### **Lake County Bar Association**

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September 2014 Circuit Judge Bar Poll total participants 98

PUBLIC FOR DISTRIBUTION	Voters Knowledge		Integrity		Impartiality		Legal Abilities		Temperament		Court Management		Meets Requirements	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
20-Sep-14	82%												73%	
BOORAS, James K.	80	12	62	15	56	22	52	26	58	17	55	22	57	21
CECKOWSKI, Valerie	76%												96%	
	74	16	72	2	71	3	69	5	70	4	71	3	69	3
STARCK, Christopher C.	74%												88%	
	73	17	65	7	62	10	64	8	62	9	64	8	63	9
UKENA, Jay W.	78%												72%	
	76	14	69	6	62	13	50	24	67	8	47	28	54	21