

Levitt Is a Vote for Experience

I strongly encourage my fellow Lake County residents to vote for Mark Levitt, Democrat for Lake County Circuit Court Judge. Mark is clearly the most qualified candidate in this judicial race. The Lake County Bar Association and Illinois State Bar Association agree; both gave Mark their highest ratings.

A graduate of the University of Illinois Law School, Mark has been an Assistant Cook County Public Defender for 19 years. He brings extensive courtroom experience in both criminal and civil litigation and is well regarded by colleagues, opponents, clients and judges. Mark will be an honest and fair judge. His personal mission is to protect the rights of every citizen and ensure that our legal system provides access, justice and fairness to all.

I am proud to support Mark Levitt for Judge. Vote for him on Election Day, February 2.

– *Scott Lassar, Highland Park*
Former United States Attorney, Northern District of Illinois

Lawyer for Levitt

I am writing to express my support for Mark Levitt for Lake County Circuit Court Judge.

I have known Mark both personally and professionally for over 25 years, since we were classmates together at Highland Park High School. Mark is an outstanding attorney with uncompromising integrity and good judgment. He is smart, diplomatic, decisive and personable and, without doubt, will be an outstanding addition to the Lake County bench.

Mark has devoted his career to public service and joining the bench now is the next well deserved step in that commitment he has made to serve his community. For the past 19 years he has been a leader and star in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender where he has earned a reputation as one of our very best attorneys and gained the truly unique and valuable experience that will make him a great judge. Not only is Mark incredibly qualified, but he is a good person, devoted husband and father to four great kids. I have the highest regard for Mark and his family and complete confidence that as a judge he will serve our community and the citizens of Lake County with the same excellence, integrity and fairness that I know are at the forefront of everything he does.

As an attorney myself, it is critical to me that we encourage and support the finest people to serve as our judges. I have appeared before many of our very best judges and know that Mark will be one of those excellent judges. Please join me and vote for Mark for Lake County Circuit Court Judge on Election Day, February 2.

Lake County citizens deserve to have Mark Levitt on the bench.

– *Frank Pasquesi, Lake Forest*

Levitt for Judge

Working in the legal field, we believe the quality and integrity of the judges who serve our communities is critical to the safety and wellbeing of life in Lake County. And that is why we are encouraging every citizen to vote for Mark Levitt for Lake County Circuit Court Judge.

Mark will bring legal experience, compassion, family values, fairness and integrity to the bench. Those who lead our courts play a strong role in leading our society. We have known Mark, his wife Catherine and their children for years. We supported Mark in his bid for School Board representative. Not a day goes by when Mark is not adding to the health of our community and families. Every day, judges in Lake County rule on family cases, civil rights, felony offenses, drug and mental health issues, and, sure, parking tickets and traffic safety violations. Please join us in making Lake County a safe, secure and sound place to live.

– *Ellen and Jon Hattenbach, Deerfield*

Levitt Stands Out

Mark Levitt, a candidate for judge in the upcoming February primary, stood out among my Highland Park High School and U. of I. law school classmates. Mark understood the law instinctively and pledged from day one to be an attorney who would make a difference.

Mark continues to prove me correct. He has shown remarkable drive and ability during his nearly 20 years of practice with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Mark has represented the interests of our most needy juveniles and adults in minor cases, capital murder cases and everything in between throughout the course of his career. Mark works to protect the rights of people who otherwise would not have access to legal representation. Work is not about money to Mark, but rather about fairness and the rights we all have in our system of government.

Mark makes a difference in his community both in and out of his law office. Mark is an elected volunteer member of the Deerfield School District 109 Board of Education and a coach and league administrator in youth soccer and baseball leagues in Deerfield where he and his wife, Catherine, raise their four children.

I remember saying to Mark during a Civil Litigation class in law school that of all lawyers and would-be lawyers I know he would make the finest judge. Twenty-two years later I feel exactly the same way. Mark represents what we want of our judges: fairness, honesty, intelligence and understanding. I hope you will join me in voting for him.

– *Kevin B. Apter, Highwood*

Vote for Levitt

I am writing to strongly support my friend and colleague, Mark Levitt, for Lake County Circuit Court Judge. I grew up in Highland Park with Mark, and currently work with him in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. I first met Mark in high school, where he was two classes ahead of me. Mark was friends with, what seemed like, everyone in the school. Quickly, I discovered that there was substance to his charisma. In the 25 years I have known Mark, I came to appreciate a special kindness about him that would translate well to being a fair and reasonable judge with a demeanor perfect for the job. I have seen Mark in the courtroom, where he has spent almost two decades. On the job, he is a catalyst and always a positive energy. Indeed, I am awed by his preparation and work ethic. Quite simply, he has the most outstanding credentials – knowledge of the law, depth and breadth of experience, and unquestionable integrity – to qualify him as the best candidate to make important decisions for us, the citizens of Lake County. I encourage you to cast your vote for him.

– *Richard Paull, Highland Park*

Former Classmate Supports Levitt

With so many of our elected leaders seemingly pursuing their own personal agendas, it is refreshing to be able to support a judicial candidate whose integrity and commitment to fairness comprise his entire platform. That candidate is Mark Levitt. I wholeheartedly recommend Mark for Lake County Circuit Court Judge and urge voters in the county to place Mark on the bench.

I have had the good fortune of calling Mark my friend since we were undergraduates and law school classmates at the University of Illinois. Since then, Mark has proven to be both a tireless advocate for the principles of the legal bar while finding the time to remain a committed husband, father and friend.

Mark and I spent many months together as mock trial partners in law school and I was able to witness first-hand his advocacy skills and his quick grasp of trial procedure. Thus, it was no surprise to me that Mark's talents led him to a premier position with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Currently, he is a member of the Homicide Task Force, a group of attorneys who handle the most complex and serious cases. Before that, Mark was a member of the Felony Trial Division for several years. In those roles, Mark has ardently, yet fairly, represented his clients' interests and protected their rights. In all cases, he remained true to the principles of the law. It is that sense of fairness and the years spent in actual trial practice that make Mark the ideal judicial candidate.

If Lake County residents are looking to fill the newly opened judicial seat with an experienced courtroom presence and an unbending sense of fairness and integrity, Mark Levitt is the ideal choice.

– *Steven M. Prebish, Deerfield*

For “Lawyer’s Lawyer”

It is difficult to get excited about a judicial race. People do not know who the judicial candidates are, and they generally don’t care. Only if they should happen to appear in court, do they hope that the judge is the “best” – that the judge has a solid, broad-based education; a proper judicial temperament; and a sharp legal mind.

Arguably, at the local level, there is no more important election than that for judge. Sure, mayoral races receive the attention and invoke passion, but it is the judiciary that decides those cases where mayoral acts are challenged. With the power to ascertain parties’ rights, award significant money damages, send people to prison, and award custody of children, the importance of selecting the best judge cannot be overstated.

Lake County now has a rare opportunity. Mark Levitt has decided to forego his significant and well-renowned legal practice, and devote his energies and talent to serving as a Lake County judge. Levitt is a “lawyer’s lawyer,” one to whom other lawyers turn for advice and insight, and he will be a “judge’s judge.” With literally hundreds of trials under his belt – a rarity among lawyers these days – Levitt understands how a courtroom should work and how to protect litigants’ rights.

It is little wonder, then, why the Lake County Bar Association – the lawyers who actually practice in Lake County – gave Levitt its highest endorsement, “Highly Recommended.” While I have no doubt that the other judicial candidates are fine attorneys, Levitt stands alone as a true legal scholar and practitioner. He has the perfect blend of book and practical smarts, matched with unimpeachable integrity.

Mark Levitt is the best judicial candidate in the field, with the second best far behind. As a long-time practicing attorney myself, I know an excellent attorney when I see one, and the qualities necessary to be an excellent judge. If there is one time that voters in Lake County should vote for a judge, it should be now, for Mark Levitt.

– *Kenneth J. Ashman, Riverwoods*

Send Coach to Court

While I’m not a lawyer, I do know the kind of person who should preside over the courtrooms that serve my community: intelligent, involved, ethical and compassionate. Mark Levitt is such a person, and he is my choice for Lake County Circuit Court Judge.

I met Mark at a “Me and My Dad” program when our sons were in 1st grade (they’re now in 7th grade), and I have come to know him very well over the many years we have coached together for the Deerfield Youth Baseball Association. Through DYBA and AYSO soccer, Mark has coached countless Deerfield children. Mark’s influence on each of his players will resonate throughout their lifetime. He always models fairness and reason, and shows patience, understanding and respect for players, their parents and the officials.

Our community deserves to have Mark Levitt on the bench. Please vote for him on February 2.

– *Mark Chodash, Deerfield*

Levitt will be pillar of justice

It is infrequent I meet an individual running for public office whose character, intelligence and commitment prompt me to write publicly in his favor. I recently had the pleasure and privilege to meet with Mark Levitt, Democratic judicial candidate for the Lake County Circuit Court, to discuss his legal and personal background, philosophy and objectives. He is an outstanding individual, well suited to the position he seeks.

As a public defender, he understands and lives by the responsibilities incumbent to that position; to defend those who cannot otherwise defend themselves. His actions have reinforced core principals of justice and fairness in our society. His continued presence in our courts, this time as a judge, will immeasurably strengthen the Lake County judicial system on behalf of its citizens. I wholly recommend that his candidacy is supported. I am confident he will be a pillar of justice in our county courts.

– *Stephen Z. Ballen, Lake Forest*

Levitt: Best For Lake County

Mark Levitt is a person of integrity, a decent and responsible guy – a *mensch*. I'm proud to give him my vote for Democrat for Circuit Court Judge.

I've known Mark for many years. You can't miss him around Deerfield: He's a well-known coach on the baseball and soccer fields and a frequent volunteer in the schools. He's a thoughtful member of the District 109 school board. Whenever I, or any community member, have a question or concern about the schools, Mark spends the time to listen and to clearly and completely answer questions. I know Mark's four children as well. I believe that children are often a reflection of their parents; that is definitely true of Mark and Cathie Levitt's children. They are respectful, bright and kind – just really good kids.

Mark and I have similar upbringing: We were both raised in Highland Park and belonged to the same synagogue, and had parents that instilled the importance of truth, honor and doing the right thing. This reinforces my belief that Mark is the best choice in this race.

As a judge, Mark will bring to all of Lake County the same qualities of integrity, fairness and commitment that have made our community stronger. Please support Mark Levitt for Circuit Court Judge.

– *Miriam Berlin, Deerfield*

Levitt: A Leader

Next week, we have the opportunity to select our nominee for a newly created judicial seat. This judgeship represents those of us who live in Highland Park, Highwood, Deerfield, Riverwoods, Bannockburn, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Mettawa, Libertyville, Green Oaks and parts of Buffalo Grove, and North Chicago.

Mark Levitt, an exceptional individual who has dedicated his life to public service, is the leading Democratic contender in this race. Instead of focusing his career on making the most money, Mark Levitt has focused on making the greatest difference. As one of the most highly regarded public-sector lawyers in Illinois, Levitt has spent nearly two decades at the epicenter of our criminal justice system, trying many of the court's most complex and difficult cases. Levitt's long history of public service demonstrates the commitment needed for this position. That he has not become cynical of, or jaded by, the system foreshadows the enthusiasm and integrity he will bring to the bench. The high regard of his peers and judges evidence his qualifications for the job.

Our community will be enriched if Mark Levitt serves on the bench. Levitt lives in Deerfield with his wife, Cathie, and their four children. In addition to his sizable contribution to the public good in his day job, Mark finds time to serve on his local school board. Levitt exhibits that rare combination of intelligence, good sense and principle. Please cast your vote for Mark Levitt. Put our best on the bench.

– *Joshua Hoyt, Highland Park*

Our Choice Is Levitt

We are writing in support of Mark Levitt for the Democratic nomination for Lake County Circuit Court Judge. We have known Mark and his fine family since he was a young teen in Highland Park, and have watched him mature into a wonderful husband, father of four, and community leader. A man of honesty and integrity with high standards and strong values and a dedicated public servant, Mark will bring his qualities of fairness and diligence to the bench.

Mark possesses an incredible professional record as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender. Among his peers, he is known as hard working and always professional. That's why Lake County Bar Association gave Mark its highest rating to be a judge, and why, in a poll of attorneys who know his work, Mark also earned the highest rating.

As 32-year residents of Deerfield, we appreciate Mark's community commitment. He is a member of the District 109 School Board and active in the Deerfield Youth Baseball Association and Congregation B'nai Tikvah. He volunteers long hours to encourage fair play and to help instill excellence in education for our community's children.

This is an opportunity for southern Lake County to bring a person of quality to the bench, and we hope readers will join us in choosing Mark Levitt as the Democratic Party's candidate for judge.

– *Dr. Gary and Roberta Morris, Deerfield*

Mark Levitt, A Valued Friend

Surely, everyone has seen the royal-blue-can't-miss-'em "Levitt for Judge" signs all over Deerfield ... but just who is Mark Levitt?

You've heard about his 20 years of experience in the courtroom, his fairness, unyielding commitment to justice, intelligence. I know the family man, the true essence of his character. Mark is my neighbor and my friend. I see him, not in suits and ties, but in Nikes and running shorts. He is master of the balancing act. He is a high-profile attorney on cases we read about on the front page; yet he maintains his frontline status at home. He's the dad who doesn't miss an event for his four kids – at Wilmot, Caruso and Deerfield High School. He runs from the courtroom in the city to long nights at School Board meetings. He cares about our community, and the future of our kids – his kids, mine and yours. Mark gives all of himself to each of his roles. Not to mention he's a great husband – big on romance (which goes far in my book).

Everyone in Deerfield has been touched in some way by Mark; I've been touched by his friendship. Voting for Mark Levitt for judge is truly a vote for "the man" – someone willing to give the best of himself to all of us. He's got my vote. And if my kids could vote for their favorite Dad outside of their own, they too would vote for Mark Levitt.

– *Lisa Frydman-Barr, Deerfield*

Levitt For The Greater Good

In this hotly contested judicial race, Mark Levitt stands out and deserves our votes. As a Circuit Court Judge, Mark Levitt will represent Lake County well because he is devoted to serving the greater good. He has done so at work in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, and in his community as a member of the Deerfield District 109 School Board, and with his involvement in civic groups and youth sports organizations.

His unparalleled legal experience makes him uniquely qualified for the bench. As a member of a specialized group of attorneys who handle capital cases, he protects our legal system by ensuring that everyone has access to legal representation. His credentials are such that he not only practices this type of law, but also sits on the Illinois Supreme Court Capital Litigation Trial Bar Screening Committee, which certifies other lawyers to do so.

The Lake County Bar Association did an extensive investigation into Mark's career. They interviewed colleagues, opposing counsel and judges who know Mark and his work well. As a result of that review, the LCBA rated Mark "Highly Recommended" to be a judge – their highest rating.

We are impressed by Mark Levitt and will be proud to cast our votes for him for Judge on Election Day. We strongly encourage our fellow Lake County residents to vote for the candidate with unmatched experience: Mark Levitt.

– *Marcia and Jim Rosenbaum, Highland Park*

Levitt Will Be a Welcome Addition to the Judiciary

Mark Levitt has my wholehearted support for Circuit Judge in the newly created Fourth Subcircuit of Lake County.

Since graduating from the University of Illinois Law School, Mark has devoted his legal career to public service. While gaining extensive experience in both criminal and civil litigation, Mark has never lost his idealism or his desire to ensure that the system of justice works for all of us. He will be a judge who will not forget that he was once an advocate representing clients in the courtroom, and he will remain true to his fundamental notions of justice and dignity.

I have practiced law in and around Chicago, Illinois, since January 1971, after serving on active duty in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the United States Army. As a practicing attorney, I have had occasion to appear before many state and federal judges. Judges affect litigants who appear before them in very significant ways, in ways that affect personal freedom, family welfare, financial well-being, and more. I believe that, as a judge, Mark Levitt will affect the litigants who appear before him in positive ways. He will be a most welcome addition to the judiciary.

I strongly urge my fellow Lake County citizens to vote for Mark Levitt in the Democratic primary election on February 2.

– *Richard Hillsberg, Highland Park*

Levitt: Bright, Hard Working, Devoted

If you're not an attorney, you may not have too many occasions to find yourself standing before a judge. If you do, you can appreciate the importance of having someone who is bright, thoughtful and has integrity. As an attorney for nearly 20 years, I have presented cases before many judges. I recall as a young lawyer, spending a significant amount of time drafting briefs for a motion. Each party presented the briefs to the judge weeks before the oral arguments. At the time of the hearing, the judge looked at both attorneys and asked, "What's this case about?" He had not read any of the briefs. Within two minutes, he made his ruling without further consideration. That was my introduction to the court system, at least in his courtroom.

I have been before many hard working judges who have impressed me with their skill and analyses. Those of us who know Mark Levitt, know how bright he is. If we follow his career, we know how hard working he is. But most importantly, when we see him with his wonderful family, and when we observe his enormous participation in the community, we understand how much devotion goes into everything he does. That is exactly the type of character you want in the judge you stand before as a citizen or as an attorney. You can be confident in your vote for Mark Levitt.

– *Paul Byck, Deerfield*

Looking Up to Levitt

I grew up in Highland Park and currently live in Buffalo Grove. I know both communities well, and know that Mark Levitt is a valuable asset to them. He should be the person who represents us in Waukegan as our Lake County Circuit Court Judge.

Mark graduated a few years ahead of me at Highland Park High School. I looked up to him then because he was always the person who cared, who looked out for others, who put himself out there to do what was right, in every situation.

I look up to Mark now, because he is that same giving, principled person – a good friend, a good father, a good guy. He's well respected in his community and his career. The Lake County Bar Association gave Mark its highest rating to be a judge. Allow Mark to be a judge we can respect in our courts; vote for Mark Levitt, Democrat for Judge, on February 2.

– Lisa Spewak, Director, Early Childhood Education, JCYS Northwest Family Center, Buffalo Grove

Vote for Levitt

Please vote for Mark Levitt on the Democratic ballot for Circuit Court Judge of the 4th Judicial Sub district. I am past commissioner of Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association (DYBA). I have known Mark in two arenas and have been impressed by him in both. As a father, coach and league president in DYBA Mark has shown commitment, love for his community and care for our children. He understands fair play and the ability to change lives by playing by the rules and doing the right thing. I saw Mark's passion for education and our children again, when I heard him speak as a candidate for the District 109 School Board. Just as importantly I have seen and heard Mark's candor and intelligence when I have spoken with him regarding issues affecting our schools and community. Mark's dedication to the law and public service is clearly demonstrated by his 19 years of outstanding service as a public defender. I cannot imagine a more caring, dedicated, talented and capable individual to serve our community in such an important role. Once again, please vote for Mark Levitt and encourage others to do so on February 2nd.

– Harry Steindler, Deerfield

Levitt is a Candidate of Character

I am impressed by Mark Levitt – his career, his commitment, his character. As an informed voter, my choice for Circuit Court Judge in the Democratic primary is Mark.

As a fellow member of our synagogue, I know that Mark is involved and well liked throughout the community. When you talk to Mark, you quickly learn his passion for justice. That passion is evident in his career choice; he is an assistant public defender in Cook County, leading the defense in high-profile capital punishment cases. It also is clear when he conveys his hope to use his vast experience to become a judge who can make a strong and positive impact on the lives of so many people.

I want to give him that opportunity – and give Lake County citizens an opportunity to have the best judges in our court system. That's why I will vote for Mark Levitt.

– Bess Levin, Highland Park