



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
18th Judicial Circuit Court - DuPage County, Illinois

KENNETH L. POPEJOY
Chief Judge

SUZANNE H. ARMSTRONG
Court Administrator

January 15, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Office of the Chief Judge
505 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

**CHIEF JUDGE ANNOUNCES TWO FINALISTS FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE
VACANCY**

Chief Judge Kenneth L. Popejoy is pleased to announce that following a January 14, 2021 meeting of the Circuit Judges of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court, two finalists for the Office of Associate Judge have been selected and certified to the Illinois Supreme Court. The finalists are seeking to fill the vacancy that arises from the resignation of Associate Judge James J. Konetski effective August 6, 2020. From these names, the Circuit Judges will select one appointee.

Leah M. Bendik, J.D.- *University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, IL 2002; admitted to the practice of law in Illinois, 2002. Ms. Bendik is currently an Assistant Attorney General, Supervising Attorney for the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Criminal Appeals Division (2004-present). Prior to that, she was a Judicial Law Clerk for Justice Rita B. Garman, Illinois Supreme Court (2002-2004). Ms. Bendik is an active member of the DuPage County Bar Association and the Appellate Lawyers Association.*

Michael H. Burton, J.D.- *DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL, 1998, admitted to the practice of law in Illinois, 1998. Mr. Burton is an Associate/Lead Attorney at Santana Law and Associates in Northlake, IL (2001-present). Prior to that, he was an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Maywood, IL (1998-2001). Mr. Burton is an active member of the West Suburban Bar Association and the American Bar Association.*

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