



LISA MADIGAN

Attorney General

Lisa Madigan (Democrat) was elected to a third term as Attorney General on Nov. 2, 2010. She is the first woman to hold the office and the senior-most female Attorney General in the country.

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. She also championed a new law making Illinois the first state to mandate testing of sexual-assault evidence. To help protect nursing-home residents from abuse, Madigan created an innovative program that uses unannounced, multi-agency visits to facilities to ensure compliance with resident safety standards.

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 U.S. 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 results of predatory lending and the ensuing foreclosure crisis. Her office sued some of the nation's largest mortgage lenders and obtained more than \$12 billion in damages and restitution for borrowers. Nearly \$2 billion in relief was awarded from a national settlement with the five largest bank mortgage servicers over allegations of widespread "robo-signing" of foreclosure documents and other fraudulent practices while servicing loans of struggling homeowners.

Madigan's work to make Illinois government more open and accessible led to passage of landmark legislation in 2009 to strengthen the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts and the permanent establishment of the state's Public Access Counselor. She also created a Public Integrity Unit to investigate fraud, waste and abuse. Since 2003, the Attorney General's office has collected more than \$9 billion in revenue for the state.

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 Chicago School of Law. She and her husband, Pat Byrnes, have two daughters.