



LISA MADIGAN

Attorney General

Lisa Madigan (Democrat) was elected to a second term as Attorney General on Nov. 7, 2006, earning the largest vote total of any statewide candidate. As the state's 41st Attorney General, she is the first woman to hold the office.

In her role as the people's chief legal advocate, Attorney General Madigan has implemented numerous proactive law enforcement strategies to protect communities and Illinois consumers. To keep children safe from sex offenders, Madigan's office coordinates a statewide task force charged with investigating and prosecuting online child exploitation, and she led a statewide initiative to improve the state's sex offender registry and compliance with registry laws.

Madigan successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a law allowing police officers to use specially trained dogs to detect illegal drugs during traffic stops. She also called on the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase efforts to protect the public from dangerous products, and fought to strengthen state laws to ensure the safety of children's products.

Attorney General Madigan has worked aggressively to protect homeowners from the devastating impact of predatory mortgage lending, filing consumer fraud lawsuits against some of the largest mortgage lenders in the nation, including Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. The lawsuit resulted in a record \$8.7 billion settlement in 2008 — the largest predatory lending settlement in history. In 2009, she filed a fair-lending lawsuit against Wells Fargo, becoming the first state Attorney General in the nation to sue a national bank for its role in the foreclosure crisis.

Madigan's emphasis on making Illinois government more open and accessible led to passage of landmark legislation in 2009 to strengthen the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts. In 2005, she received the Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for her efforts in ensuring that the public, elected officials and government bodies understand and adhere to Illinois' transparency in government and open meetings laws.

Madigan has received numerous awards, including the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, presented annually to an elected official who demonstrates the impact of public service in the spirit of John F. Kennedy. In 2006, Madigan was one of 24 elected officials to receive an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellowship. The program recognizes the nation's most outstanding young political leaders, focusing on the ethics and responsibilities of public leadership.

Before becoming Attorney General, Madigan served in the Illinois Senate and worked as a litigator for a Chicago law firm. She also worked as a teacher and community advocate, developing after-school programs to help kids stay away from drugs and gangs, and volunteered as a high school teacher in South Africa during apartheid.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and her J.D. degree from Loyola University School of Law. She and her husband, Pat Byrnes, have two daughters.

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