

Lisa Madigan

Lisa Madigan (Democrat) was elected the 41st Attorney General of Illinois on Nov. 5, 2002. She is the first woman to hold this position. As the state's chief legal officer, Madigan is an advocate for the People of Illinois and for the State, protecting the public interest, safeguarding communities and preserving our environment. Since being sworn into office, Madigan has led efforts to restore integrity to Illinois' gaming industry, better protect Illinois women and children from sex offenders and stop the spread of methamphetamine. Working to ensure that Illinois communities are safe, Madigan created a statewide team of law enforcement agencies to focus on improving the state's sex offender registry and enforcing the registry laws. Leading this team, Madigan has proposed successful legislation to improve Illinois' sex offender registry and significantly strengthen the laws designed to protect women and children from sex offenders. Madigan also has spearheaded efforts to locate and charge unregistered sex offenders. Madigan has made fighting the spread of methamphetamine a priority.

Working closely with law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois, Madigan has created a training program for prosecutors and crafted successful legislative initiatives to crack down on criminals who endanger children when producing methamphetamine and to curb the spread of this dangerous drug by cutting off supplies of ingredients needed to make it. As Attorney General, Madigan is the state's leading consumer advocate.

Her efforts to protect consumers, especially seniors who are often targeted by scam artists, include educating consumers on emerging scams, mediating consumer complaints and filing lawsuits to stop fraudulent practices and recover restitution on behalf of consumers. Madigan's interest in making government more open and accessible has led to innovations in the Office of the Attorney General. Madigan provides many materials and forms in multiple languages and offers a telephone hotline for Illinois' Spanish-speaking population. Madigan also created the position of Public Access Counselor to take an active role in ensuring that public bodies conduct their business openly and that the public has access to governmental information.

Before her election as Attorney General, Madigan served in the Illinois Senate and worked as a litigator for a Chicago law firm. Prior to becoming an attorney, Madigan worked as a teacher and community advocate, developing after-school programs to help kids stay away from drugs and gangs. She also traveled to South Africa, during apartheid, to work as a volunteer high school teacher. Madigan received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and her J.D. from Loyola University Law School. She and her husband, Pat Byrnes, have one daughter.