

## IVI-IPO JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUIT QUESTIONNAIRE – Page 1

DATE: January 23, 2004

CANDIDATE FOR: Circuit Court Judge SUBCIRCUIT: 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Subcircuit “ A VACANCY” PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Peggy Chiampas

VOTING ADDRESS: 5431 N. Nagle Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630

HOME PHONE: 773-775-3952 BUSINESS PHONE: 773-869-7646

E-MAIL: [pegchiampas@hotmail.com](mailto:pegchiampas@hotmail.com) WEB SITE: None at this time

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 6412 Bentwood Lane, Willowbrook IL, 60527

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 630-455-4978 FAX: 630-455-4978

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Dr. George Chiampas and Mr. Tom Stamatelos

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: approx. 1700 NUMBER REQUIRED: 500

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates. Not Applicable

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County,  
March 17, 1998

Principal business, educational, professional and civic activities of the past ten years. See attached resume

Hellenic American Police Association, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Legal Advisor-1999 to Present

Gargalianon Society of Chicago, President-1999 to Present

Hellenic Orthodox Women's Services, Founding Member-2003 to Present

Plato Academy, Board Member-2001 to Present

Hellenic American Radio Hour, Producer 1980 to Present

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

As an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney I have investigated and prosecuted criminal cases. My experience ranges from handling child abuse and neglect cases, sex crimes prosecutions, domestic violence, felony and complex drug prosecutions. The latter entails investigating and prosecuting open air drug markets in our neighborhoods. In the International arena, I have served the United States Department of Justice as an instructor for the International Criminal Investigative Assistance Program and International Law Enforcement Academy. In this capacity, I lectured and trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors and magistrates in Sex Crimes Investigation and Domestic Violence. These programs provided valuable

instruction to emerging Democracies in The Republic of Haiti; Namibia, Africa; Pretoria, South Africa; Tirana, Albania; and Botswana, Africa. This experience will be an invaluable asset to bring to the bench.

Please detail your prior political activity, if any. Give positions held, dates, organizational memberships, role you played in political campaigns.

Not applicable

As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I am a lifelong resident of Albany and Jefferson Park and a successful student of the Chicago Public Schools. I attended Haugan Elementary and graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School. I best represent the ethnic diversity of the 10<sup>th</sup> judicial subcircuit. After having graduated from High School in June of 1980, I was afforded the opportunity to work as a clerk in the Cook County Clerk's Office. As a young and inexperienced first generation Greek-American, this was my first exposure to the Circuit Court of Cook County and the legal system. It was the most enlightening and fascinating experience of my life. I worked as a clerk for the Circuit Court of Cook County for approximately six years through college both on a full time and part time basis. As a court clerk assigned to the Child Support Enforcement Unit I was intrigued by both the litigation and judicial proceedings. I was exposed to the best qualities of the City of Chicago and its surrounding suburbs, specifically, its diversity. Ethnicity and various cultures. It was this experience that shaped my desire to attend law school.

In this environment, I learned that the matters being litigated were not only cases in the system. Each case represented a story, and history, personalized by the testimony presented in court. I observed decisions being imposed by various judges that were life altering. Many of these decisions were imposed after the court heard zealous arguments from the attorney's who represented their clients. These observations led me to pursue a career as an Assistant State's Attorney. It was, I believed, an ideal opportunity for me to exhibit my love of the law, sense of justice, compassion and fairness.

As an Assistant State's Attorney for the past 13 ½ years, I have strived to uphold these ideals in every single case that I have investigated or prosecuted. I have committed myself to never losing sight of the human aspect of each case for both the victims and the defendants of the crimes that I have prosecuted. These are the same qualities that I would bring to the bench as a Circuit Court Judge.

During the course of my career, I have been privileged to litigate matters before some of the most dedicated and knowledgeable jurists in this circuit. These jurists have also exemplified the diversity that is so essential for this system to serve its citizens. Their knowledge and dedication to the law has served as an example to me during my career. This was brought to the forefront during my tenure as an instructor overseas for the Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program. From Haiti to Africa to Albania, I have been privileged in training law enforcement officers, prosecutors and magistrates in these developing democracies. It has been a humbling and rewarding experience to be involved in laying the foundation for the development of their emerging criminal justice system.

Finally, my diverse experience coupled with my knowledge of the law and my dedication to our judicial system makes me an ideal candidate for Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Please state any evaluation ratings you have ever received for any judicial office by any bar association. List the office and the date of the election for which the evaluation was made. Please use the following format:

When I ran for Circuit Court Judge in March of 1998 I did not submit applications to the bar associations because I did not have the requisite number of years in practice required at that time.

*Date*

*Position*

*Bar Association*

*Rating*

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1. What do you believe are the major strengths and weaknesses of the Circuit Court? Would you change the manner in which the Circuit Court functions?
2. How should the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court be chosen?
3. How should judges be assigned to the various divisions of the Court? If you are elected, to what division would you like to be assigned and why?
4. What is your position on how judges are selected and/or elected? Please explain.
5. As a circuit court judge, how would you balance any moral or ethical/philosophical disagreements that you may have with any existing statutes or legal precedents?
6. If a sitting judge were indicted, should the judge remain on the bench, resign or take a leave of absence? Please explain.
7. What are your views concerning mandatory sentencing for criminal offenses?
8. What are your views concerning treating minors as adults for criminal offenses?
9. What do you consider the important aspects of a judge's decision in handling a petition by a minor for a waiver of parental notice with the intent to have an abortion?