



Christopher Bohlen for Judge

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About Chris

On Friday, August 10, Christopher Bohlen announced his candidacy for election as Circuit Judge before a large crowd of supporters. Chris who has been Corporation Counsel for the City of Kankakee since 1997 as well as managing partner and president of the Kankakee law firm of Barmann, Bohlen and Jacobi P.C. where he has spent the past thirty years as a trial lawyer.

Bohlen has worked closely with law enforcement during his career with the City of Kankakee. He has been acknowledged as an innovative leader in the creation of many tools which have helped law enforcement reduce crime in Kankakee. He drafted the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance which has become a standard throughout the nation. He also has worked on the drafting and enforcing strong code enforcement ordinances.

Bohlen, who is 58, was raised on a farm near Moweaqua, Illinois. He graduated with honors from the University of Illinois in 1970 and received his law degree from Northwestern University in 1973. After law school he worked for four years as a felony trial attorney in the Cleveland, Ohio Public Defender's office. Since that time he has maintained a law practice in Kankakee. He was also an assistant Public Defender in Kankakee for five years.

Bohlen's law practice has included a wide variety of experience. He has represented a number of persons in issues related to family concerns. He has represented persons who were injured by others. He has also represented insurance companies defending law suits. He has represented municipalities and school districts. He has also represented persons who have claimed civil rights violations by municipal and state agencies. He has defended police departments. He has been involved in a number of eminent domain actions both on behalf of the land owners and on behalf of the municipality. He was also appointed as a Special Prosecutor for Iroquois County.

Bohlen has been the primary trial lawyer in more than two hundred jury trials, and many more bench trials. Bohlen has repeatedly received the highest possible rating by his fellow attorneys in the by the primary independent lawyer rating service and has been selected as a "Super Lawyer" by Chicago Magazine for the past three consecutive years.

Bohlen stated that he believes the he has experience that is unmatched by any other candidate or potential candidate. " I have been privileged to represent plaintiffs and defendants in every type of civil case. I have represented fathers and mothers and even children in domestic cases. I have prosecuted and defended persons charged

with crimes. This experience has given me a unique perspective. I have seen the good and the bad of our system. This knowledge and experience encourage me to want to give back to the system by working to improve the system, make sure that the system is fair for all of the participants, just as important I hope that we are able to better assure the safety of our community and the viability of our family structures as well as protect our constitutional rights. “

Bohlen has been active in the community, having served as president of the Kankakee Valley Park District Board, a member of the Kankakee Planning Board, president of the Kankakee YMCA Board, where he is a member of the Board of Trustees. He has also served as a precinct committeeman, Vice Chairman of the Kankakee County Building Commission, a past member of the Riverview Historic District Board. Bohlen has also led the fund-raising campaign for Prairie State Legal Services.

Bohlen is running for the vacancy created by the retirement of J. Gregory Householder.

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