

ILLINOIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

30th Anniversary Annual Conference Speaker Bios



Robert Berlin

Bob has been a career prosecutor for 35 years. He began his career in 1987 as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County. In 2001, Mr. Berlin left Cook County to become the First Assistant State's Attorney for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. Then, in 2004, Bob began working for the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office as Deputy Chief of the Office's Juvenile Division. During the next several years, Mr. Berlin was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Felony Trial Division and Chief of the Criminal Bureau. He was appointed DuPage County State's Attorney in December 2010 and was elected to a full four-year term in 2012, 2016, and again in 2020. In his 35-year career as a prosecutor, Mr. Berlin has tried 87 felony jury trials, 58 of which involved first degree murder. Mr. Berlin has also tried hundreds of felony bench trials, including more than 50 homicide cases. Bob was awarded the Illinois State Crime Commission's State's Attorney of the Year Award in 2013, the Education Center's "Making a Difference Award" in 2011, the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation Board of Directors' Trial Award in 2003, and in 2020, the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association named Bob Public Official of the Year. Bob served as President of the Illinois State's Attorney's Association in 2019. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of criminal justice issues and has testified before the Illinois Senate Criminal Law Committee and Illinois House Judiciary Committee on numerous criminal justice bills.

Michael Bersani

Mike Bersani is a partner with Hervas, Condon & Bersani, P.C. Mike received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1985, and his law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1988. Following law school, Mike clerked for the Honorable Judge Edward T. Barfield, State of Florida First District Court of Appeals.

Since entering private practice in 1990, Mike has concentrated his practice in municipal and park district law, and federal civil rights and state law tort litigation. He is a co-contributor to the 2020 IICLE chapter on Civil Rights Liability, and he is rated AV Preeminent® in Martindale-Hubbell. Mike is admitted to the practice law in the U.S. Supreme Court, Seventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, as well as the States of Illinois and Florida.

Geoffrey Dickinson

Geoffrey Dickinson, AICP – Partner / Senior Vice President is a real estate and economic development advisor with expertise in public-private finance partnerships, special taxing district establishment, market and financial feasibility, development strategy, and project implementation advisory services. Geoff has led the designation/eligibility analyses of numerous special districts throughout Illinois including TIF districts, Business Districts and Special Service Areas. He assisted Presence Health (now AMITA Health) in securing TIF and New Markets Tax Credit funding to help pay for the relocation of its affiliate, Resurrection University, from Oak Park to Chicago. He has also led deal reviews/gap financial analyses

for both public and private sector clients to determine the need for and amount of financial assistance to a diverse range of projects in the Midwest, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Florida. Geoff holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Northwestern University, and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the American Planning Association (Florida and Illinois Chapters) and Lambda Alpha International- Ely Chapter. He serves on the board of the Illinois Tax Increment Association and is a Series-50 Qualified Municipal Advisor Representative.

David Mathues

David Mathues is a partner at Hervas, Condon, & Bersani, PC, located in Itasca, Illinois. His practice is heavily weighted towards defending Section 1983 lawsuits in every stage of litigation. He has conducted four federal civil jury trials and argued five times before the Seventh Circuit. David previously spent five years as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and, before that, worked as a Litigation Associate for Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He was a law clerk for the Hon. Danny J. Bogs, then-Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. David graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School, *summa cum laude*, in 2007.

Chief Marc Maton

Chief Marc Maton began his law enforcement career as an Illinois State Police Trooper in 1986. From 1988 through 2003, his primary assignments were in drug units and multi-jurisdictional task forces. In 2003, he was given command of Zone 3 in Joliet. In 2009, he was appointed as the Chief of Field Operations for the Illinois State Police. In 2012, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Illinois State Police, where he served until his retirement in December, 2014.

In January, 2015, Marc was appointed as the Chief of Police for the Lemont Police Department. He received Police Chief certification in 2016. Chief Maton is currently the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and 2nd Vice President for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. He is currently Past President of the IRMA Police Chief's Steering Committee and is an Executive Board member of the Illinois Drug Enforcement Officers Association and the Illinois Homicide Investigators Association. Marc was the Illinois Crime Commission Police Chief of the Year in 2017. In 2019 he received the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Presidents Award. In 2020, he was honored as the Illinois Association of Chiefs Police Chief of the Year.

Marc has a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a Master's in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University. He is married with three sons and resides in Plainfield, Illinois.

Jill O'Brien

Jill O'Brien joined Laner Muchin in 1989 and has been a partner since 1995. She is a member of the Firm's Executive Committee and Chairperson of the Firm's Attorney Hiring Committee.

Jill's practice focuses on the representation of public and private sector employers in a wide variety of labor relations law matters, including collective bargaining negotiations, grievance handling, mediation and arbitration hearings (grievance and interest arbitration), as well as in representation/certification and unfair labor practice hearings before the National Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

Eric Rinehart

Eric Rinehart is the newly elected Lake County State's Attorney who took office in December 2020. Eric campaigned on an agenda of reform, modernizing the office, and restorative justice. Eric believes that we can make our communities safer and our courthouse fairer by treating the long-term causes of crime, serving as the voice of all victims, and by intentionally working to end systemic racism.

Eric went to Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois and graduated in 1998. After graduating from the University of Chicago Law School in 2001, Eric worked at a small civil litigation firm called Schopf & Weiss in downtown Chicago.

In 2003, Eric started working in Lake County at the public defender's office. From 2003 to 2008, Eric handled hundreds of criminal cases on behalf of the indigent of Lake County. From 2008 until his recent election, Eric worked in private practice where he continued to focus on criminal cases, appeals, and administrative agency matters.

Over his career, Eric has been the first chair on over 70 jury trials that went to verdict and has argued in the appellate and Supreme Courts of Illinois. As the State's Attorney, Eric serves as the Chairperson of the Children's Advocacy Center, the Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force, the Juvenile Justice Council, and Community Councils on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Eric lives in the Highwood area with his wonderful wife Stephanie and their two rambunctious twins, Sam and Teddy.

Gregory T. Smith

Greg Smith is a Partner at Elrod Friedman LLP focused on economic development, general municipal practice, and private development. Greg has experience with a variety of economic development tools and structures, including TIF districts, business districts, special service areas, sales tax rebates, property tax abatements, and public-private partnerships. He has an undergraduate degree from DePaul University and a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Diana Uchiyama

Dr. Diana Uchiyama is the Executive Director of the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP). Prior to joining LAP, she was the Administrator of Psychological Services for DuPage County and ran a licensed outpatient substance use treatment program, including a Mentally Ill Substance Abuse (MISA) program and Seeking Safety program for individuals with substance use problems, who were also trauma survivors. While at DuPage County she also ran a 26-week Domestic Batterer Intervention Program for a court mandated population of clients.

Dr. Uchiyama has also worked for the Kane County Diagnostic Center, as both a Staff Psychologist and Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator and has an extensive background doing court ordered evaluations including psychological, sanity, fitness, fitness to parent, and sex offender evaluations. She was also a licensed sex offender evaluator in the State of Illinois. She has implemented numerous changes to court ordered programs both in Kane and DuPage County and is a SAMSHA certified trauma informed care trainer. Dr. Uchiyama also conducts therapy with adults and adolescents, is a Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and has an Advanced Mindfulness Training Certificate, teaching mindfulness skills to others in order to increase their wellbeing.

Prior to obtaining her masters and doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Dr. Uchiyama was an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County working in various felony courtrooms at 26th and California in Chicago for over a decade. She obtained her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law.

She is a prolific writer and nationally recognized speaker in the areas of judicial/ lawyer/law student health and wellness issues throughout the country.