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# Circuit Judge David W. Dugan

2018 Candidate for Circuit Judge, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Madison County Illinois

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Mr. Ralph Rivera  
Illinois Right to Life Action  
1385 Warren Ave., Unit D  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

December 30, 2017

Re: 2018 Judicial Candidate Survey

Dear Mr. Rivera:

First, thank you for asking me to complete 2018 Judicial Candidate Survey. Second, I have been deeply involved in various organizations as a pro-life advocate and I believe that my responses will be evidence of that fact. Nevertheless, I have given much consideration to your inquiries and I am happy to present you with my responses to your Judicial Candidate Survey request:

1. I believe that sound public policy should give due consideration to the decision-making involvement of the parents of the child who finds herself pregnant. In most instances, the parents can provide unequalled advice and guidance that youth simply does not permit. To allow such a weighty decision to be made by a minor, in a presumably very emotional and maybe even irrational state, invites the then expedient solution which so often ends in great regret and grief once the wrong decision is carried out.
2. I am of the belief that it is an incongruent argument for those who are “pro choice” to advocate that in only the case of the abortion “medical procedure” should a patient be deprived of the knowledge and information for her to make a fully informed decision. Public policy requires that her decision be based on all available information, including, not just the physical, but also the emotional and psychological, risks to her.
3. My belief is that life begins at conception and that from that moment forward, taking that child’s life is the taking of a human life. I believe in the sanctity of life. In addition, from my years of serving as a supporter, volunteer, board member, and then president of, and legal counsel for, a large faith-based women’s pregnancy medical center, as well as being one of the founders of Illinois Vision 2020, I have become very aware of the wide and deep swath of hurt to the mother and her family that seemingly follows so many abortions. Not infrequently, post abortive women suffer both emotionally and physically as a result of their decision to abort.
4. Public policy should never advocate for the taking of innocent human life. While I understand, and have personally witnessed, extensive human suffering that would seemingly warrant it, euthanasia by its very terms cheapens the value of human life and cannot be justified on want or expediency.

5. While I would, if called upon in my role as a Judge, follow the law as it has been established, I do believe that, for a number of reasons, the case of Roe v. Wade is sorely misplaced. But, even with that, I do not believe that the Illinois Constitution, independent of the United States Constitution, provides a sound basis for expansion of the right of privacy to the same extent.
6. As with abortion rights, I do not see in the Illinois Constitution the intent to create a right to euthanize oneself.

Thank You for the opportunity to provide you with my beliefs on these most critical issues. Please keep in mind, however, that while I hold and have held for many years these beliefs, I will follow and apply the law as my sworn obligation as Circuit Judge for Illinois.

Sincerely,

David W. Dugan  
Circuit Judge  
Madison County, Illinois

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