

IVI-IPO 2006 COOK COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT COURT QUESTIONNAIRE-Section 1
(Revised 1/5/06)

DATE January 31, 2006 PARTY Democrat

DISTRICT 4TH Subcircuit CANDIDATE FOR Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Varga Vacancy

WEBSITE None

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 434 N. Spring Ave. LaGrange Park, Illinois 60526

CAMPAIGN PHONE (312)804-4959 FAX None

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Brian Stephenson

NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED 1300 NUMBER REQUIRED 500

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates>
Village of LaGrange Park Public Library Trustee April 2003-April 2007

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.
Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County 2000 and 2002.

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

I was a trial coach for two Kent Law School ATLA teams during the winter of 2005. One team advanced to the semi-final round.

I have been an evaluator/judge for the ABA National Criminal Trial Advocacy competitions for approximately the past ten years.

I participated in Law Day through the Justinian Society of Lawyers in 2005.

I have conducted training at in-house seminars on topics such as discovery, direct examination, cross-examination, opening statements, and closing arguments.

I was an evaluator for the Office of the Attorney General September, 1997 NITA Trial Advocacy training.

I am a Trustee for the LaGrange Park Public Library and serve on two sub-committees for the Board. I am a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish and my children attend the day school. As such, I participate in various school functions, social events, and I belong to various committees. I was a co-chair for the 2004 school auction, which raised over \$75,000.00 for the school.

I also assist my husband with his production company in providing art, acting, and improvisational classes to children in our community. We also produce various entertainment shows as stand-up comedy, live bands, and shows for children, in the LaGrange community.

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

I have attended various seminars on DNA, capital litigation, and in-house seminars on various topics of criminal law. During my legal career I have tried one hundred five (105) felony jury trials. Fifty (50) of those jury trials were for the charge of 1st degree murder, several of which were capital cases. Additionally, I have tried over forty-five (45) 1st degree murder bench trials, several of which were capital cases. Most of the above mentioned cases involved pre-trial and post-trial motions. I also have extensive experience in litigating complex legal issues such as fitness to stand trial, sanity, “DNA evidence, fingerprint comparison, firearms evidence, and trace evidence. I have also presented and cross-examined many experts in these fields.

My entire legal career has been dedicated to litigations and I have tried cases in front of Judges in both Indiana and Illinois. I have had experience with both civil and criminal law and I have experience with domestic violence cases. As such, I have learned what qualities it takes to be a fair, competent and knowledgeable Judge. My extensive litigation experience helps me to stay abreast of current legal issues and the law. My extensive jury trial, bench trial, motion practice and experience in presenting expert testimony will aid me in identifying legal issues and handling complex matters. In addition, I have an even temperament and a very good disposition and demeanor both inside and outside of the courtroom.

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

I organized and ran my own judicial campaigns in 2000 and 2002. At times, I have passed out literature for various democratic candidates during the past several years either in the city or in my neighborhood.

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 have extensive trial experience and courtroom experience. As such, I know the rules of evidence and will be better able to make correct rulings on the law and legal issues. I would strive to treat every person fairly and with dignity and respect.

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:

Date	Position	Bar Association	Rating
2000/2002/2004	Judge	CBA	Recommended
2000/2002/2004	Judge	ABA	Qualified
2000/2002/2004	Judge	BWLA	Recommended
2000/2002/2004	Judge	CCL	Qualified
2000/2002/2004	Judge	CCBA	Recommended
2000	Judge	DSL	Recommended
2002/2004	Judge	DSL	Highly Recommended
2002/2002/2004	Judge	HLAI/PRBA	Recommended
2000/2002/2004	Judge	LAGBAC	Recommended

2000	Judge	WBAI	Not Recommended
2002/2004	Judge	WBAI	Recommended
2000/2002	Judge	NW Suburban Bar	Recommended

Section—2

Questions 1-5. I will be fair to all parties involved and base my decisions and rulings on the evidence that has been presented before me. I will follow the law that is in effect at the time of my rulings and impose a sentence that I deem appropriate based upon the evidence that has been presented.

6. The Circuit Court system is still backlogged with cases. One way to remedy this in civil court is to have mandatory mediation. This will reduce the number of cases that go to trial and thus reduce the cost of litigation. One of the strengths of the Circuit Court system is random assignment of cases. This will ensure that cases are not assigned to a specific judge for any particular reason. It helps to ensure that everyone will get a fair hearing/disposition on their case.
7. the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court should be chosen by a vote of the sitting judges.
8. Judges should be assigned to the various divisions of the Court based upon their prior experience. If I am elected, I would like to be assigned to the criminal division since that is where my experience and interests lie.
9. I would not let my moral or ethical/philosophical disagreements influence how I would proceed with a case. If I felt that I could not be fair and objective in a case, I would recuse myself and ask that the case be re-assigned. I would follow the law to the best of my ability.
10. If a sitting judge were indicted, the judge should be re-assigned to a ministerial position. If they take a leave of absence, they would be, in effect, getting paid for doing nothing. The judge should still have to work, but perhaps in a different setting or division that would not involve the allegations in the indictment..