

## **DuPage County Bar Announces Judicial Ratings and Recommendations**

**For Immediate Release: February 26, 2018**

As voters head to the polls between now and election day, March 20, 2018, they will not only have a crowded field of candidates to consider for such positions as governor and attorney general, they will also be voting in what is turning out to be the most contested election for Circuit Court Judge in DuPage County history. “It can be hard to decide on who to vote for judge,” said DCBA Executive Director, Robert Rupp, “so it will hopefully come as good news to voters that the DuPage County Bar Association has now completed a comprehensive review for all six of the candidates vying for these two seats.”

The DCBA Judiciary Committee completed its review of the candidates on Friday, February 23, 2018. Just as the committee does for candidates seeking appointment as Associate Judges, the committee accepted written applications from all of the candidates, each application was then randomly assigned to a committee member who interviewed references and otherwise investigated the candidate’s backgrounds, and the candidates were themselves then interviewed by the full committee. Resulting from that process, for the vacancy created by Judge Blanche Hill-Fawell’s retirement, the DCBA Judiciary Committee has now made the following recommendations:

Jeffrey M. Jacobson (Democratic):	Highly recommended
Raleigh D. Kalbfleisch (Democratic):	Not presently recommended
David Stevens (Democratic):	Not presently recommended
Karen M. Wilson (Republican):	Highly recommended

For the vacancy created by Judge Kathryn E. Creswell’s retirement, the DCBA Judiciary Committee also makes the following recommendations:

Linda E. Davenport (Democratic):	Highly recommended
Jeffrey Mackay (Republican):	Highly recommended

“Running for election in any capacity is inherently challenging,” said DCBA Judiciary Committee Chair, Ted Donner, “so I can only imagine the focus and commitment it must take to run for judge. We should all grateful for what these candidates are doing. The attention that this election will necessarily bring to our judiciary is inherently valuable and the role they are all playing in the process is correspondingly important.” The members of the DCBA Judiciary

Committee include two retired judges (Edward R. Duncan and William Ferguson), DuPage County States Attorney, Robert Berlin, five former presidents of the DuPage County Bar Association (Donner, Jay Laraia, Colleen McLaughlin, Chuck Roberts, and Steve Ruffalo), ten other members of the DCBA in private practice (Joshua Bedwell, Carrie Buddingh, Mike Cetina, Dion Davi, Mark Farrow, Dennis Harrison, Angela Iaria, Jonathan Linnemeyer, Jeffrey Muntz, and Brad Pollock), and Mike Sitrick, a lawyer working with the DuPage Foundation.

The DCBA also partners with the Illinois State Bar Association to develop Judicial Advisory Poll Ratings for each election. These ratings are developed through questionnaires sent to DCBA members and members of ISBA in DuPage County. These reflect only the opinions of those attorneys who chose to respond and they are therefore not intended to reflect the opinions of either bar association or the opinion of all attorneys in the county.

Sufficient data was not collected from respondents with regard to either Jeffrey M. Jacobson (Democratic) or David Stevens (Democratic). The ISBA/DCBA Judicial Advisory Poll Rating for each of the remaining candidates is as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Linda E. Davenport</b>	<b>Raleigh D. Kalbfleisch</b>	<b>Jeff MacKay</b>	<b>Karen M. Wilson</b>
Recommended/Not Recommended	R	NR	R	R
Meets Requirements of Office	80.18	54.68	95.60	80.95
Integrity	88.69	85.07	97.48	91.34
Impartiality	80.06	75.94	94.94	81.96
Legal Ability	92.68	56.52	96.86	76.47
Temperament	77.09	69.40	95.54	88.40
Court Management	92.86	72.88	96.77	89.07
Health	96.55	90.84	100	98.38
Sensitivity	87.08	82.17	95.51	91.09

“This is an important election,” said DCBA President, Gerry Cassioppi, “and we are grateful both for the work of our Judiciary Committee and to our members who participated in the Judicial Advisory Poll. The lawyers who make up roughly 2500 members of the DCBA are the people who work most closely with the attorneys and the sitting judges who are running for these positions. Their willingness to assist the public in making these difficult, but important decisions is invaluable.” ###