



Supreme Court of Illinois

Joseph R. Tybor
Director of Communications

222 North LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Telephone (312) 793-2323
Mobile (312) 636-0479
Fax (312) 793-0871

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SUPREME COURT NAMES LASALLE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY TO THE ILLINOIS BOARD OF ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced Friday the appointment of LaSalle County State's Attorney Brian Towne as a member of the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar.

"Brian Towne has a first-hand view on the quality of newly admitted lawyers through his service as LaSalle County state's attorney. Many legal careers have been started working for him," Chief Justice Kilbride said. "He will provide great insight to the bar admission process and I am pleased to have him on board."

Mr. Towne will replace Rock Island attorney David W. Andich, who has served on the Board of Admissions to the Bar since 2001 and served as its president from 2005-2007.

The Supreme Court appointment was effective January 17, 2013.

"I am honored to be appointed a member of the Board of Admissions to the Bar," Mr. Towne said. "In over two decades of serving in the state's attorney's office, I've had the opportunity to work with many newly minted lawyers and I see firsthand how vital the bar admission process is to ensure that the fitness of the candidates remain very high.

"I thank Chief Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court for this wonderful opportunity."

A *cum laude* graduate of Western Illinois University, Mr. Towne received his *juris doctor* degree from DePaul University College of Law in 1992. While attending DePaul, he served as law clerk for the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's office.

A lifelong resident of LaSalle County, Mr. Towne has worked for the LaSalle County state's attorney's office since 1992. During his 21 year tenure, he has worked in traffic, juvenile, misdemeanor and felony divisions. For the past 14 years, Mr. Towne has litigated all murder trials conducted by the office.

Mr. Towne currently serves as first vice-president of the Illinois State's Attorney Association; chairman of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Board of Governors and is chairman of the Child Advocacy Center Board and of the Juvenile Justice Council.

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In 2002, Mr. Towne became the first LaSalle County lawyer to be certified as lead counsel for the Capital Litigation Trial Bar. The Supreme Court created the Capital Litigation Trial Bar in 2001 as part of amended Supreme Court rules that was recommended by the now defunct Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases. The trial bar established a certified roll of attorneys who meet minimum standards of training and experience for defense counsel and assistant prosecutors appearing in death penalty cases.

The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar is an appointed body of the Illinois Supreme Court. It is responsible for all aspects of the bar admission process, including the bi-annual administration of bar examinations and the oversight of the Committee on Character and Fitness. Its mission is to try to ensure that only persons of good moral character possessing the general fitness to practice law are licensed as Illinois attorneys. It is totally funded by the license fees of lawyers, not by taxpayer money.

In addition to Mr. Towne, other members of the Board are: Lawrence N. Hill, president, of Chicago; James R. Carroll, vice-president, of Chicago; Donald H. Funk, secretary-treasurer, of Springfield; John P. Long of O'Fallon; Shelia Berner Kennedy, of Kenilworth; and Randy Johnson of Dundee.

Regina Kwan Peterson serves as Director of Administration for the Board of Admissions to the Bar.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323)