

Jay Stewart
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Summary

Successful executive leader experienced in managing government agencies and nonprofit organizations through challenging fiscal environments while improving day to day operations. Strong background in government affairs, ethics, media relations, law, management, human relations and procurement.

Professional Experience

Deputy Bureau Chief

2016 to present

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

- Responsible for day to day operations of the Bureau.
- Assist with passage of Bureau ordinances by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.
- Represent the Bureau and Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle at public events and meetings.
- Act as a liaison between the Bureau and other agencies in Cook County government.
- Work with the Bureau Chief on strategic initiatives and policy development.
- Ex officio member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Provide support to legal, media and fiscal staff.

Director

2011 to 2016

Division of Professional Regulation

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

- Successfully enacted dozens of laws through the legislative process and prevented passage of bills contrary to the Division's interests.
- Implemented the regulation of multiple new professions, including cemeteries, fingerprint vendors, medical cannabis dispensaries and sex offender evaluators.
- Oversaw the promulgation of administrative rules through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.
- Enforced the nation's toughest system of license revocation for health care professionals.
- Won significant Freedom of Information Act litigation upholding the Division's right to protect confidential licensee information.
- Managed the personnel process for hundreds of bargaining unit and dozens of non-bargaining unit employees.
- Commenced an overhaul of the licensure system from paper to electronic records.
- Significantly reduced the processing time for new license applications.
- Trimmed caseloads for enforcement staff while protecting public safety.
- Reduced the number of vacant and expired positions on the 45 boards that advise the Division.

Staff Attorney**1999 to 2003****Better Government Association**

- Worked on high profile public interest litigation, including two cases argued in front of the Illinois Supreme Court.
- Co-creator of the Integrity Index, the first ever 50 state ranking of ethics and transparency laws. The Integrity Index received extensive coverage and helped spur changes to laws in several states.
- Supported investigative staff and worked with national, state and local media partners.

Confidential Assistant**1993 to 1996****United States Department of Commerce**

- Helped organize the first-ever White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.
- Engaged in governmental affairs duties, including working on the Congressional Rapid Response Team during passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Field Worker**1991 to 1993****Clinton for President**

- Executed all aspects of field work including, but not limited to, voter registration drives, literature drops, recruiting and managing volunteers, assisting with advance work, local media relations and running phone banks.

Education**DePaul University College of Law****1996 to 1999**

J.D. with honors

State University of New York at Plattsburgh**1986 to 1990**

B.A. Political Science with honors