

RALPH M. MARTIRE

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CENTER FOR TAX AND BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY

1999 – Present

Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA), a bipartisan IRS 501(c)(3) think tank committed to promoting social and economic justice through adequately financed public services that are evidence based. CTBA is devoted to ensuring that state, federal and local workforce, education, fiscal, housing, social service, economic and budget policies are fair and just, and promote opportunity for all, regardless of race, ethnicity or income class, with a particular focus on minority populations, and disadvantaged, poor, low-income and working class families and communities. Responsible for organizational and board development, issues focus, research strategy, fundraising, human resources, strategic direction and media strategy. Tripled project funding in two years.

Helped draft model school funding reform legislation at the request of State Representative Will Davis and State Senator Kimberly Lightford. Known as the “Evidence Based Model,” and incorporated in SB1947, it was signed into law by Governor Rauner on August 31, 2017. The Evidence Based Model creates a pathway to both equitable and adequate K-12 funding statewide. Helped draft and pass \$7 billion in various revenue enhancements to avert fiscal disaster in Illinois over the FY2011-2017 sequence.

Helped obtain numerous other legislative successes (including passage of a state Earned Income Tax Credit, creation of a bipartisan legislative task force to integrate workforce and economic development policies, corporate accountability legislation that, among other things, requires public reporting of economic development benefits created through receipt of tax breaks and other subsidies, increasing the cigarette tax, increasing marginal tax rate on casinos, decoupling Illinois tax policy from the federal bonus depreciation rules and federal repeal of the estate tax, and eliminating \$13 million of the \$40 million annual subsidy Illinois provides to horse tracks).

Principal author of various studies CTBA produced that: identify revenue enhancement initiatives designed to ameliorate the fiscal crisis in Illinois; identify the valuation proposition associated with enhanced K-12 funding; and highlight many of the inequities by both race and income that were embedded in Illinois’ prior approach to school funding. Many of the proposals identified in these studies ultimately became law. One, prescription drug purchasing reform, became an administrative reform. Successfully developed coalitions with other organizations to work on state education, healthcare, economic development, tax and fiscal policy.

Regular columnist for the [Springfield State-Journal Register](#) and the [Daily Herald](#) on public policy and good government.

Served on the school funding formula reform advisory task force to the nonpartisan Illinois State Education Funding Advisory Board, which formerly set the recommended minimum foundation level.

Served on the education policy task force of the Chicago Urban League.

Served on the advisory board to the Applied Research Center focusing on issues of racial justice in fields of education, economic development and healthcare.

Served as president of the Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy, until January, 2011.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE COMMISSION

2011 – 2013

Appointed as a full voting commissioner to the Congressionally-established “Equity and Excellence in Education Commission,” under the administration of the Federal Department of Education’s Civil Rights Division. The Commission was charged by Congress to review public education systems and systems of education finance at the national and state level in the U.S., to identify whether any problems inherent in either or both of those systems contributed to either inequities in access to educational opportunities or creation of achievement gaps, and/or otherwise established barriers to educational excellence for any children.

The Commission completed its work with the issuance of the “*For Each and Every Child*” report in February of 2013. The report, which reviewed the importance of education to both the U.S. economy and its democracy, contained numerous recommendations to create an equitable and excellent education for all children, was issued on a unanimous basis, and is available online. I co-authored the first section of the report, which made recommendations regarding the fiscal and education funding policies required at the state and federal levels to provide an excellent education to every child, irrespective of race, ethnicity, or income level. I was the principal author of the federal recommendations in Section 1.

After the issuance of the “For Each and Every Child” report, I was appointed by Congressman Mike Honda of California to

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serve as technical advisor to the House Appropriations Committee on Education policy. In that capacity, I drafted the “Equity and Excellence in American Education Act of 2015.” That Act had over 30 co-sponsors, but is on hold since Congressman Honda lost his election last cycle. Moreover, the Federal Department of Education has taken a number of actions based on the Report’s recommendations, including the investment of some \$400 million more in early childhood education and the issuance of an enforcement advisory notifying school districts nationally that questions involving equitable resource allocation are now a legitimate basis for filing a complaint with the Department of Education’s Civil Rights Division.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND RELATED SERVICE

Elected on April 5, 2011, to serve a four year term as a member of the District 90 School Board in River Forest, Illinois. Elected President of the District 90 Board in 2014. Re-elected in 2015 to both the Board and the Presidency thereof.

As Board President, created a standing committee on equity, charged with making recommendations to eliminate the white/minority academic achievement gap in the district. I chair this committee. Since its inception in 2015, the District 90 Equity Committee has made recommendations regarding hiring practices, pedagogy, and professional development designed to address implicit bias, all of which have been adopted by the full Board. D90’s equity efforts have been featured in statewide training sessions run by the Illinois School Board Association, and in national training materials promulgated by Partners for Each and Every Child.

Elected in 2013 to serve as a member of the executive board of the West Cook Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Appointed in 2016 to the Culture, Climate, and Behavior Committee of the Oak Park River Forest High School for District 200. This committee is charged with addressing issues involving race, gender, ethnicity, and income at the high school.

SB1947 PROFESSIONAL REVIEW PANEL

Appointed in 2018 to serve on the legislatively established “Professional Review Panel,” charged with monitoring the implementation of Illinois’ new school funding formula—the “Evidence Based Formula,” and making recommendations to improve said formula to the Illinois General Assembly over the 2018-2023 sequence.

FELLOWSHIPS

Selected to the initial McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows Program, which I completed on October 12, 2017. This program provided in-depth training and on-hands experience to the participating fellows in all aspects of early childhood, including but not limited to: the underlying science concerning child brain development from birth up; current policies and programs; and issues involving equitable access to services, wage levels in the industry, and long-term ramifications for children who do not receive appropriate supports.

AWARDS

2016 Adlai Stevenson Award for Public Service presented by the American Society for Public Administration to honor one individual with a connection to the Chicago area that has made outstanding contributions to government and public administration over an extended period of time.

2008 Friend of Education Award, presented by the IEA-NEA, in recognition of efforts on behalf of the students, staff and public institutions across Illinois that demonstrate by both word and deed support for great public schools.

2007 Champion of Freedom Award, presented by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition to individuals who carry out Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to equal educational opportunities through their professional and personal activism.

2007 Friend of Education Award, presented by the IEA-NEA Regions 31 & 57, for service to public education above and beyond the call of duty.

2006 Certificate of Honorary Life Membership from the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, in appreciation of faithful and devoted services rendered in behalf of children and youth.

2004 Ben C. Hubbard Leadership Award, presented annually by Illinois State University to an individual whose leadership has significantly benefited education in Illinois.

Certificate of Appreciation, presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards, for advancing the cause of the Association and its member school boards.

OTHER KEY APPOINTMENTS

Appointed as technical advisor to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on education policy

Appointed as technical advisor to Senator Toi Hutchinson, Chair of the Illinois Senate Revenue Committee

Appointed to the Education Funding Advisory Board's Advisory Committee

Appointed technical advisor to the Chairperson of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Representative Will Davis on: education funding and policy reform; tax and budget policy; and workforce and economic development policy

Appointed as technical advisor to the Illinois House of Representatives standing committee on Property Tax Reform and School Funding

Appointed to State Comptroller's Commission on Campaign Finance Reform

Appointed to Comptroller's Commission on Corporate Foreign Tax Inversions

Appointed as technical advisor to Bipartisan, Bicameral Illinois Education Caucus

Appointed as technical advisor to legislative task force on issues confronting African American males

Appointed as technical advisor to Illinois State Senate Revenue Committee

TEACHING AND SEMINARS

Designed and taught the following courses: a seminar on fiscal policy and economic development for Illinois State University Master's Program in Public Policy; a doctoral seminar on the politics of education for Illinois State University's Ph.D program in Education Administration; a master's class on public policy, poverty and economics for Roosevelt University; a master's class on education finance for the University of Illinois; and an introduction to public policy processes course for Benedictine University's undergraduate political science program.

Frequent lecturer on various education, economic, budget and fiscal policy issues, including presentation of budget and fiscal policy courses for the International Fulbright Scholar Program sponsored by Southern Illinois University, the National Labor College, Women in Government (a national seminar series for state legislators from across the country), The National Conference for Lutheran Social Services, the Center for Policy Alternatives National Conference on Fiscal Policy, the 2002 Illinois Economic Development Conference co-sponsored by the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University and Illinois State University, and the International Visitors Center of Chicago.

In 2007, served as keynote of Arizona State University's first national conference covering Latino male high school drop-outs.

Served as guest lecturer in various graduate and undergraduate courses for the University of Illinois, University of Chicago, Roosevelt University, Medill School of Journalism, Columbia College and Northwestern Law School.

Featured as a policy expert for numerous television and radio news programs such as MSNBC, CNN, CBS Nightly News (national), FOX News (national), WLS, the Chicago ABC television affiliate, WTTW—the Chicago PBS affiliate and WPWR—the Chicago NPR affiliate.

Publications include, "Poverty and Illinois Tax Policy - You May Be Surprised", PRAGmatics, Spring 2002, published by the Policy Research Action Group, and Illinois PIRG, Summer 2002, Vol. 15, No.2.

LEGAL PRACTICE

2002 - 2004

General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Wilhelm and Conlon Public and Capital Strategies.

1999 – 2002

Schiff Hardin & Waite – Of Counsel, responsible for transactional, lending and intellectual property work. Practice emphasis on international transactions, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and capital structure, intellectual property (trademark, trade name, copyright, patent, trade secret and related matters), software licensing, and representing banks and other financial institutions in establishing secured and unsecured credit facilities.

Intellectual property practice includes patent and trade secret development work with universities and private research facilities,

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bio-technology work, book publishing, both domestic and international computer software licensing, distribution, development and sales agreements, trademark licensing, non-competition and confidentiality agreements and copyright issues.

Successfully closed international trade secret and technology license transactions, business acquisitions, manufacturing and distributing arrangements, and trademark licensing agreements in Europe, Asia, South America and Australia, and complex credit facilities involving various currencies and international subsidiaries of Japanese and U.S. parent corporations. Lead counsel on acquisition of company with \$500 million per year in sales.

Lead counsel in representing financial institutions (banks, etc.) in creating domestic and international credit facilities. These credit facilities have been both secured and unsecured, have been extended to publicly traded as well as closely held companies, and have covered leveraged buyouts, workouts, working capital needs and project finance. The project finance loans have covered cogeneration, energy plant and other large construction projects.

Guest lecturer at Chicago Kent Law School on intellectual property matters generally and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act in particular.

Former member of the Northwestern Journal of Technology & Intellectual Property Advisory Board.

Conducted Seminars sponsored by the international Association of Commercial Lawyers covering technology, patent, know-how and trademark licensing in the European Union, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998.

1986 – 1999

Partner, Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C., served as chairperson and organizer of the firm's intellectual property practice group, and vice-chair of the corporate transactions and asset-based lending groups.

EDUCATION

Law School: University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, J.D. May of 1985. Honors include: S.K. Yee Scholar, Certificate of Merit for writing, selected to teach first-year writing course.

Undergraduate: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, B.A. with highest honors in History, 1982. Honors include: Phi Beta Kappa; Raymond Stoltz Scholarship - awarded to History Major for outstanding academic performance and highest grade point average in junior year; Little 500 Scholarship (4 times) - awarded to fifty students who compile highest grade point average while working a full-time job during college; Dean's list (every semester); Merit Scholarship (every semester); Senior Day Scholar.

Parliamentary Internship: Research Assistant and speech writer for Conservative Member of Parliament David Trippier, London, England. Drafted speeches concerning: N.A.T.O. defense issues, (including interoperability and countering Warsaw Pact tank units), GATT issues, international trade regulation, trade union issues and disabled person's rights. Drafted speech which became part of the British government's official bargaining position concerning the Multi-Fibre Arrangement component of GATT.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

CANDIDATE FOR COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER 10TH DISTRICT 1998: Ran as an independent Democrat for the 10th Cook County District Commissioner seat and finished second in a field of five. Received thirty percent of the vote, and was endorsed by the Chicago Sun-times, Dawn Clark Netsch, David Wilhelm, IVI-IPO, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Illinois Committee for Honest Government, Personal PAC, the Honorable Jan Schakowsky, and the Honorable Kevin Conlon, among others.

CLINTON/GORE CAMPAIGN 1996 and UNITED DEMOCRATS OF ILLINOIS 1996: Co-chair of Illinois Lawyer's Committee for both Clinton/Gore 1996 and United Democrats of Illinois ("UDI"). Assisted in fundraising activities and co-ordinated election-day staff of approximately 85 volunteer attorneys, whose activities included intervening in voter fraud problems, electioneering problems and general poll watching. Also co-ordinated UDI and Clinton/Gore surrogate speaker's bureau. In that capacity, I developed training materials utilized by surrogate speakers, provided training seminars and assisted Heather Booth in placing surrogate speakers. Assisted Kathy Burgess in constituency outreach programs in various communities. Developed pamphlets highlighting Clinton/Gore successes and positions that were used in specific constituency groups (such as college students).

BLAGOJEVICH FOR U.S. CONGRESS 1996: Issues Coordinator, responsible for drafting campaign position papers

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for the candidate. Initial paper concerned candidate's stance on the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA"), telecommunications and committee work.

DEVINE FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY 1996: Finance Committee, precinct work and phone banking.

WILHELM FOR U.S. SENATE 1995: Issues Director, responsible for researching and developing policy position papers for David Wilhelm in his aborted run for the U.S. Senate.

DALEY CAMPAIGN 1995: Deputy Registrar, concentrating efforts in the 43rd Ward. Assisted 43rd Ward in voter contact. Worked as a poll watcher -- opening and closing polls in both the primary and general elections.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE 1995: Member of Democratic National Committee's ("DNC") speaker bureau. Worked with DNC in preparation of strategic plan for speakers in Illinois for 1996 election.

NETSCH/SEVERNS CAMPAIGN 1994: Served as Deputy Issues Director. Also was special assistant to the Candidates on Economic Development, drafted position papers covering community based economic development, minority/women business issues, high technology business development, Agri-business development and creating an information super-highway in the state, to be known as "Info-Illinois". Drafted the campaign's Telecommunications Policy, Agriculture Policy, Restructuring State Government Administration Paper and Budget Reform Paper. Worked on Debate-Prep with Netsch -- assisted in drafts of opening and closing statements, played Governor Edgar in mock debates. Campaign liaison to the Organization of the NorthEast (O.N.E.).

CLINTON/GORE CAMPAIGN 1992: Chairperson: Illinois Lawyers for Clinton National Security Subcommittee and Illinois Lawyers for Clinton Defense Conversion Subcommittee. Member: Illinois Lawyers for Clinton Education Subcommittee. Established contacts with Midwest defense manufacturers such as Duchossois Industries, Inc. to form blueprint for conversion of specific facilities. Represented the Clinton/Gore campaign in public debates at the Illinois Institute of Technology and Oakton Community College. Also represented campaign in talk radio program.

PRO BONO/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Member of Cook County State's Attorney's Council on Hate Crimes Prosecution, appointed by Dick Devine.

Member of State's Attorney, Cook County Special Task Force on Domestic Violence, appointed by Dick Devine.

Former member of the board of directors of Business & Professional People for the Public Interest ("BPI"), work focuses primarily on school reform, fair housing, consumer issues and environmental issues. Served as co-chair of BPI's law day event, charged with raising \$200,000 for BPI.

Former member of Advisory Board of Jamal Place, Inc., a Not-For-Profit Residential Program which provides residential treatment care for behavior disordered and/or socially/emotionally disturbed preteen and adolescent males.

Former member of Advisory Board of Catholic Charities, Division of Senior Citizens Social Services, work focused primarily on delivery of community/social services to the elderly, including elder abuse prevention, meals, healthcare and housing.

Former member of Advisory Board of Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

Former Vice President of Democratic Leadership for the 21st Century ("DL21C"), National Chapter, and former director of DL21C, Chicago Chapter.

Performed various pro bono services for: (i) Lawyers Committee on school reform in Chicago, concentrating services in African-American and Hispanic communities; (ii) immigration matters concerning Soviet Jews; (iii) Hands Across America; (iv) negotiating international artist/production agreements for local theatre groups; and (v) shelters for battered women.

Delivered Training Seminar at Martin Luther King College for Local School Councils.

Legal Clinic for Indigents - conducted criminal and civil trials as court appointed attorney; Family Law Project - responsible for representing indigent, battered women against their abusers.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member: Atlanta, Chicago, Illinois State and American Bar Associations (Member Intellectual Property and Corporate Sections); State Bar of Georgia.