

CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE-Page 1

DATE December 27, 2003 (updated on 2-17-04)

CANDIDATE FOR Nancy Sidote Salyers **VACANCY** **PARTY** Democratic

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED 11,000 **NUMBER REQUIRED** 2,455

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

President Clinton appointed me Deputy Regional Administrator of Region Five of the United State's Environmental Protection Agency. I was in federal service from 1994 to 2001. In my position at U.S. EPA, I was responsible for implementing environmental policy throughout the six state mid-west region. I also supervised a staff of over 1400 environmental professionals and worked very closely with the business community, the states, and the environmental groups.

Governor Blagojevich appointed me Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Public Aid on November 3, 2003. I was subsequently confirmed by the Illinois Senate. A few days after my confirmation, I was slated by the Cook County Democratic Party to run for judge. I resigned from my position on December 8, 2003, the date my petitions to run were filed. I did so in order to devote more time to my campaign and to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interests.

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None, this is my first.

Michelle Jordan

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

My professional and business activities for the last ten years have included the following:

LAW OFFICE OF MICHELLE D. JORDAN Dec.

2003-present

Sole Practitioner

Engaged in the private practice of law representing clients on diverse issues including environmental and other civil and criminal matters.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID Nov. 2003-

Dec. 2003

Assistant Director

Assisted the Director in the day to day operation of the Agency and made appearances on behalf of the Governor.

LAW OFFICE OF MICHELLE D. JORDAN Feb. 2003-

Nov. 2003

Sole Practitioner

Engaged in the private practice of law representing clients on diverse issues including environmental and other civil and criminal matters

RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION 2001- Feb.

2003

National Director of Fund Development

Senior management executive with full planning, operating, and marketing responsibility for revenue generation in a multi-million dollar not-for-profit corporation

- _ Accelerated revenue growth by securing new sponsors and donors
- _ Helped increase donations by 40 percent in a depressed economy
- _ Developed, fostered and maintained relationships with senior corporate executives and high level officials in government

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1998-2001

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

On a detail at the Department of Justice to prosecute criminal and civil environmental matters as well as general civil and criminal matters

- _ Led and directed a team of law enforcement professionals investigating environmental violations by corporations and individuals
- _ Served as advisor to the U.S. Attorney of the Northern District of Indiana on environmental matters
- _ Successfully prosecuted wide-ranging federal cases including narcotics violation,

bank robbery, and counterfeiting

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1994-2001

Deputy Regional Administrator

Appointed by President Clinton to high profile management position within Region Five, the largest region in the country, to provide strategic, financial, operational, and programmatic leadership, implement

policy, direct and control EPA activities, represent and make presentations on behalf of the President,

Michelle D. Jordan

and work with other federal agencies, states, business leaders and community groups.

- _ Supervised a staff of 1400 including engineers and lawyers.
- _ Instrumental in developing a successful strategy to put Brownfields—contaminated property and property perceived to be contaminated -- back into productive use
- _ Conducted and testified at public hearings and meetings on regulations impacting public health and safety
- _ Led and directed teams on pollution prevention, Brownfields, and children's health
- _ Developed and implemented key strategies to address environmental concerns
- _ Worked with business and community groups
- _ Received Suzanne E. Olive Award for ensuring a fair and diverse workplace

HOPKINS & SUTTER

1991-1993

Partner

First African-American female partner at this 275 person full service law firm.

- _ Secured dismissal of client as party in a \$4 million Superfund clean-up.
- _ Advised and guided lenders and purchasers on environmental risks associated with property acquisition
- _ Represented City of Chicago in an airport noise case
- _ Advised clients on matters related to underground storage tanks, OSHA, and chemical reporting requirements under various statutes

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

1984-

1990

**Chief, and Deputy Chief Environmental Control Division,
Trial Attorney, Trial Division**

- _ Managed all environmental cases including both civil and criminal cases
- _ Served as legal counsel to the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Pollution Control Board.
- _ Successfully negotiated a \$6 million clean-up of a major asbestos Superfund site.
- _ Helped secure judgments in excess of \$3 million from defendants and response

work in excess of \$17 million on behalf of the State of Illinois.

- _ Negotiated at that time, the largest penalty in Illinois history—greater than \$2 million, at an incinerator site.

**PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE
1984**

1982-

Law Office of Michelle D. Jordan

- _ Tried criminal cases including murder and burglary.
- _ Handled divorce, probate and administrative matters.

**COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1982**

1977-

Assistant State's Attorney

- _ Prosecuted major criminal cases including murder, rape, robbery and narcotics violations.
- _ Tried more than three hundred felony and misdemeanor bench and jury trials.

Michelle Jordan

My educational activities for the last ten years have included the following

U.S. Atty's Office Training Pgm	Attendee	Update on Criminal Law
U.S. Atty's Office Training Pgm	Attendee	yearly ethics training
U.S. Dept. Of Justice Training	Attendee	Federal Environ.
U.S. Dept of Justice Training	Attendee	Basic Federal Practice
Black Prosecutor's Conference and Training Program	Attendee	Prosecuting cases from Start to finish
U.S. EPA Training	Attendee	Yearly ethics training
Federal Government's	Attendee	Developing additional leadership skills in

Michelle Jordan

Senior Executive Training Program	Attendee	Those serving at the highest Levels of government
Evelyn Woods Reading Dynamics Program	Attendee	Increasing reading speed and comprehension
Seminar on Delivering Exceptional Customer Service	Attendee	Serving clients & Constituents
Seminar on Supervision of Staff	Attendee	Dev. & Enhancement of skills for Supervisors
Handling People with Tact and Skill	Attendee	Working more effectively with the public

I have also taught classes on American National Government and the Legislative Process at Chicago State University. Additionally, I have been a guest lecturer on environmental topics at the University of Hong Kong and at Chicago-Kent College of Law. Earlier in my career, I often served as a trial judge at training programs on trial practice techniques for both law students and lawyers.

Michelle Jordan

My civic activities for the last ten years have included the following:

HBCU TOUR—I drafted documents and provided legal guidance to help minority students visit historically black colleges and universities in the South for possible enrollment.

CEF (Citizenship Education Fund) Thanksgiving Annual Food Drive & Give Away—I helped pack bags of good and distributed them to the needy.

Jackson Foundation—I helped plan a gala event to raise money for scholarships for minority students

Rainbow/PUSH VOTER Registration Drive—I assisted the deputy registrars in registering people to vote.

I would also like the IVI-IPO to know that on December 14, 2003, I volunteered my services at a health fair at Kennedy King College. I registered people for free flu shots and directed them to the screening location for various medical procedures.

What subjects have you studied and what experiences have you had which will be most

helpful to you in the office you seek?

I believe that my life experiences, my education, and my professional career will all be most useful to me as a judge.

LIFE EXPERIENCES

I am the sum total of my life experiences (please see my attached resume). I grew up African-American and female on Chicago's South side. I am the daughter of a nursery school teacher and an assembly line worker. I was the first generation in my family to attend college and I had the great honor and pleasure of growing up in the civil rights movement. I was there when Dr. King marched on Washington and I was an active member of Operation Breadbasket and Operation PUSH while growing up. I have marched on many picket lines in my life and always sought to level the playing field of opportunity for all Americans. I believe that these experiences have instilled in me a commitment to justice and a belief in fairness for all. These experiences have also made me strive to do my best and be my best. I don't take for granted the blood that was shed so that I would have the opportunity to vote, to get a higher education, and to serve on a jury .

Michelle Jordan

EDUCATION

I majored in political science at Loyola University and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* when I was nineteen years of age. I received a strong liberal arts education and took many classes in communications, history, and sociology. I received my law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. I believe that my education has been well rounded and that I have been exposed to many different substantive area of the law and exposed to many different disciplines. My college and law school training will be most helpful to me as a judge.

All throughout the years, I have taken classes to stay current on developments in the law. I have had a number of classes on criminal law and I have had substantial ethics training while at U.S. EPA and at the Justice Department. All of this training has and will continue to help me not only address issues that may come up, but to recognize them in the first place. I also participated in the Senior Executive Training Program given by the Federal Government. This one month training program in Virginia helped prepare me to more effectively serve in a senior level position in government. We covered such subjects as history, political science, leadership building, team work, and stress management. Many of the lessons that I learned and the skills that I developed will be helpful to me as a judge.

I have also taken an Evelyn Wood Speed Reading class and classes on customer service and handling people with tact and skill. All of These classes will help me to run an efficient court room where all are treated with dignity and respect.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

I have practiced law for twenty-six years and have had a broad range of experience. I have served over thirteen years as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Illinois Attorney General, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. I have also practiced as a criminal defense attorney. Based on these years of practice, I have an excellent understanding of criminal law, criminal procedure and how to try a case. Because I have been both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, I have been able to see both sides. This experience has helped me to be better balanced.

I was the first African-American female partner at Hopkins & Sutter law firm where I practiced environmental law. I represented large corporate clients and spent most of my time advising them on how to comply with the law and avoid environmental liability. This experience has helped me to be a better civil practitioner. Additionally, it has given me a better understanding of the business world and problems facing corporate clients.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed me Deputy Regional Administrator of Region Five of U.S. EPA. I was responsible for implementing environmental protection throughout the six state Midwest region, I also supervised a staff of over 1400 environmental professionals. I made public appearances on behalf of the President and often appeared on radio and television programs. This position gave me the opportunity to work with the business community, the states, the cities, and the community groups who often had conflicting interests. This position afforded me the opportunity to listen to their respective concerns and to make decisions based on the evidence and facts before me. As Deputy Regional Administrator, I was often called upon to make decisions concerning which remedy or clean-up solution should be pursued at a given sight.

Michelle Jordan

Once again, I met with the parties, listened to their positions, and made a decision based upon the evidence and the facts. This is very similar to what a judge does when he or she listens to the evidence and then applies the laws to the facts.

I have also spent time as a fund raiser and legal advisor for a not for profit corporation. This position afforded me the opportunity to work closely with community groups, review grant proposals, and draft contracts.

I really believe that my life experiences, education, and career make me well suited to become a judge.

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

I served as a legal advisers to the following campaigns:

Reverend Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign, 1988.

Neil Hartigan's Gubernatorial Campaign, 1990.

President Clinton's campaign 1996,

I would note that I was one of many lawyers who worked on behalf of the above-listed campaigns.

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 believe that I should be endorsed over the other candidates because I have had over twenty-six years of wide-ranging experience that cannot be matched by them. I graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Loyola University when I was nineteen years of age, and received my law degree three years later from the University of Michigan Law School, one of the top ranked law schools in the country.

I have had over thirteen years of experience as an Assistant State's Attorney, Illinois Attorney General, Special U.S. Attorney and defense attorney. During those years, I tried both civil and criminal cases on both the state and federal level. Those case included complex environmental cases, counterfeiting cases, bank fraud and robbery cases. While in the Illinois Attorney general's Office, I also served as Chief of the Environmental Division. As such, I was the legal counsel for both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Pollution Control Board.

I was the first African-American female partner at Hopkins and Sutter where I specialized in environmental law and represented major corporate clients. Most of my work involved providing guidance to purchasers of real estate so that they could comply with environmental laws. I also represented the city of Chicago on a major airport noise case.

Michelle Jordan

In 1994, President Clinton appointed me Deputy Regional Administrator of Region Five of U.S. EPA. I was the first African-American and the first woman to be named to this position. I was responsible for implementing environmental programs and policies throughout the six state Midwest region. I supervised a staff of over 1400 environmental professionals, and I often made appearances on behalf of the President, including radio and television appearances. I was often called upon to work with groups that had conflicting interests and I was often the decision-maker on clean-up remedies. The role that I played listening to the facts and applying the law to those facts is very similar to what a judge does on a daily basis.

I have also had experience as a private practitioner and as both a fund-raiser and legal advisor to a not for profit organization. I was also honored to have been appointed to a senior level position in state government by Governor Blagojevich.

I have also been very active in community affairs. One of the experiences that I most enjoyed was teaching political science classes at Chicago State University. I have also served on the Board of Managers and the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. Additionally, I have also written extensively and had numerous legal articles published.

I don't know very much about the candidates who are running against me. I do know that I have practiced law in Illinois for twenty-six years and that is at least nine years longer than any of the other candidates. I don't believe that they come anywhere near the broad range of experience

that I have had. The Chicago Bar Association in finding me “Qualified,” noted my broad range of experience as well as my fine demeanor, legal knowledge and ability. I will bring my legal ability, experience, integrity and commitment to fairness with me to the bench.

My goal as a judge is to have an efficiently run courtroom where people are treated with respect. My goal is to have the kind of court where a litigant, no matter the outcome of his or her case, feels that the judge was fair and impartial.

Please state any evaluation rating 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:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Bar Association</i>	<i>Rating</i>
<i>March 2004 Primary</i>	Circuit Court Judge	Chicago Bar Assoc.	Qualified
<i>March 2004 Primary</i>	Circuit Court Judge	Illinois State Bar Assoc.	Qualified
<i>March 2004 Primary</i>	Circuit Court Judge	Northwest Suburban Bar Assoc.	Recommended

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IVI-IPO COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE--Page 2

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?

One of the major strengths of the Cook County Circuit Court is its mandatory arbitration program which is a non-binding form of alternative dispute resolution. All civil cases filed seeking money damages within the program's jurisdiction are subject to the arbitration process. The Illinois Supreme Court and the legislature came up with this program in an effort to reduce backlog and to provide litigants with a system in which their complaints could be more quickly resolved by an impartial finder of facts. As a result of this program, large numbers of cases are able to be resolved thereby reducing backlog and expense for litigants.

A second strength of the Cook County Circuit Court is the training program that it provides for judges. Because the law changes quickly, it is imperative that judges be kept abreast of these changes and be provided with the resources that they need to make fair and legally sound decision. The training provided by the Court is not just limited to annual training. The Court also has an excellent program in place to train new judges through its judges school. Judges are also provided with a wealth of information in written materials that are distributed to them. This material answers many questions that judges confront and it gives the judges the resources needed to find additional information.

One of the major weaknesses of the Cook County Circuit Court is delay which contributes to the litigation process being unnecessarily slow, ineffective, and expensive. I would like to see greater steps being taken to address this problem. I believe that judges must set the example by coming to court prepared to hear and rule on cases. Judges must also holds parties to trial and discovery deadlines and must be willing to impose sanctions to compel compliance with discovery when necessary.

A second weakness in the criminal court is the perception that minorities and the poor will not receive a fair trial. I think this notion can be dispelled by having greater diversity in the judiciary. When an individual goes into court and sees a judge of his or her own sex or race, this goes far in dispelling the notion that justice is guaranteed to some and not all. I also think that there is a need for greater diversity/sensitivity training for judges because those availing themselves of the courts in Illinois come from different and diverse ethnic backgrounds. All people deserve to be respected and treated fairly. A judge must be even handed in his or her treatment of people. No matter what the outcome is of a case, litigants must leave court believing that the judge was impartial and fair.

Michelle Jordan

2. How should the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court be chosen?

I think that the Chief Judge should be chosen by the other judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County. I believe that the Chief Judge's role is to improve the administration of the courts, to enhance the quality of the judiciary, to achieve greater inclusiveness, and to promote an independent, proficient and fair judiciary for the citizen's of Illinois. Sitting judges are uniquely positioned to understand the role of the Chief Judge and internal workings of the Chief Judge's office. They are most aware of the administrative role the Chief Judge plays and the kinds of attributes and skills that are necessary to be successful in that position. Sitting judges not only have a good understanding of the Chief Judge's job, but they also have a sense of which judge could best serve in that position as a result of their interaction with each other. As a result, I am comfortable letting judges pick their own Chief Judge.

Michelle Jordan

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?

I think that three factors should come into play in deciding where judges should be assigned. The first one is **need**. In order to have an efficient system, judges should be assigned where the greatest need exists. If there is a shortage of judges in Domestic Relations, that should be taken into consideration in making assignments. This helps to ensure a litigation process that is efficient because it places judges where they are needed. Second, the **judge's ability and experience** should be taken into consideration. If a judge is experienced in criminal, it makes more sense to place that judge in the Criminal Division were he or she is comfortable and has had the most experience. I do recognize, however, that judges have an obligation to stay abreast of the law in whichever division to which they are assigned. I spent three years as a federal prosecutor, and I would note that federal judges hear both civil and criminal cases and are not placed in separate divisions. Even though this systems seems to work well, I still favor placing judges where they have had the most experience so that court calls are moved more quickly and decisions are made more promptly. The third factor, and least important of the three is **the judge's choice of an assignment**. I believe that if the need and experience factors are met, and the opportunity exists to place a judge where he or she wants to go—that should be done.

If elected, I would like to be assigned to the Criminal Division. There is a need for more minority judges when you consider the number of minorities charged with crimes and the number of minority victims impacted by those crimes. I have had a tremendous amount of experience as an Assistant State's Attorney, Assistant Illinois Attorney General, Special United State's Attorney, and criminal defense attorney. I would be happy to serve wherever needed and believe that my ability and experience would allow me to do a competent job in any assignment.

Michelle Jordan

4. What is your position on how judges are selected and/or elected? Please explain.

I support selection of judges based upon a merit elective system. I believe that criteria should be established that must be met before a candidate is even eligible to run for office. In particular, I think a candidate should have actively practiced law for at least ten years. I also believe that a candidate should have tried a certain number of both bench and jury cases. I also think it is important for a candidate to have motion practice experience and to have written some briefs. The finest and best lawyers among us should run for judge.

Judges should continue to be elected by the people, once the candidates meet the established criteria. I do think that much more needs to be done to educate the public so that the electorate makes good decisions. I think bar associations and the media need to be more involved and take a proactive role in educating the electorate. I believe that nothing is better than a knowledgeable empowered electorate.

Merit selection that people often refer to is really an appointive system in which merit has not been defined. I am also aware of some instances where candidates who were found “highly qualified” by the bar association were passed over for associate judgeships in favor of candidates found “qualified” by the bar association.

I have confidence that when merit is actually defined and standards are imposed, the electorate will do a fine job in selecting judges.

Michelle Jordan

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?

As a judge, I would base any decisions that I made on the application of the law to the facts in any given case. I would also be bound by Supreme Court Rule 63 Canon 3 which provides in part that a judge should perform the duties of the office impartially and should be faithful to the law. I would live by this standard. Therefore, I would recuse myself from any matter where a moral or ethical/philosophical disagreement with the law would preclude me from following that law. All litigants are entitled to a judge who will be fair and impartial and committed to following the law.

Michelle Jordan

6. If a sitting judge were indicted, should the judge remain on the bench, resign or take a leave of absence? Please explain.

I believe that a sitting judge who is indicted, should, at a minimum, take a leave of absence. Supreme Court Rule 62 Canon 2 provides in part that a judge should at all times conduct himself or herself in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. A judge must not only avoid impropriety, but also the appearance of impropriety. While a sitting judge under indictment is presumed to be innocent, I have serious doubt that the judge could avoid the appearance of impropriety while continuing to serve as a judge. And while the judge might believe that he or she could be fair, I think his or her impartiality could be questioned. Continued service would cast doubt in the public's mind in the integrity of the court system.

I don't believe that a pending indictment is a basis for a resignation unless that judge knows that he has violated the law. I do believe that if the judge is convicted of a crime, he must resign immediately.

Michelle Jordan

7. What are your views concerning mandatory sentencing for criminal offenses?

As a judge, I am bound to follow the law. I would take this responsibility very seriously. Based upon my own experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, I personally don't believe in mandatory sentences. The judge is the trier of facts, who weighs the evidence and judges credibility.

No two cases are exactly alike just as no two defendants are exactly alike. Judges need flexibility. A wide variety of factors must be taken into consideration in sentencing a defendant such as his criminal history, nature of the crime, prospects for rehabilitation. Mandatory sentences take that discretion away from the person in the best position to know what kind of sentence is warranted.

I also believe that there should be room in our criminal justice system for alternative sentencing. Community service and participation in special programs are often helpful for first time offenders. Mandatory sentences deprive judges of the ability to do alternative sentences where appropriate.

I do believe that the need for certainty in sentencing is satisfied by having a statute in place that puts one on notice of the possible range for a sentence. I recently spent nearly three years working at the Department of Justice as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. During this time, I dealt with mandatory minimum sentences and did not find that they served as a deterrent to crime.

Michelle Jordan

8. What are your views concerning treating minors as adults for criminal offenses?

Section 705ILCS 405/5-805 lists the circumstances under which a judge must enter an order permitting a juvenile to be prosecuted under the criminal laws of Illinois, and the circumstances under which the judge has discretion to enter such an order. As a judge, I am bound to follow the law. I would take that obligation very seriously.

I personally believe that juvenile cases should be handled in the juvenile court that was created to address such problems. I base my belief on the many years that I spent as a prosecutor in Juvenile Court. In fact, I began my legal career in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and my very first assignment as a prosecutor was in Juvenile Court. I prosecuted delinquency petitions against minors charged with a wide variety of criminal offenses. I was then promoted to the Homicide Unit where I prosecuted delinquency petitions against juveniles charged with homicides, whose cases remained in Juvenile Court. Although the offenses that I prosecuted were very serious, I never forgot that we were dealing with children and not with miniature adults.

The kids that I saw in Juvenile Court had few advantages—they were poor, usually had only one parent, and that parent was often totally uninvolved with the child. I remember prosecuting cases where the juvenile's parents didn't even come to Court, nor respond to notices sent to them concerning their child..

I believe that we as a society, have an obligation to love and guide our children. Parents must provide love and guidance to them and be involved in their child's life. I also believe that there must be more after school programs and activities for children.. There must be more structure in their lives. It is unfair to treat a child as an adult when that child has not had every opportunity to succeed and lacks the maturity that we expect and demand of adults.

While working in Juvenile Court, I found that most of the juveniles that were transferred to criminal court were from a poor social economic backgrounds. They were often represented by public defenders who did their best for them—but who frequently were overwhelmed by a huge case load. When juveniles from more affluent backgrounds got into trouble, their parents could afford to hire the best lawyers for them and could provide them with counseling and other types of support.

I think the solution may be to strengthen Juvenile Court and to provide more assistance and support to our children.

Michelle Jordan

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?

The issue of waiver of parental notice has been a controversial one. A federal judge in New Hampshire declared that state's parental notice law to be unconstitutional as did the Supreme Court in Florida and the federal appeals court in Denver.

Illinois has a parental notice waiver which provides under 750 ILCS 70/25 that in deciding a petition by a minor for waiver of parental notice for an abortion, the court must find by a preponderance of the evidence that the minor is sufficiently mature and well enough informed to decide intelligently whether to have an abortion, or that notification under the act would not be in the best interests of the minor. The legislature has found that a girl who is sexually active and becomes pregnant does not necessarily have the required maturity to make a fully informed decision on abortion. It notes that the medical, emotional, and psychological consequences are serious and long-lasting.

As a judge, I am bound to follow the law. I would take this obligation very seriously. I would follow the dictates of the statute which requires me to be certain that the minor was mature enough to understand what an abortion entails, the risks, and the consequences of her act on herself and her unborn child. The statute also allows me to consider whether waiving the notice is in the best interest of the child. The standard of proof required is by a preponderance of the evidence. This is a lesser standard than reasonable doubt. These are the factors that a judge must consider when making a decision on a waiver of parental notice.

I would also note that the Illinois statute provides that notice can be given to an adult family member. Which it defines as a person over 21 years of age who is the parent, grandparent, step-parent living in the household, or the legal guardian. The statute also indicates that notice can be waived if the minor declares in writing that she is a victim of sexual abuse, neglect or physical abuse by an adult family member.