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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

The Lake County Bar Association (LCBA) has just completed two separate evaluation processes for the current slate of candidates for the office of Associate Judge. Judges who preside in Illinois trial courts obtain their positions in two different ways: Circuit Judges are elected by the public, and Associate Judges are appointed by the Circuit Judges. Associate Judges must be reappointed every four years. 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 Associate Judge applicants 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. 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 recommended, recommended, or not recommended. Candidates receive a "highly recommended" rating if at least 60% of the Committee's voting members select that rating. Candidates are "recommended" if at least 60% of the Committee's members select either "recommended" or "highly recommended." Those candidates not receiving a 60% affirmative vote are rated as "not recommended." Evaluations are valid for three years. The results of the Committee's evaluation are enclosed with this release.

The LCBA's bylaws do not provide for the Association to make endorsements regarding judicial candidates or 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 2018 Candidates for Election as Circuit Judge

Christen L. Bishop - Highly Qualified

Joseph V. Salvi - Highly Qualified

Charles W. Smith - Highly Qualified

Christopher R. Stride – Highly Qualified

The Lake County Bar Association is headquartered in Waukegan, Illinois and has a membership of over 900 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.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with David Del Re, Chair of the Judicial Selection & Retention Committee, please call Virginia Elliott at (847) 244-3143 or email veliott@lakebar.org

Lake County Bar Association

300 Grand Ave STE A
Waukegan, IL 60085



Completed surveys 341
25% of responses (required for publication) 85.25

Feb-18

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
	67%												97%	
BISHOP, Christen L.	229	104	222	4	222	4	221	4	223	3	217	7	223	3
	74%												85%	
SALVI, Joseph V.	252	77	236	13	2223	26	218	30	197	51	229	21	214	35
	80%												92%	
SMITH, Charles W.	273	54	258	11	240	29	261	8	237	32	252	16	251	19
	60%												94%	
STRIDE, Christopher R.	206	119	197	8	187	16	191	12	190	12	195	7	193	13