

Statement of Margaret Daley

Chairman Suffredin and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee. I am honored to be asked to serve on the Cook County Board of Ethics and to state why I am interested in taking on this assignment.

I was raised in a family that believed deeply in public service. My father was the mayor of my home town and my mother was president of the school board. Our dinner conversations were dominated by political discussions and public policy debates. I was taught that when you receive benefits from any organization it's your duty to give back. Consequently, throughout my life I have supported and been a volunteer to organizations that serve the public.

My family has deep roots in Chicago and I have lived in Cook County for 28 years. In that time I have been both inspired by and disappointed in our public servants. Like many Illinois citizens, I am frustrated that the important accomplishments of our government institutions are too often obscured by the small minority of people who engage in corruption, self-dealing, cronyism and waste.

I believe that government officials should adhere to a firm set of ethics rules. These rules must be clearly communicated and coupled with a fair adjudication process which is based on due process and the opportunity to be heard. Absent this system, the bad apples profit with impunity and the public loses faith in our system of government. I would be honored to be a part of the system that I believe is fundamental to ensuring that our government works on behalf of the public welfare.

As for my qualifications, I am an attorney and investigations professional with over 25 years of experience. I am a certified data privacy expert, a Certified Fraud Examiner and an anti-money laundering specialist. I have led hundreds of investigations involving accounting fraud, money laundering, data theft and discrimination.

~~For the first 10 years of my career I was a trial lawyer representing parties in commercial litigation~~ so I understand the need for a fair judicial process. As a young lawyer representing a dying plaintiff in one of the first AIDS discrimination cases brought under the Illinois Human Rights Act, I helped to draft legislation allowing emergency depositions for the preservation of evidence. I also successfully represented members of the African American Police League whose pensions were being diminished as a result of politically motivated suspensions and demotions during their fight for recognition in the 1970s.

I have worked on large scale investigations like the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the Madoff Ponzi scheme and on smaller matters such as low dollar embezzlements and data theft. As a follow up to many of my cases I have been asked to design and implement compliance programs. I have been fortunate enough to receive national recognition as a Forensic Investigations Expert.

I have served on many boards throughout the years that strive for good government. I have been a member of the executive committee of the Better Government Association for over 10 years and served as chairman of the board from 2012-2014. The BGA works for integrity, transparency and

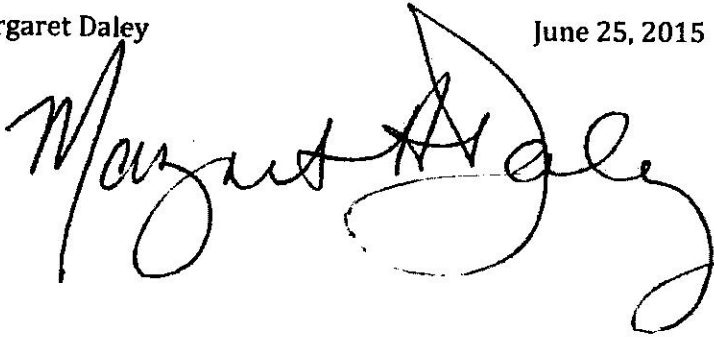
accountability in government by exposing corruption and inefficiency. I am currently chairman of the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, a board that distributes funding appropriated by the State to support not-for-profit legal aid programs. The organizations it funds help families in crisis, victims of domestic violence and seniors access our justice system.

I want to serve on the ethics board because I care about the citizens of the Cook County and I care equally about the hard working and honest employees and officials of Cook County. Both suffer when government officials abuse their positions for personal gain. I want to help make sure our government is focused squarely on serving the public welfare. I am committed to being a part of the solution and will work tirelessly to help the Inspector General to leverage his resources and modernize the current investigations procedures.

I appreciate your consideration.

Margaret Daley

June 25, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Daley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the word "Daley".