



Joseph (Joe) McGraw

Republican Candidate in
Illinois's 17th Congressional District

Research Book – 2024

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Prepared by the DCCC Research Department



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Key Findings

McGraw Was Too Extreme And Was A Danger To Women's Reproductive Rights

McGraw was a danger to women's reproductive rights; McGraw supported anti-abortion legislation, represented an anti-abortion protestor in court, and showed up to support anti-abortion events. McGraw supported anti-abortion legislation that “could subject some abortion doctors to prosecution” and supported overturning a Pentagon policy that guaranteed abortion access to service members regardless of where they were stationed. In 1991, McGraw represented a defendant in a case that sought to limit disruptive protests at an Illinois abortion provider after protestors physically blocked entrances. The case was brought by the landlord and patients of the Northern Illinois women's center to limit disruptive protests at the health center, which was a frequent victim of violent attacks and protests. McGraw attended an event sponsored by an anti-abortion pregnancy crisis center in Rockford, Illinois, that provided a dangerous, medically questionable procedure called abortion pill reversal.

McGraw received more than \$124,000 from Members of Congress who supported a full abortion ban with no exceptions and donated to an anti-abortion Illinois Supreme Court Justice. As of May 2024, McGraw has taken \$124,725 from anti-abortion Members of Congress who supported a full abortion ban with no exceptions. McGraw donated \$250 to the committee to elect Justice Bob Thomas in 2000, that same year Justice Thomas was accused of “skirting the edge of ethical campaigning” by running on an anti-abortion platform despite court rules that barred judicial candidates from publicly stating their views on issues they might rule on. Justice Thomas went on to spearhead a push to revive an Illinois state law that prohibited minors from receiving an abortion without parental permission.

McGraw received endorsements, contributions, and support from notoriously anti-abortion leaders. McGraw said he was endorsed by Illinois Family Institute, an extremist anti-abortion group which opposed Roe v. Wade and espoused a sanctity of life amendment, which said they believed in “the right to life from conception.” McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Speaker Mike Johnson, who was an anti-abortion extremist who co-sponsored legislation to ban abortion and defund planned parenthood and called abortion “a holocaust.” McGraw also accepted \$7,000 and an endorsement from Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who supported a national abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest and cosponsored legislation to ban abortion. McGraw accepted \$10,000 and an endorsement from Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, who cosponsored a 15-week federal abortion ban, and cosponsored and voted for a 20-week abortion ban with criminal penalties for doctors and without full exceptions for rape, incest or life of the women. McGraw fundraised with and accepted \$2,000 and an endorsement from his “friend,” Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood, who cosponsored a national abortion ban without exceptions and described himself as a “pro-life advocate.” McGraw was also endorsed by Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, who repeatedly voted against legislation and resolutions protecting reproductive rights in Illinois. McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access, and cosponsored anti-abortion bills. McGraw accepted \$1,500 and an endorsement from Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and said he would “work towards ending pro-abortion policies” in Illinois. McGraw was also endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and bills which protected physicians and nurses. McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Dan Brady, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and bills which protected physicians and nurses. McGraw's congressional campaign was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie, who co-sponsored the Ultrasound Opportunity Act, which served as a barrier to abortion care. McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter, who was “heavily involved” in crisis pregnancy centers. McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, who voted against a bill that would protect abortion in Illinois and reinforce protections for physicians and patients. McGraw attended an event with Nebraska Senator Pete Ricketts, who favored banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

McGraw repeatedly supported and defended men accused of domestic abuse and sexual misconduct and refused to allow a murder trial jury to hear testimony of domestic violence allegations, saying, “I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence.” McGraw refused to allow a jury to hear testimony of domestic violence allegations in a murder trial where a man killed his ex-girlfriend’s daughter, saying “I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,” using air quotes for ‘domestic violence.’ McGraw touted the endorsement of Zach Oyler, a Peoria City Council Member who was accused of domestic abuse and arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint. Zach Oyler later took a “rarely used” plea agreement to resolve the charges which conceded there was likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt. McGraw also stood as a character witness in defense of an attorney and former county prosecutor whose law license was suspended after a state commission found that he “engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three women” including battery and sexual harassment.

McGraw supported anti-LGBTQ legislation and taught at and supported multiple homophobic educational institutions. McGraw supported federal anti-LGBTQ legislation including “The Parents Bill of Rights” Act, which leaned into culture war issues and which teachers warned would drive a wedge between schools and families. McGraw also supported an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which would ban certain books from Department of Defense schools. McGraw was an adjunct instructor at an evangelical Christian university that promoted “sexual purity” and prohibited “homosexual behavior.” In February 2024, McGraw claimed Democrats were “radical on gay and transgender rights.”

McGraw’s congressional campaign was endorsed by anti-LGBT Republicans, many of whom voted against marriage equality in Illinois. McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Speaker Mike Johnson, who voted against recognizing same-sex marriage and spoke out against LGBTQ+ youth. McGraw’s congressional campaign was endorsed by former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo, who voted against repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois. McGraw was also endorsed by Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois. McGraw was endorsed by Illinois Representative John Cabello, who once likened gay marriage to bestiality and voted against allowing same sex marriage in Illinois. McGraw accepted an endorsement and \$1,500 from Illinois Representative Andrew Chesney, who was against allowing gender neutral restrooms in Illinois and said to “drop the pronoun crap.” McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, who threatened violence on the Illinois Senate floor during a debate on gendered bathrooms.

McGraw said there should be no separation of church and state, said “the jury’s out” on whether human activity causes climate change, and was endorsed by rogue sheriffs who refused to enforce the law banning assault weapons in Illinois. McGraw said there was no separation between church and state, calling it an “unbiblical concept” that had “deceived many people over the years.” In 2023, McGraw said he did not believe the scientific consensus that human activity was causing climate change and said, “the jury’s out on whether or not we’re causing it.” McGraw was endorsed by nine Illinois Sheriffs who refused to enforce in part or in full the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which banned assault weapons in Illinois. McGraw said he was waiting to see the outcome of Trump’s criminal charges to make “an informed decision” on his 2024 vote, but just four months later flipfopped and said he was voting for Trump. McGraw attended an event with Ron DeSantis and said DeSantis was “electric,” and attendees “pretty much unanimous[ly]” agreed he should seek the GOP presidential nomination.

McGraw spoke at an event with a group who posted conspiracy theories and attended an event with someone who suggested “civil war” as a solution to election fraud. In January 2024, McGraw spoke at an event for the Peoria Patriots, who had posted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, warned about legislation that would prevent private paramilitary activity, and claimed the World Health Organization’s agenda was to sexualize children. McGraw attended an event with Jayne Lehman Raef, who supported false election conspiracies and suggested “civil war” as a solution to election fraud. Between 2023 and 2024, McGraw used talking points from the “great replacement theory” a conspiracy theory that was one of the early incitements used by Adolf Hitler, was cited in manifestos of gunmen in four mass shootings, and was supported by QAnon and other extremist groups. On

a podcast, Joe McGraw's daughter, Margaret, described a supernatural experience she and her family blamed on manga comic books, and a video her father borrowed that claimed fallen angels became aliens.

McGraw repeatedly referenced a book he read while deciding to run for Congress; the book urged readers to fight against abortion and same-sex marriage and contained implications that violence may be necessary to achieve political goals. McGraw repeatedly said he read *Letter to the American Church* to help him make his decision to run for Congress and called it "important." *Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas warned the American church was committing the same mistakes today as the German church did in the 1930s by not speaking out against the rise of Nazism. *Letter to the American Church* urged readers to fight against abortion, same-sex marriage, transgender rights, "critical race theory" and the Black Lives Matter movement. The book warned about the radical "pro-abortion ideology" and said that "abortion is morally wrong" and "under no circumstance must we equivocate on it." Several reviews warned that *Letter to the American Church* contained "reckless and dangerous" implications that violence may be necessary to achieve political goals and criticized its comparison of the current day to Nazi Germany. Eric Metaxas, the author of *Letter to the American Church*, made false election claims and told Trump he would "be happy to die in this fight" during a conversation about attempts to overturn the election result, and once punched a protestor.

McGraw Was Soft On Crime And Allowed Jail Overcrowding Jail Under His Jurisdiction

McGraw was soft on crime and gave lenient sentences to dangerous criminals, many of whom went on to reoffend. McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of being an armed habitual criminal to 12 years in prison, less than half the maximum sentence; shortly after being released he was back in court on charges of armed robbery and domestic battery. McGraw sentenced a man to only 30 months of probation after he abandoned someone to drown despite the States Attorney's request for jail time; after being released from probation he was the defendant in eight criminal cases. In another case, McGraw rejected Prosecutors' requests to hold a murder suspect in custody as he was called a "high risk for flight" and after the defendant was released he was found guilty of ten counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm.

McGraw sentenced defendants convicted of murder and aggravated criminal sexual assault to less than the minimum recommended prison sentence dictated by Illinois state statutes. Mandatory Minimums were the shortest prison term Illinois Law recommended a Judge sentence for a given crime, but Illinois Law allowed judges discretion to sentence below the state's mandatory minimum term of imprisonment or sentence probation or conditional discharge for certain felonies if the judge deemed it appropriate. McGraw sentenced two men convicted of murder as a class M felony to below the minimum recommended prison sentence even though both men were on parole at the time of the brutal attempted murder and one man had a lengthy criminal history and had repeatedly violated the terms of his parole. In another case, McGraw sentenced a man convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault to less than the minimum prison recommended sentence; the Illinois Second District Appellate court acknowledged that the sentence handed down by McGraw was one year less than the minimum recommended 16-year sentence for aggravated criminal sexual assault.

McGraw reduced bail for a man arrested on murder charges and gave lenient sentences to defendants convicted of aggravated sexual abuse, child endangerment, and murder, putting Illinois families at risk. McGraw significantly lowered bail for a man arrested on murder charges despite the Illinois State Attorney's objections, this allowed the man to pay and be released from jail. In another case, McGraw sentenced a woman found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment to only four years' probation, despite the prosecutor recommendation of a 22-year prison sentence for her "cruel and heinous behavior." McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of sexual abuse to only 90 days of periodic imprisonment – where he could be released at particular times – despite the crime being punishable by up to three years in prison. In one 2018 case, McGraw sentenced a man twice convicted of murder to 10 years less than his previous sentence for his first conviction; the mother of the victim's daughter said McGraw's sentence was too light and said, "it's going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter." McGraw said one of his focuses as Chief Judge was to 'reduce the jail population.'

While McGraw was a judge, Winnebago County Courts consistently struggled with “pervasive” delays and a large case backlog, allowing a suspected murderer to go free and forcing a family to wait more than six years for justice in a murder case. While McGraw was Chief Judge and Presiding Criminal Judge, Winnebago County Courts faced “pervasive” delays under his oversight. In one 2012 case, a suspected murderer was allowed to go free because his speedy trial rights were violated. In 2012 under McGraw’s jurisdiction in Winnebago County, 58% of people in jail on felony charges were there longer than the speedy-trial requirement of trial within 120 days, which was grounds for accused to be released. A 2015 murder case took more than six years to get justice, with the murderer having the longest time awaiting trial of any inmate in Winnebago County jail.

McGraw consistently omitted from his biography his time as an Assistant State’s Attorney, where he defended an anti-union employer. McGraw’s various biographies said he graduated law school in 1985 and became a circuit judge in 2002 but did not account for the 17-year time period in between. Between 1990 and 2001, McGraw was an Assistant State’s Attorney in Winnebago County, Illinois. In 1990, McGraw represented the DeKalb County State’s Attorney who allegedly fired an employee for unionizing, demonstrating a “blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.”

McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Abused His Discretion, And Was Described As “Arbitrary” And “Unreasonable”

As a Judge, McGraw empowered political corruption, acquitting and decreasing charges against multiple public officials accused of corruption and misconduct. The Winnebago County Coroner was charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery, and misconduct, including allegations that he stole from dead people; McGraw approved a lenient plea agreement and dismissed charges against his wife, who had been charged with stealing from taxpayers. McGraw twice acquitted a women accused of tampering with public records and obstructing justice despite evidence indicating she brought home documents that included private information and lied to police.

Appellate Courts repeatedly reversed McGraw’s decisions and found that he abused his judicial discretion, describing his actions as “erroneous,” “arbitrary, and unreasonable.” An Appellate Court reversed McGraw’s “erroneous” decision to squash a search warrant of a defendant who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol during a fatal car crash. In April 2013, An Appellate Court ruled that McGraw abused his discretion and described his actions to convict and sentence witnesses to jail for failing to appear in court as “arbitrary and unreasonable,” and the court reversed his decision. The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois found McGraw made a “clear and obvious error” by denying the witnesses’ “simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance.” In a 2020 case, an Appellate Court found McGraw “misled” a defendant into pleading guilty and said the circumstance of the case “br[ought] the judiciary into disrepute.” In another case, an Appellate Court found McGraw abused his discretion by imposing a \$1,200 sanction calculated using an hourly rate that had “no relation whatsoever” to the expenses incurred in a petition dismissal.

McGraw was fast and loose with taxpayer money; while McGraw was demanding and suing for more funding from the Winnebago County Board and giving his staff raises without approval, the county budget was in a deficit that led to police officers being laid off. Shortly before McGraw became Chief Judge, former Chief Judge Holmgren was able to advocate for funding from the Winnebago County Board without legal action. Between 2016 and 2017, McGraw threatened to use his position to pursue legal action against the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund four additional officers, and then hired them before the board could vote on funding. In 2017, McGraw threatened to use his position to punish the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund a new bailiff. In May 2017, McGraw issued a legal order against the Winnebago County Board in response to the board denying two of his budget requests. Later in 2017, McGraw then ordered the board to spend after they rejected funding for legal research materials and sued the Winnebago County Board over funding. In September 2017, a judge granted a temporary injunction in favor of McGraw, with the board granting McGraw the funding as a result. In December 2017, McGraw filed another court order requiring the county board to restore the spending cuts. In April 2018, the lawsuit was settled with the County Board restoring \$386,000 in spending cuts to McGraw. The Winnebago County Board Chair said McGraw’s “dangerous”

actions violated “basic checks and balances of government” and “hijack[ed] representative government.” The Winnebago County Board had to hire a law firm at a rate of \$225 to defend itself against McGraw’s lawsuit. The Winnebago County Board Majority Leader said, “the ongoing dispute with McGraw stem[med] from the county’s need for spending cuts.” The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office needed to lay off as many as 100 employees due to the budget deficits and the sheriff’s department had to disband a TAC Unit which “played a big role in local human trafficking investigations” and tackled drug crimes. During the budget deficit, McGraw gave staff pay raises without approval from the Winnebago county board.

Appellate Courts repeatedly reversed McGraw’s dismissal of defendant’s postconviction petitions, McGraw’s dismissal of defendant’s petitions inhibited their ability to challenge violations of their constitutional rights. Post Conviction Petitions allowed defendants to challenge their sentence based on violations of their constitutional rights. In one post-conviction petition, an African American defendant claimed he was denied equal protection during his jury trial as the entire jury pool contained no African Americans, while the population of the city where the trial took place was one-third African American. McGraw denied the defendant’s petition at the second stage of review and found the jury pool claim was insufficient and the petition failed to show trial counsel’s decision to not challenge the jury was unreasonable. An Appellate Court reversed McGraw’s 2nd stage dismissal of a defendant’s post-conviction petition and found that the defendant’s 6th Amendment rights were violated as his post-conviction counsel failed to provide a reasonable level of assistance in providing evidence for his civil rights claims. In a 2013 case, McGraw denied a defendant’s request to file a post-conviction petition that alleged five constitutional rights violations; an appellate court reversed his decision finding that there was “nothing in the record to even remotely suggest that the state complied” with its obligation to disclose evidence in its possession; the defendant was ultimately found to have been wrongfully convicted after spending 23 years in prison. In another case in 2009, McGraw denied a defendant’s post-trial motion claiming 6th Amendment violations; the Appellate court reversed McGraw’s denial finding counsel was ineffective and allowed “the only evidence linking defendant to the crime” to go “uncorroborated and unchallenged.” In 2014, McGraw dismissed a postconviction petition that claimed the defendant was deprived of his 6th Amendment rights, by dismissing the petition at the first stage defendant did not receive an attorney; The Appellate Court reversed McGraw’s dismissal of defendant’s petition, sent the petition back to the lower court and said defendant should be appointed counsel to assist in second stage consideration of the petition. In a 2015 case, an Appellate Court said McGraw “improper[ly]” dismissed a defendant’s postconviction petition voluntarily without a motion to dismiss filed by the state, the court vacated McGraw’s dismissal and remanded the cause.

McGraw withheld information from voters; he claimed no positions on his 2023 personal financial disclosure despite holding numerous positions. McGraw claimed no positions on his 2023 personal financial disclosure, despite holding numerous positions in 2021-2023. Between 2021 and 2024, McGraw was a co-chair of the steering committee of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council. As late as May 2023, McGraw was chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, as well as several other Illinois Supreme Court committees. Between 2022 and 2023, McGraw was a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.

McGraw demanded an assistant public defender use all his vacation time accrued after 30 years of service despite the impact it would have on his job performance; the public defender passed away before his lawsuit against McGraw was fully litigated. In August 2016, Ed Light, an assistant public defender filed a lawsuit against McGraw, Winnebago County and a Winnebago county public defender alleging he and over 100 employees lost vacation time. Ed Light was a 30-year veteran of the public defender’s office and had accrued significant time off; McGraw dictated that he use all of his vacation before the end of the year despite Ed Light’s worry he could not perform his job adequately. In October 2016, Ed Light passed away while his lawsuit against McGraw and others was being litigated and the case was dismissed in February 2017.

Thematics

McGraw Was Too Extreme And Was A Danger To Women's Reproductive Rights

Significant Findings

McGraw Was A Danger To Women's Reproductive Rights; McGraw Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation, Represented An Anti-Abortion Protestor In Court, And Showed Up To Support Anti-Abortion Events

- ✓ McGraw supported anti-abortion legislation that “could subject some abortion doctors to prosecution” and supported overturning a Pentagon policy that guaranteed abortion access to service members regardless of where they were stationed.
- ✓ McGraw supported a bill that could subject doctors to prosecution for providing reproductive services, including a fine, jail time, or both.
- ✓ McGraw supported an amendment overturning Pentagon policy that guaranteed abortion access to service members regardless of where they were stationed.
- ✓ McGraw supported a resolution that recognized the “sanctity of life.”
- ✓ 1991: McGraw represented a defendant in a case that sought to limit disruptive protests at an Illinois abortion provider after protestors physically blocked entrances.
- ✓ 1991: McGraw represented defendant Donald Lyon in the case Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, until Lyon was terminated with stipulations from the case in 1992.
 - ✓ Donald Lyon ran for Congress in 1978 and was a “trailblazer” for the Religious Right Movement, McGraw said Lyon was a “spiritual father” to him.
- ✓ The case was brought by the landlord and patients of the Northern Illinois women's center to limit disruptive protests at the health center after protestors repeatedly physically blocked entrances.
- ✓ The Northern Illinois Women's center provided abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years and was a frequent victim of violent attacks and protests before and after the lawsuit was filed.
- ✓ July 1994: Plaintiffs in Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al voluntarily dismissed the case without prejudice, meaning they could refile the dismissed claim at any time.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event sponsored by an anti-abortion pregnancy crisis center in Rockford, Illinois that provided a dangerous, medically questionable procedure called abortion pill reversal.

McGraw Received More Than \$124,000 From Members Of Congress Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions And Donated To An Anti-Abortion Illinois Supreme Court Justice

- ✓ As of May 2024, McGraw has taken \$124,725 from anti-abortion Members of Congress who supported a full abortion ban with no exceptions.
- ✓ McGraw donated to an Illinois Supreme Court Justice who “skirt[ed] the edge of ethical campaigning” by running on an anti-abortion platform and who went on to help revive an Illinois law that prohibited minors from receiving an abortion without parental permission.

- ✓ March 2000: McGraw donated \$250 to committee to elect Justice Bob Thomas.
- ✓ 2000: Thomas was accused of “skirting the edge of ethical campaigning” by running on an anti-abortion platform despite court rules that barred judicial candidates from publicly stating their views on issues they might rule on.
- ✓ While serving as the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Thomas “spearheaded” a push to revive a state law that prohibited minors from receiving an abortion without parental permission.

McGraw Received Endorsements, Contributions, And Support From Notoriously Anti-Abortion Leaders

- ✓ McGraw said he was endorsed by Illinois Family Institute, an extremist anti-abortion group which opposed Roe v. Wade and espoused a sanctity of life amendment, which said they believed in “the right to life from conception.”
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Mike Johnson, who was an anti-abortion extremist who co-sponsored legislation to ban abortion and defund planned parenthood and called abortion “a holocaust.”
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$7,000 and an endorsement from Steve Scalise, who supported a national abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest and cosponsored, and repeatedly voted for, legislation to ban abortion.
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- ✓ McGraw fundraised with and accepted \$2,000 and an endorsement from his “friend,” Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood, who cosponsored a national abortion ban without exceptions and described himself as a “pro-life advocate.”
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, who repeatedly voted against legislation and resolutions protecting reproductive rights in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access, and cosponsored anti-abortion bills.
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$1,500 and an endorsement from Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and said he would “work towards ending pro-abortion policies” in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and bills which protected physicians and nurses.
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- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter, who was “heavily involved” in crisis pregnancy centers.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, who voted against a bill that would protect abortion in Illinois and reinforce protections for physicians and patients.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Nebraska Senator Pete Ricketts, who favored banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

McGraw Repeatedly Supported And Defended Men Accused Of Domestic Abuse And Sexual Misconduct And Refused To Allow A Murder Trial Jury To Hear Testimony Of Domestic Violence Allegations, Saying “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence”

- ✓ McGraw refused to allow a jury to hear testimony of domestic violence allegations in a murder trial where a man killed his ex-girlfriend’s daughter, saying “I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,” using air quotes for ‘domestic violence.’
- ✓ McGraw touted the endorsement of Zach Oyler, a Peoria City Council Member who was accused of domestic abuse but took a “rarely used” plea agreement to resolve the charges which conceded there was likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt.
 - ✓ February 2024: McGraw touted an endorsement from Zach Oyler, a Peoria City Council member.
 - ✓ Councilman Zach Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.
 - ✓ Oyler entered a rarely used plea to resolve the charges. The plea allowed him to maintain his innocence but conceded there was likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt.
- ✓ McGraw stood as a character witness to defend an attorney and former county prosecutor whose law license was suspended after a state commission found that he “engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three women” including battery and sexual harassment.
 - ✓ March 2007: Five women came forward to allege Dennis Schumacher engaged in a pattern of misconduct involving sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery.
 - ✓ December 2009: McGraw stood as a character witness in defense of Dennis Schumacher during an Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) investigation into his potential sexual misconduct.
 - ✓ December 2009: The ARDC panel recommended Dennis Schumacher lose his law license for at least a year after finding he “engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three different women.”
 - ✓ March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court affirmed ARDC’s findings and ruled that Dennis Schumacher be unable to practice law for a year.
 - ✓ 1990: Dennis Schumacher was found to have engaged in misconduct after he failed to recuse himself from a case involving an alleged act of child abuse at a school where he had a conflict of interest.

McGraw Supported Anti-LGBTQ Legislation And Taught At And Supported Multiple Homophobic Educational Institutions

- ✓ McGraw supported federal anti-LGBTQ legislation which would drive a wedge between schools and families and ban certain books in department of defense schools.
- ✓ McGraw supported “The Parents Bill of Rights” Act, which leaned into culture war issues. Teachers warned it would drive a wedge between schools and families.
- ✓ McGraw supported an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which would ban certain books from Department of Defense schools.
- ✓ McGraw was an adjunct instructor at an evangelical Christian university that promoted “sexual purity” and prohibited “homosexual behavior.”
- ✓ February 2024: McGraw claimed Democrats were “radical on gay and transgender rights.”

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Anti-LGBT Republicans, Many Of Whom Voted Against Marriage Equality In Illinois

- ✓ McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Mike Johnson, who voted against recognizing same-sex marriage and spoke out against LGBTQ+ youth.
- ✓ McGraw’s congressional campaign was endorsed by former IL-16 congressman Donald Manzullo, who voted against repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois Representative John Cabello, who once likened gay marriage to bestiality and voted against allowing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw accepted an endorsement and \$1,500 from Illinois Representative Andrew Chesney, who was against allowing gender neutral restrooms in Illinois and said to “drop the pronoun crap.”
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, who threatened violence on the Illinois Senate floor during a debate on gendered bathrooms.

McGraw Said There Should Be No Separation Of Church And State, Said “The Jury’s Out” On Whether Human Activity Causes Climate Change, And Was Endorsed By Rogue Sheriffs Who Refused To Enforce The Law Banning Assault Weapons In Illinois

- ✓ McGraw said there was no separation between church and state, calling it an “unbiblical concept” that had “deceived many people over the years.”
- ✓ 2023: McGraw said he did not believe the scientific consensus that human activity was causing climate change and said, “the jury’s out on whether or not we’re causing it.”
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by nine Illinois Sheriffs who refused to enforce in part or in full the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which banned assault weapons in Illinois.
- ✓ The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, banned the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois.

- ✓ Everytown for Gun Safety: Prohibiting access to assault weapons can reduce the number of people killed and wounded by shooters intent on inflicting mass casualties.
- ✓ Many sheriffs in Illinois refused to enforce the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which banned assault weapons in Illinois, despite the ban surviving numerous legal challenges.
- ✓ McGraw said he was “voting for Trump” and said Ron DeSantis was “electric” at an Illinois event.
- ✓ McGraw said he was waiting to see the outcome of Trump’s criminal charges to make “an informed decision” on his 2024 vote, but just four months later flipfopped and said he was voting for Trump.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Ron DeSantis and said DeSantis was “electric,” and attendees “pretty much unanimous[ly]” agreed he should seek the GOP presidential nomination.

McGraw Spoke At An Event With A Group Who Posted Conspiracy Theories And Attended An Event With Someone Who Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

- ✓ January 2024: McGraw spoke at an event for the Peoria Patriots, who had posted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, warned about legislation that would prevent private paramilitary activity, and claimed the World Health Organization’s agenda was to sexualize children.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Jayne Lehman Raef. Raef supported false election conspiracies and suggested “civil war” as a solution to election fraud.
- ✓ 2023-2024: McGraw used talking points from the “great replacement theory” a conspiracy theory that was one of the early incitements used by Adolf Hitler, was cited in manifestos of gunmen in four mass shootings, and was supported by QAnon and other extremist groups.
- ✓ On a podcast, Joe McGraw’s daughter, Margaret, described a supernatural experience she and her family blamed on manga comic books, and a video her father borrowed that claimed fallen angels became aliens.

McGraw Repeatedly Referenced A Book He Read While Deciding To Run For Congress; The Book Urged Readers To Fight Against Abortion And Same-Sex Marriage And Contained Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

- ✓ McGraw repeatedly said he read *Letter to the American Church* to help him make his decision to run for Congress and called it “important.”
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas warned the American church was committing the same mistakes today as the German church did in the 1930s by not speaking out against the rise of Nazism.
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* urged readers to fight against abortion, same-sex marriage, transgender rights, “critical race theory” and the Black Lives Matter movement.
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* warned about the radical “pro-abortion ideology” and said that “abortion is morally wrong” and “under no circumstance must we equivocate on it.”
- ✓ Several reviews warned that *Letter to the American Church* contained “reckless and dangerous” implications that violence may be necessary to achieve political goals and criticized its comparison of the current day to Nazi Germany.

- ✓ A review warned that *Letter to the American Church* contained “reckless and dangerous” implications that violence may be necessary to achieve political goals.
- ✓ One review criticized Metaxas’ comparison of American pastors who did not sign a declaration for Christian unity on abortion, marriage, and religious liberty to German pastors who didn’t sign a declaration calling for resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state.
- ✓ Eric Metaxas, the author of *Letter to the American Church*, made false election claims and told Trump he would “be happy to die in this fight” during a conversation about attempts to overturn the election result, and once punched a protestor.

McGraw Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation, Represented An Anti-Abortion Protestor In Court, And Showed Up To Support Anti-Abortion Events...

McGraw Said He Did Not Believe That Abortion Was A Federal Issue, Which Would Enable States To Ban Abortion

February 2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Federal Government Had A Role In Regulating Abortion After The Supreme Court Overturned Roe v. Wade In 2022 And Said It Should Be Left To The States. “McGraw broadly laid out some of his policy positions, calling for the building of a border wall to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, but also expressing openness to a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package. On abortion, McGraw said he did not believe the federal government had a role in its regulation following the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. He said it should be left to the states.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

- **McGraw: “It’s [Abortion] Not A Federal Issue. And These Are Decision That Have To Be Made Between A Woman And Her Physician, Between A Woman And Her Partner, Between Family Members. And If Anything I Learned On The Bench, It’s Compassion, Because So Many People Are In Extremely Stressed Situations Where They Don’t Need Feel Like They’ve Got Anywhere Else To Turn.”** “On abortion, McGraw said he did not believe the federal government had a role in its regulation following the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. He said it should be left to the states. ‘It’s not a federal issue,’ McGraw said. ‘And these are decisions that have to be made between a woman and her physician, between a woman and her partner, between family members. And if anything I learned on the bench, it’s compassion, because so many people are in extremely stressed situations where they don’t feel like they’ve got anywhere else to turn.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

When Roe Was Overturned, “The Legality Of Abortion Was Left To Individual States.” “Once the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the legality of abortion was left to individual states. A few states have amended their constitution to declare that it does not contain any protection for abortion rights or allow public funds to be used for abortion.” [Gutmacher Institute, [4/24/23](#)]

- **Twenty-One States Banned Abortion Or Restricted The Procedure Following Roe V. Wade Being Overturned.** “Twenty-one states ban abortion or restrict the procedure earlier in pregnancy than the standard set by Roe v. Wade, which governed reproductive rights for nearly half a century until the Supreme Court overturned the decision last year.” [New York Times, [1/8/24](#)]

McGraw Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation That “Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors to Prosecution” And Supported Overturning A Pentagon Policy That Guaranteed Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They Were Stationed

McGraw Supported A Bill, That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors To Prosecution, For Providing Reproductive Services, Including A Fine, Jail Time, Or Both

McGraw Supported House Resolution 26, The “Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act” Of 2023. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “1 | H.R. 26 Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act (2023) requires the same medical care be provided to an infant born alive after surviving an attempted abortion as any other baby at that gestational age.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

New York Times: The Bill Would Establish Criminal Penalties For Doctors Who Did Not Follow Existing Federal Law Requiring Medical Care Be Given To Infants In The Very Unlikely Event Of A Failed Abortion. “Live births during an abortion procedure are exceedingly rare, experts said, and federal law already requires that a baby who survives an attempted abortion receive emergency medical care. The new bill would clarify the standard of care to which doctors are held and lay out penalties for violators. Policy organizations supporting abortion rights said the measure was an effort to discourage women from seeking abortions and doctors from performing them.” [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

The So-Called “Born-Alive” Bill Would Penalize Doctors Who Violated It With A Fine And/Or Up To Five Years In Prison. “(b) Penalties.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.” [Congress.gov, HR 26, Text, introduced [1/9/23](#)]

- **New York Times Headline: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors To Prosecution”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

HuffPost: The Bill Could Deprive Parents Of Holding Infants Who May Not Live Much Longer Or Limit Their Options For Medical Interventions. “This legislation could take away a pregnant person’s power to decide what medical interventions they want to receive during an already-emotional time, possibly forcing physicians to prolong an infant’s life for a short period of time before it dies. In certain cases, this could take away parents’ opportunities to hold their infants.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

HuffPost Reported The Bill Was “Chock-Full Of Misinformation And Creates More Barriers To Care.” “The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which passed 220-210 on Wednesday, would require physicians to provide life-sustaining care to infants born after an attempted abortion and threatens doctors with criminal penalties if they don’t comply. [...] But similar to other anti-choice legislation, the bill is chock-full of misinformation and creates more barriers to care. Reproductive rights advocates and physicians critical of the bill argue that it’s nearly impossible for infants to be born alive during abortions later in pregnancy. Bills like this are also redundant: Murder is already illegal in the U.S. If that’s not enough, the rights of an infant or newborn are already protected by a 2002 law that codified that infants have the same rights as any other human.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

- **The Majority Of Abortions Performed Later In Pregnancy Were “Due To Medical Necessity, Not Elective, As The Bill Suggested.** “But similar to other anti-choice legislation, the bill is chock-full of misinformation and creates more barriers to care. Reproductive rights advocates and physicians critical of the bill argue that it’s nearly impossible for infants to be born alive during abortions later in pregnancy. Bills like this are also redundant: Murder is already illegal in the U.S. If that’s not enough, the rights of an infant or newborn are already protected by a 2002 law that codified that infants have the same rights as any other human. These bills promote inaccurate ideas about why people get abortions later in pregnancy. The majority of abortions performed later in pregnancy are medically necessary to save the life of the pregnant person or necessary because of a fatal fetal abnormality; they’re not elective.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Supported An Amendment Overturning Pentagon Policy That Guaranteed Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They Were Stationed

McGraw Supported House Resolution 2670, Am. No. 5 Which Prohibited The U.S. Department Of Defense From Paying For Or Reimbursing Expenses Related To Abortion. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “4 | H.R. 2670, Am. No. 5 (2023) prohibits the U.S. Department of Defense from paying for or reimbursing expenses related to abortion.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

- **The Amendment Overturned A Pentagon Policy “Guaranteeing Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They [Were] Stationed.”** “A divided House voted on Thursday to restrict abortion access, bar transgender health services and limit diversity training for military personnel, potentially imperiling passage of the annual defense bill as Republicans, goaded by their right flank, loaded the measure with conservative policy dictates. The House voted 221 to 213 to overturn a Pentagon policy guaranteeing abortion access to service members regardless of where they are stationed, with Republicans propelling it to passage over near-unanimous Democratic opposition.” [New York Times, [7/13/23](#)]
- **Republicans Voted To Undo The Pentagon’s Policy That Allowed Service Members To Be Reimbursed If They Had To Travel For Abortion Care.** “The Republican push to pare back military abortion policies was added to the must-pass Pentagon policy bill in a narrow vote Thursday afternoon, including a proposal that is certain to imperil Democratic support. In a 221-213 vote, lawmakers adopted an amendment to the annual National Defense Authorization Act to undo the Pentagon’s policy of reimbursing service members who travel to receive abortions.” [Politico, [7/13/23](#)]

McGraw Supported A Resolution That Recognized The “Sanctity Of Life”

McGraw Supported House Continuing Resolution 3 Which Condemned Attacks And Vandalism Against Pro-Life Organizations And Churches. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “2 | H. Con. Res. 3 (2023) condemns attacks and vandalism against pro-life organizations and churches.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

- **The Resolution Recognized “The Sanctity Of Life.”** In January 2023, the House passed an “Agreement to the concurrent resolution that would state that Congress condemns attacks of vandalism, violence and destruction against pro-life facilities, groups and churches and recognizes ‘the sanctity of life and the important role that [such entities] play in supporting pregnant women, infants and families.’ It would also call on the Biden administration to use all appropriate law enforcement authorities to protect the rights of such entities.” The bill passed by a vote of 222-209. [H.Con.Res. 3, [Vote #30](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

1991: McGraw Represented A Defendant In A Case That Sought To Limit Disruptive Protests At An Illinois Abortion Provider After Protestors Physically Blocked Entrances

1991: McGraw Represented Defendant Donald Lyon In The Case Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al, Until Lyon Was Terminated With Stipulations From The Case In 1992

May 1991: McGraw Represented Defendant Donald Lyon In A Lawsuit Brought By Gerald W Webster And Patients Of The Northern Illinois Women’s Center. Joseph Gerard McGraw represented a defendant, Donald Lyon, in Gerald W Webster and Patients of the Northern Illinois Women’s Center’s lawsuit against Lyon, Operation Rescue, City of Rockford, Marion Ott, Helen Doyle, Curtis C Johnson, Bischops Council of the Knights of Columbus #470, Alfred Penniman, Judy Penniman, Daniel Holman, David Holman, Daniel McCarty, Michael

Lewis And Kathy Lewis. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

November 1992: Defendant Donald Lyon Was Terminated With Prejudice From The Case With

Stipulations. According to the Civil Docket, On November 20th, 1992, Defendant Donald Lyon was terminated with prejudice pursuant to stipulations from plaintiffs in Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et A. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

NOTE: Court records from PACER did not include documents clarifying what stipulations were made for Lyon to be terminated from the case.

Donald Lyon Ran For Congress In 1978 And Was A “Trailblazer” For The Religious Right Movement, McGraw Said Lyon Was A “Spiritual Father” To Him

February 2024: McGraw Called Don Lyon, The Defendant He Represented In Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al A “Spiritual Father” To Him

February 2024: McGraw Said Apostle Lyon Was A “Spiritual Father” To Him In Many Ways And “Set An Example For All Those Who Sought To Go Into Government Service” That “There Was No Separation Between Church And State.” McGraw: “And it's great being here this morning and before the service, I was with Apostle Marla, Prophet Michelle, and back in the office and we were remembering days gone by. And one of the things I was remembering was Apostle Lyon, who's gone home to be with the Lord. And he was a spiritual father to me in so many ways, in that he set an example for all those who sought to go into government service, that everything was under the Lordship of Christ, including government, and there was no separation between church and state. That's not a biblical concept. It's an unbiblical concept. This deceived many people over the years and so its great to be welcomed so warmly this morning.” [Faith Center, YouTube, 40:41, [2/11/24](#)]

Donald Lyon, Who McGraw Defended, Was A “Trailblazer” For The Religious Right Movement During His 1978 Run For Congress

Newsmax: During Donald Lyon’s 1978 Run For Congress He Was “Looked Upon By The National Media As Something Of A Trailblazer For The Embryonic Religious Right.” “Before Baptist pastor Mike Huckabee appeared on the political scene as governor of Arkansas in the 1990’s and presidential candidate a decade later, and before Rev. Pat Robertson ran for president in 1988, there was Rev. Don Lyon. When Lyon (who died last week at age 89), founder and head of the Rockford Faith Center in Rockford, Illinois decided to take on liberal Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., in 1978, he was looked upon by the national media as something of a trailblazer for the embryonic ‘religious right.’” [Newsmax, [10/18/20](#)]

- **Donald Lyon Claimed IL Congressman Anderson “Moved Liberal” And Ran Against Him With Support From The Moral Majority.** “Rated 88 percent for his first six years in Congress, Anderson opposed Medicare and federal aid to education, supported the House Committee on Un-American Activities and, on three occasions, he proposed a constitutional amendment to characterize America as ‘devoutly recognizing the authority of Jesus Christ, Savior and ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God.’ ‘John B. was conservative, all right, and the church community liked him,’ Lyon recalled to Newsmax following Anderson’s death in 2017, ‘But in the ‘60s, he changed. Like a lot of ambitious Republicans, he wanted The Washington Post and The New York Times to like him. And, he wanted the money of the Rockefellers behind him. So he moved liberal.’ By 1978, Anderson had changed from supporter to opponent of the Vietnam War, backed Richard Nixon’s resignation, and supported the Equal Rights Amendment. So the silver-haired Lyon took on the nine-term congressman. Fledgling groups of evangelical conservatives such as the Moral Majority mobilized volunteers on his behalf, and Jim Martin, future head of the SixtyPlus Seniors Association, oversaw a direct mail campaign that raised funds nationwide for Lyon.” [Newsmax, [10/18/20](#)]

The Case Was Brought By The Landlord And Patients Of The Northern Illinois Women's Center To Limit Disruptive Protests At The Health Center After Protestors Repeatedly Physically Blocked Entrances

1991: The Landlord Of The Northern Illinois Women's Center Filed A Federal Lawsuit Aimed At Limiting Demonstrations By Anti-Abortion Activists After Protestors Physically Blocked Entrances

HEADLINE: "Abortion Clinic's Landlord Suing To Limit Protests." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

1991: Wayne Webster, The Landlord Of The Building That Housed The Northern Illinois Women's Center Filed A Federal Lawsuit Aimed At Limiting Demonstrations And Picketing By Anti-Abortion Activists. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

Anti-Abortion Protestors Attempted To Physically Block Access To The Clinic On Feb. 17, 1989, And April 28, 1989; Webster Alleged The Protestors Conspire To Deny Women Access To Legal Abortions. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

Wayne Webster Sought Injunctions To Prevent Blocking The Clinic Entrance, Demonstrating Within 15 Feet Of Patients, Sidewalk Counseling Of Patients And Loud Chanting At Patients And Clinic Employees. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

- **Wayne Webster Also Sought From Each Defendant Compensatory Damages Of No Less Than \$50,000 And Punitive Damages Of No Less Than \$50,000.** "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at

patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000.” [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services In Rockford For Nearly 40 Years And Was A Frequent Victim Of Violent Attacks And Protests Before And After The Lawsuit Was Filed

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services In Rockford, Illinois And Was The Region’s Sole Abortion Clinic

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services For Nearly 40 Years In Rockford Illinois. “The Northern Illinois Women’s Center, which has been providing abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years, is closing permanently. According to an email sent to the Rockford Register Star, the clinic’s owners have decided to voluntarily shut their doors for good. Clinic officials state their decision is based on lack of support from the community, the political climate surrounding the abortion issue and the challenge the clinic would face in rebuilding staff.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/12](#)]

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Was The Region’s Sole Abortion Clinic, And Was The Site Of Weekly Protests From Anti-Abortion Advocates. “The Northern Illinois Women’s Center, which has been providing abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years, is closing permanently. [...] The clinic at 1400 Broadway was the region’s sole abortion clinic. The closest clinics to the Rockford area are in Madison, Wis., 70 miles north, or about 70 miles to the east in the Chicago suburbs. The clinic has been the site of weekly protests from anti-abortion advocates who often carry signs with anti-abortion messages on the sidewalks outside the Broadway building, praying for the end of abortion and encouraging patients to change their minds about getting an abortion.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/12](#)]

1987-1989: The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Faced Five Incidents Of Arson, And Protests Resulting In 180 Arrests In The Years Leading Up To Webster’s Lawsuit

1989: Two Years Prior, Named Defendant And Anti-Abortion Group “Operation Rescue” Staged Several Protests at the Northern Illinois Women’s Center Resulting In 180 Arrests. “Key dates for the Northern Illinois Women’s Center [...] 1989: Anti-abortion group Operation Rescue stages a protest outside the Northern Illinois Women’s Center. Police make 108 arrests. The group protests a second time, and police make 72 arrests.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/13/12](#)]

1987: Northern Illinois Women’s Center Was The Victim Of Five Incidents Of Arson. “A 56-year-old Rockford high school janitor has been charged with setting a fire at an abortion clinic in that city while a camera, installed nearby by federal agents, videotaped the incident. Agents said they had placed the camera in a nearby building after four previous arson fires at the clinic. The suspect, David Holman, a janitor at Rockford’s Guilford High School, was ordered held without bond after his arrest Monday afternoon on federal arson charges. Holman is accused of setting fire to the Northern Illinois Women’s Center last Tuesday. The clinic rents quarters in the former Turner School, where Holman once was a janitor. ‘This is the first and only abortion clinic in Illinois where threats of violence by people opposed to abortion went beyond just threats,’ said James Reeves, special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which investigated the fires. Officials said last week’s fire, like the previous ones, caused only minor damage. During the last 11 months the clinic has been picketed several times by abortion opponents, but representatives of the picketing groups said their organizations had nothing to do with the fires.” [Chicago Tribune, 1/14/87]

2000: The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Continued To Face Violence After The Lawsuit, In 2000 A Priest Smashed His Car Into The Center And Chopped At The Building With An Ax

2000: A Catholic Priest Smashed His Car Into Northern Illinois Women’s Center And Chopped At The Building With An Ax Until The Owner Fired Two Shotgun Blasts, No One Was Injured In The Attack. “A Catholic priest smashed his car into an abortion clinic this morning, then chopped at the building with an ax until

the owner fired two shotgun blasts to stop him, police said. The clinic was closed and no one was injured in the attack, which came two days after federal approval of the abortion pill RU-486. The man drove through a door at the Abortion Access Northern Illinois Women's Center about 8:15 a.m. He was swinging an ax when the clinic's owner twice fired a 12-gauge shotgun. He did not hit the man. The Rev. John Earl, 32, was arrested and charged with burglary and felony criminal damage to property, said Deputy Police Chief Dominic Iasparro. Earl was released later on \$10,000 bond." [Washington Post, [9/30/00](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Priest Attacks Ill. Abortion Clinic With Car and Ax."** [Washington Post, [9/30/00](#)]

NOTE: The Northern Illinois Women's Center was particularly a location for protest because staff physician [Dr. Richard Ragsdale](#) was the plaintiff in an abortions rights case that almost went to the Supreme Court.

July 1994: Plaintiffs In Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al Voluntarily Dismissed The Case Without Prejudice, Meaning They Could Refile The Dismissed Claim At Any Time

July 1994: Plaintiffs In Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al Voluntarily Dismissed The Case Without Prejudice. According to the civil docket, on July 14th 1994 Plaintiffs' oral motion to voluntarily dismiss the case without prejudice was granted by Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski. Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al was dismissed on July 21st, 1994. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

Dismissal Without Prejudice Allows A Court To Dismiss A Claim But Leaves The Plaintiff Free To Bring Up A Subsequent Suit Based On The Same Grounds As The Dismissed Claim. "Dismissal without prejudice: When a court dismisses a claim but leaves the plaintiff free to bring a subsequent suit based on the same grounds as the dismissed claim. In *Semtek Intern. Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, the Supreme Court pointed out that one of the main features of dismissal without prejudice is that it does not prevent refileing of the claim in the same court." [Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, accessed [2/29/24](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event Sponsored By An Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Crisis Center In Rockford, Illinois That Provided A Dangerous, Medically Questionable Procedure Called Abortion Pill Reversal

2023: McGraw Attended A "Hike For Life" Event With The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford

September 2023: Jermarrion Simmons Posted A Picture On Facebook Of McGraw On A Hike And Said, hike for life "Hiked For Life' Today With Judge Joe McGraw Hosed By The, Pregnancy Center Of Rockford, At First Free Church." Simmons wrote, "'Hiked for Life' today with Judge Joe McGraw hosed by the, Pregnancy Center of Rockford, at First Free Church. Judge McGraw is making a big announcement on October 10th. You don't wanna miss it." [Jermarrion Simmons, Facebook, [9/30/23](#)]



[Jermarrion Simmons, Facebook, [9/30/23](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Was A Pregnancy Crisis Center That Did Not Refer For Or Perform Abortions

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Was A Pregnancy Crisis Center. According to the Crisis Pregnancy Center map, the pregnancy care center of Rockford was listed as a crisis pregnancy center. [Crisis Pregnancy Center Map, Identify CPCs, accessed [12/11/23](#)]

Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Website: “The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Does Not Refer For Or Perform Abortions.” “The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford does not refer for or perform abortions.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Abortion, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Of Held An Annual Event Called “Celebrate Life Annual Banquet”

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Held An Annual “Celebrate Life Banquet.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Events, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

STORIES OF ABUNDANCE

WHEN AN ABUNDANT GOD WRITES YOUR STORY

CELEBRATE LIFE ANNUAL BANQUET 2024

Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at Embassy Suites Rockford (416 S Main St, 12th Floor, Rockford, IL 61101)

Brunch at 11am | Doors open at 10:30am | Tickets \$35 each

Dinner at 6pm | Doors open at 5:30pm | Tickets \$55 each

More information to come soon!

[Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Events, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford Provided A Potentially Dangerous Procedure Called “Abortion Pill Reversal,” Which The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Called “Unproven And Unethical” After A 2019 Study Had To Be Stopped For The Safety Of The Pregnant Women Participating

Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford Provided A Potentially Dangerous Procedure Called “Abortion Pill Reversal

2024: The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Had A Page On Its Website About Abortion Pill Reversal, Which Read, “Would You Like To Reverse Your Abortion?” “WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVERSE YOUR ABORTION? If you have begun a Medication/Chemical Abortion within the last 72 hours, and now wish to make a different choice, there is a chance to reverse the effects of the first abortion pill and safely continue your pregnancy.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, APR Services, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

October 2023: The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Posted A Graphic On Instagram With The Word “Abortion Pill Reversal” And The Caption, “Did You Know, It May Not Be Too Late To Save Your Pregnancy?” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Instagram, [10/4/23](#)]



[Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Instagram, [10/4/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Called Abortion Pill Reversal “Unproven And Unethical” After A 2019 Study Had To Be Stopped For The Safety Of The Pregnant Women Participating

Women’s Choice Network Had Abortion Pill Reversal Listed As One Of Their Services. “After you take the first pill, it's like the lights go out and Satan says, ‘Gotcha!’ Many women immediately regret their abortion decision. Within a three-day window of time, women can reverse their abortion pill affects with this safe, simple protocol.” [Women’s Choice Network, accessed [7/28/23](#)]

ABC News: “Experts Say This So-Called ‘[Abortion Pill] Reversal’ Is Unfounded And Could Be Potentially Dangerous.” “Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade this past summer, some states had enacted laws requiring doctors to inform patients that medical abortions could be reversed. Experts say this so-called ‘reversal’ is unfounded and could be potentially dangerous. ‘It’s not just that [patients are] being sold snake oil, that somebody is giving them something in bad faith in an effort to somehow persuade them that they can save their pregnancy,’ Dr. Spencer McClelland, an OBGYN at Denver Health, told ABC News. ‘It’s actually that the best data we have has raised enough concerns about it.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

Dr. Spencer McClelland, OBGYN At Denver Health: “It’s Not Just That [Patients Are] Being Sold Snake Oil. [...] It’s Actually That The Best Data We Have Has Raised Enough Concerns About It.” “Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade this past summer, some states had enacted laws requiring doctors to inform patients that medical abortions could be reversed. Experts say this so-called ‘reversal’ is unfounded and could be potentially dangerous. ‘It’s not just that [patients are] being sold snake oil, that somebody is giving them something in bad faith in an effort to somehow persuade them that they can save their pregnancy,’ Dr. Spencer McClelland, an OBGYN at Denver Health, told ABC News. ‘It’s actually that the best data we have has raised enough concerns about it.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

- **Dr. Spencer McClelland, OBGYN At Denver Health: “As Opposed To Mifepristone, Which Has An Amazing Amount Of Studies About Its Usage, Showing Its Safety And Efficacy, The High-Dose Progesterone For The Purpose Of Abortion Reversal Has A Real Paucity Of Evidence.”** “The ACOG has spoken against so-called ‘reversal,’ calling the treatment ‘not backed by science’ as well as ‘unproven and unethical.’ ‘As opposed to mifepristone, which has an amazing amount of studies about its usage, showing its safety and efficacy, the high-dose progesterone for the purpose of abortion reversal has a real paucity of evidence,’ McClelland said.” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Has Spoken Against So-Called “Reversal,” Calling The Treatment “Not Backed By Science” As Well As “Unproven And Unethical.” “The ACOG has spoken against so-called ‘reversal,’ calling the treatment ‘not backed by science’ as well as ‘unproven and unethical.’ ‘As opposed to mifepristone, which has an amazing amount of studies about its usage, showing its safety and efficacy, the high-dose progesterone for the purpose of abortion reversal has a real paucity of evidence,’ McClelland said.” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Said One Study On Abortion Pill “Reversal” Was Designed Poorly, Since The Women Participating Had Not Taken Misoprostol, A Crucial Part Of The Abortion Pill Process. “The ACOG referenced a 2012 case study that proponents of abortion pill reversal have used, in which six women took mifepristone to end their pregnancies and then took varying doses of an injection of progesterone. However, the ACOG says this is not evidence that giving progesterone allowed the pregnancies to continue because it is well-documented that mifepristone is effective with misoprostol, not on its own. McClelland said this type a case study is different from a randomized controlled trial, in which something -- in this case, a medication -- is compared against a placebo to show that what scientists are seeing is in fact a result of this medication. [...] Another study, in 2019, examining medication abortion reversal was ended early due to safety concerns. ‘A really surprising number of women experienced threatening hemorrhage and having to come to the hospital for emergency care after they were enrolled in this,’ McClelland said. ‘What we can say for sure is they terminated the study early because they didn’t feel comfortable continuing the study.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

A 2019 Study On Abortion Pill “Reversal” Had To Be Ended Early Amid Safety Concerns After A “Really Surprising Number Of Women Experienced Threatening Hemorrhage And [Had] To Come To The Hospital For Emergency Care.” “The ACOG referenced a 2012 case study that proponents of abortion pill reversal have used, in which six women took mifepristone to end their pregnancies and then took varying doses of an injection of progesterone. However, the ACOG says this is not evidence that giving progesterone allowed the pregnancies to continue because it is well-documented that mifepristone is effective with misoprostol, not on its own. McClelland said this type a case study is different from a randomized controlled trial, in which something -- in this case, a medication -- is compared against a placebo to show that what scientists are seeing is in fact a result of this

medication. [...] Another study, in 2019, examining medication abortion reversal was ended early due to safety concerns. ‘A really surprising number of women experienced threatening hemorrhage and having to come to the hospital for emergency care after they were enrolled in this,’ McClelland said. ‘What we can say for sure is they terminated the study early because they didn’t feel comfortable continuing the study.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

McGraw Received More Than \$124,000 From Members Of Congress Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions And Donated To An Anti-Abortion Illinois Supreme Court Justice

As Of May 15th, 2024 McGraw Has Taken \$124,725 From Anti-Abortion Extremists Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act			
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Congressional Session(s) Member Co-Sponsored Life at Conception Act	Amount(s)
Building America’s Republican Representation PAC	Andy Barr (KY-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th	\$1,500
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$4,000
Fight On PAC	Ashley Hinson (IA-02)	118th , 117th	\$1,000
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	118th , 117th	\$2,000
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$1,000
Upper Hand Fund	Bill Huizenga (MI-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Guthrie for Congress	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,500
Bringing Republican Excellence to Town PAC	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$3,300
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$3,000
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
CMR Political Action Committee	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,500
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	117th , 116th	\$1,000
LaHood for Congress	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$2,000

Abraham Lincoln PAC	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$5,000
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$3,000
David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$2,000
Vitoria PAC	David Valadao (CA-21)	117th	\$2,500
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$2,000
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Buddy PAC	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$1,000
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$1,500
Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Bilirakis for Congress	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$3,000
Jake Ellzey for Congress	Jake Ellzey (TX-06)	118th , 117th	\$2,000
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$4,000
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000
Volunteers for Shimkus	John Shimkus (IL-15)	116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Armstrong for Congress	Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL)	117th , 116th	\$3,125
Bucshon for Congress	Larry Bucshon (IN-08)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,000
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	118th , 117th	\$3,300
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$2,500
Miller-Meeks for Congress	Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01)	117th	\$2,000
Support Taxfighters & Elect Effective Leaders PAC	Michelle Steel (CA-45)	117th	\$3,500
American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th	\$5,000
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th	\$2,500
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 112th	\$4,000
Latta for Congress	Robert E. Latta (OH-05)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,000
America's First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	117th , 116th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$3,000
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	118th , 117th , 116th	\$2,000

Republicans United To Defend You PAC	Rudy Yakym (IN-02)	118th	\$1,000
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$1,000
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	113th , 112th	\$2,000
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	113th , 112th	\$5,000
Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	113th , 112th	\$4,000
Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	118th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th	\$2,500
Emmer for Congress	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$2,000
Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans (EMMER PAC)	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th	\$5,000
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	118th , 117th	\$2,500
		TOTAL:	\$124,725

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

McGraw Donated To An Illinois Supreme Court Justice Who “Skirt[ed] The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” By Running On An Anti-Abortion Platform And Who Went On To Help Revive An Illinois Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

March 2000: McGraw Donated \$250 To The Committee To Elect Justice Bob Thomas

March 2000: McGraw Donated \$250 To The Committee To Elect Justice Bob Thomas. On March 10th 2000, Joseph McGraw donated \$250 to the Committee to Elect Justice Bob Thomas. [Illinois Secretary of State, Contribution Search, accessed [1/22/23](#)]

McGraw, Joseph Redaction Requested	\$250.00	3/10/2000	7/31/2000	Other Receipt Comm To Elect Justice Bob Thomas
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[Illinois Secretary of State, Contribution Search, accessed [1/22/23](#)]

2000: Thomas Was Accused Of “Skirting The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” By Running On An Anti-Abortion Platform Despite Court Rules That Barred Judicial Candidates From Publicly Stating Their Views On Issues They Might Rule On

HEADLINE: “High Court Candidate Touts ‘Pro-Life’ Stance.” [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

Thomas Was Accused Of “Skirting The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” After He “Advertised His Anti-Abortion Views In A Mailer.” “For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. ‘Support those who support life,’ the flier reads. ‘Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.’ Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as ‘the only endorsed pro-life candidate.’

Thomas' opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races." [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

- **Court Rules Barred Judicial Candidates From Publicly Stating Their Views On Issues They Might Rule On.** "For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. 'Support those who support life,' the flier reads. 'Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.' Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as 'the only endorsed pro-life candidate.' Thomas' opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races." [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]
- **Thomas' Opponents Said His Anti-Abortion Mailer Was A Flagrant Violation Of Rules That Governed Judicial Races.** "For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. 'Support those who support life,' the flier reads. 'Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.' Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as 'the only endorsed pro-life candidate.' Thomas' opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races." [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

While Serving As The Chief Justice Of The Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Thomas "Spearheaded" A Push To Revive A State Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

Under His Leadership As Chief Justice The Illinois Supreme Court Decided To Revive A State Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

The Illinois Supreme Court "Spearheaded By Chief Justice Thomas" Decided To Take Up The Issue Of Illinois' 1995 Parental Notification Law. "Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court's announcement comes less than 48 hours after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts' refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state's political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that's where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion." [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

- **The 1995 Illinois Parental Notification Law Required Anyone Under 18 To Tell Their Parents Before Seeking An Abortion.** "Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court's announcement comes less than 48 hours after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts' refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state's political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents

before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that's where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

- **The Parental Notification Law Was Not Initially Implemented Because The Illinois Supreme Court Never Created Rules For A Legal Process That Would Allow A Minor To Receive An Abortion Without Notification.** “Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court's announcement comes less than 48 hours after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts' refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state's political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that's where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

Thomas Took An “Active Role” In Trying To Revive The 1995 Parental Notification Law And In A “Highly Uncommon” Move He Called The Attorney General To Dispute Assertions Her Office Made In Federal Court

HEADLINE: “Justices Gave Abortion Law Extra Push.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Chicago Tribune: “Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas Took An “Active Role” In “Trying To Revive A Long-Dormant State Law That Prohibits Minors From Obtaining Abortions Without Notifying A Parent.” “Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas took an active role last year in trying to revive a long-dormant state law that prohibits minors from obtaining abortions without notifying a parent. Now new court filings show that Thomas and his fellow justices have given the controversial issue another nudge. In an unusual move, Thomas phoned Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan in February to dispute assertions her office had made in federal court. Lawyers for the attorney general had told a federal judge that Illinois’ state courts were not ready to administer the 1995 notification law. But Thomas, as the top official overseeing the state courts, told Madigan he disagreed. Soon after, all seven state Supreme Court justices — including four Democrats — sent Madigan a follow-up letter saying her position was ‘in error.’ The phone call and letter apparently had the desired effect. Madigan’s office has filed a second motion before U.S. District Judge David Coar, seeking permission to enforce the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. The ACLU of Illinois, which opposes the law, is set to file a response May 17.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Thomas Called The Attorney General To Dispute Assertions Her Office Made In Federal Court And Said Her Position That The States Courts Were Not Ready To Administer The 1995 Law Was Wrong. “Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas took an active role last year in trying to revive a long-dormant state law that prohibits minors from obtaining abortions without notifying a parent. Now new court filings show that Thomas and his fellow justices have given the controversial issue another nudge. In an unusual move, Thomas phoned Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan in February to dispute assertions her office had made in federal court. Lawyers for the attorney general had told a federal judge that Illinois’ state courts were not ready to administer the 1995 notification law. But Thomas, as the top official overseeing the state courts, told Madigan he disagreed. Soon after, all seven state Supreme Court justices — including four Democrats — sent Madigan a follow-up letter saying her position was ‘in error.’ The phone call and letter apparently had the desired effect. Madigan’s office has filed a second motion before U.S. District Judge David Coar, seeking permission to enforce the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. The ACLU of Illinois, which opposes the law, is set to file a response May 17.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Legal Experts Said There Was Nothing Unethical About Thomas' Actions But They Were Highly Uncommon And It Was "Pretty Clear That The Chief Justice" Was Pushing The Attorney General. "Legal experts said there's nothing unethical about Thomas' actions or the Supreme Court's letter, but it's highly uncommon — as is much of the history of the notification law. 'It's an extraordinary situation,' said Lawrence Rosenthal, a former supervisor in Chicago's Law Department and now a law professor at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. 'The sense I certainly get is that the attorney general is doing everything she can to be sensitive to the ACLU's concerns without actually winding up in a situation where she's got the Supreme Court of Illinois accusing her of not discharging her constitutional duties. . . . It's pretty clear that the chief justice is pushing her.'" [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

The Illinois Parental Notification Act Took Effect In 2013 But Was Repealed In 2021

The 1995 Illinois Parental Notification Act Took Effect In 2013 After Extensive Litigation. "A new law signed Friday by Gov. J.B. Pritzker means Illinois minors will no longer legally have to tell their parents before having an abortion. Repeal of the Parental Notification Act (House Bill 370/ Public Act 102-0685) erases what has been described as Illinois' last law restricting the procedure. Since 1995, Illinois has required pregnant individuals 17 years and younger to notify – but not get consent from – a parent or guardian before having an abortion, though court battles kept the requirement from taking effect until 2013." [WTTW, [12/17/21](#)]

In 2021, The Parental Notification Act Was Repealed And Minors No Longer Legally Had To Tell Their Parents Before Having An Abortion In Illinois. "A new law signed Friday by Gov. J.B. Pritzker means Illinois minors will no longer legally have to tell their parents before having an abortion. Repeal of the Parental Notification Act (House Bill 370/ Public Act 102-0685) erases what has been described as Illinois' last law restricting the procedure. Since 1995, Illinois has required pregnant individuals 17 years and younger to notify – but not get consent from – a parent or guardian before having an abortion, though court battles kept the requirement from taking effect until 2013." [WTTW, [12/17/21](#)]

McGraw Received Endorsements, Contributions And Support From Notoriously Anti-Abortion Leaders

McGraw Said He Was Endorsed By An Extremist Anti-Abortion Group

McGraw Said He Was Endorsed By The Illinois Family Institute

McGraw Said He Had Been Endorsed By The Illinois Family Institute. MCGRAW: "I guess the IFI voter guide came out, and if you've looked at it, there's a stunning omission. It says that I didn't answer any of the questions. Well, when we started our campaign, we were learning how to build an airplane and fly it at the same time. As things were a little chaotic. We missed the deadline for answering those questions. We did answer them all online. And we've been assured by Illinois Family Institute that we would be endorsed by them." [Faith Center, YouTube, 42:45-43:20, [2/11/24](#)] (VIDEO)

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, Which Said They Believed In "The Right To Life From Conception" And That They Opposed Roe V. Wade

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, That Said, "We Wholeheartedly Support The Right To Life From Conception Until Natural Death, Seeking Legislative And Judicial Protection Of That Right Against Those Who Perform Abortions, We Oppose The 1973 Roe V. Wade Ruling..."

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, Which Said They Believed In "The Right To Life From Conception" And That They Opposed Roe V. Wade. "We wholeheartedly support the right to life from conception until natural death, seeking legislative and judicial protection of that right against those who perform abortions. We oppose the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court and believe it erred in

granting a ‘privacy right’ to abortion that tragically overrode the right of unborn children to live, leading to the needless deaths of millions of innocent babies in the womb.” [Illinois Family Institute, Issues, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

Life At Conception, Also Known As So-Called “Fetal Personhood,” Would Eliminate All Or Most Exceptions For Abortions

So-Called “Fetal Personhood” Confers Legal Rights From Conception. “Fetal personhood, which confers legal rights from conception, is an effort to push beyond abortion bans and classify the procedure as murder. In Georgia, it also means a \$3,000 tax credit.” [New York Times, [6/21/23](#)]

So-Called “Fetal Personhood” Would Make Abortion Murder, And Rule Out All Or Most Exceptions For Abortion. “So-called fetal personhood laws would make abortion murder, ruling out all or most of the exceptions for abortion allowed in states that already ban it.” [New York Times, [6/21/23](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, Who Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Co-Sponsored Legislation To Ban Abortion And Defund Planned Parenthood And Called Abortion “A Holocaust”

McGraw Received \$5,000 From Mike Johnson’s PACs, Was Endorsed By Johnson And Appeared At An Event With Johnson Who Called Him “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen”

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

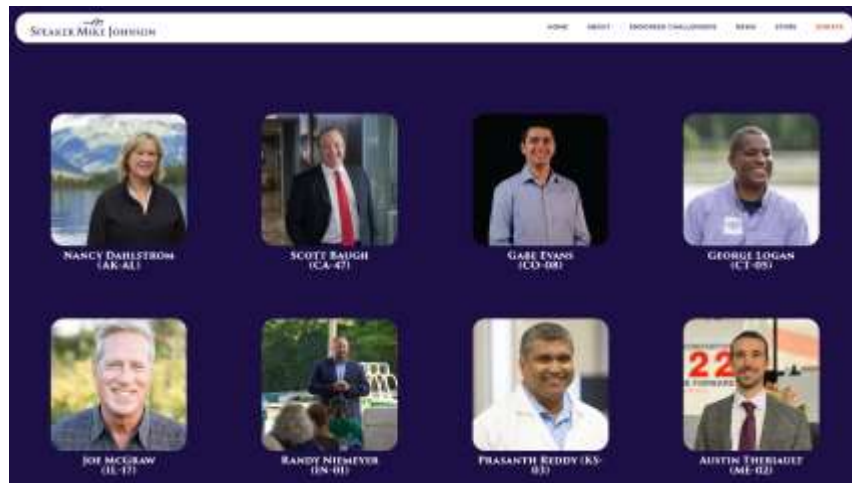
Source name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson’s Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



Judge Joe is proud to be endorsed by the following state and local leaders:

Mike Johnson
Speaker

Elise Stefanik
Congresswoman

Darin LaHood
Congressman

[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen.” “McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we’ve ever seen.’ ‘He’s been a guy who’s stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas. He’s professional, he’s smart, he knows what he’s doing and he’s gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.’” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner. “Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman

Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

Johnson Was A Longtime Advocate Against Abortion Rights, He Co-Sponsored Legislation To Ban Abortion And Defund Planned Parenthood, And Called Abortion “A Holocaust”

HEADLINE: “House Speaker Mike Johnson Has Long Opposed Abortion And LGBTQ+ Rights.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [10/29/23](#)]

Johnson Co-Sponsored Legislation For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. “Before the newly elected U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson was in public office, the Louisiana Republican’s restrictive stances on gender identity, abortion and sexuality were honed at the conservative Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, where he served as a senior spokesperson and attorney. [...] Johnson, the former head of the conservative Republican Study Committee, argued before Dobbs that abortion access was a states rights issue — but he has also supported federal legislation setting gestational limits, cosponsoring a bill to establish a 20-week ban.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [10/29/23](#)]

Johnson Co-Sponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood. “House Republicans on Wednesday chose the previously little-known conservative Rep. Mike Johnson to be the next speaker on Thursday, and Democrats were quick to push forward with attack ads on Johnson’s record on abortion. [...] As a staunch abortion opponent he has also put forth multiple other pieces of legislation seeking to restrict the procedure, including co-sponsoring a bill to defund Planned Parenthood.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

Before Being Elected To Congress, Johnson Served As An Attorney And A Spokesperson For Anti-Abortion Group Alliance Defending Freedom, Then Alliance Defense Fund. “Speaker Mike Johnson, the little-known congressman from Louisiana who won the gavel on Wednesday, is deeply conservative on both fiscal and social issues, reflecting the G.O.P.’s sharp lurch to the right. [...] Before he was elected to Congress in 2017, Mr. Johnson served as an attorney and spokesman for the anti-abortion and anti-gay group Alliance Defense Fund — now called the Alliance Defending Freedom.” [New York Times, [10/26/23](#)]

- **Southern Poverty Law Center: Alliance Defending Freedom Worked To Outlaw Abortion.** “Founded by some 30 leaders of the Christian Right, the Alliance Defending Freedom is a legal advocacy and training group [...] Using its international platforms, ADF works with policymakers and other organizations to outlaw

abortion, deny equality and marriage to LGBTQ people worldwide, and continue to push for a hard-right Christian theocratic worldview that is reflected in legislation and policies.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, Alliance Defending Freedom, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

Johnson Called For The Supreme Court To Overturn Roe V. Wade. “House Republicans on Wednesday chose the previously little-known conservative Rep. Mike Johnson to be the next speaker on Thursday, and Democrats were quick to push forward with attack ads on Johnson's record on abortion. [...] He called for the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade long before the justices issued their decision in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization in June 2022.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

In A 2005 Op-Ed, Johnson Once Called Abortion “A Holocaust.” “In 2005, Johnson wrote an op-ed for a newspaper in his home state of Louisiana that compared the judicial philosophy that legalized the right to an abortion to Hitler's and called abortion ‘a holocaust.’ The op-ed came in response to the death of Terri Schiavo, the Florida woman whose vegetative state triggered a long legal battle and federal action from Congress.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

In Congress, Johnson Consistently Attacked A Woman’s Right To Choose

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act, Which Was A National Abortion Ban

Johnson Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Implement Equal Protection Of The Right To Life For “Each [...] Preborn Human Person.” “To implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person. [...] To implement equal protection for the right to life of each born and preborn human person, and pursuant to the duty and authority of the Congress, including Congress’ power under article I, section 8, to make necessary and proper laws, and Congress’ power under section 5 of the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress hereby declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being.” [Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Did Not List Exceptions, Including Life Of Mother, Rape, Or Incest. [Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

NARAL President: Life At Conception Act Could Be Used “To Really Attack Issues Like Contraception And Even Fertility Treatments Like IVF.” “Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL, sees Mooney’s bill as a slippery slope. ‘I think life starts at conception is a line that’s used by extremist right-wing folks to really attack issues like contraception and even fertility treatments like IVF (in vitro fertilization). So, look, we know that that’s not based on science. However, that rhetoric is used to go after a much broader range of reproductive rights and services. So it’s really important that Americans understand what that’s code for. That’s code for going after your fundamental, basic, everyday medication like birth control. It’s code for going after something that we know more and more American women rely on to expand their families and to have children, which is IVF. It’s very dangerous. And we’re going to do everything we can to block any efforts at legislation that tries to do that,’ said Timmaraju.” [Gray DC, [1/25/23](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Reinstating The Protections Offered By Roe V. Wade

Johnson Voted Against The Women’s Health Protection Act To Establish The Statutory Right For Patients To Receive And For Providers To Provide Abortions And To Prohibit Certain State Restrictions On Abortion. In July 2022 Johnson voted against: “Passage of the bill that would statutorily establish that health care providers have a right to provide and patients have a right to receive abortion services, and it would prohibit certain restrictions related to abortion services. The bill would specify that rights established by the bill may not be restricted by certain requirements or limitations related to abortion services, including prohibitions on abortion prior

to fetal viability, or after fetal viability if a provider determines that continuation of a pregnancy would pose a risk to a patient's life or health; requirements that patients disclose reasons for seeking an abortion or make medically unnecessary in-person appointments; requirements that providers provide medically inaccurate information or perform specific medical tests or procedures in connection with the provision of abortion services; limitations on providers' ability to prescribe drugs based on good-faith medical judgment, provide services via telemedicine or provide immediate services when a delay would pose a risk to a patient's health; and requirements for facilities and personnel that would not apply to facilities providing medically comparable procedures. It would also prohibit requirements or limitations that are similar to those established by the bill or that impede access to abortion services and expressly or implicitly single out abortion services, providers or facilities. It would specify factors that courts may consider to determine whether a requirement or limitation impedes access to abortion services, including whether it interferes with providers' ability to provide services; poses a risk to patients' health; is likely to delay or deter patients in accessing services or necessitate in-person visits that would not otherwise be required; is likely to result in a decreased availability of services in a state or region; is likely to result in increased costs of providing or obtaining services; or imposes penalties that are not imposed on other health care providers for comparable conduct. It would require a party defending a requirement or limitation to establish that it significantly advances the safety of abortion services or patient health and that such goals cannot be advanced by a less restrictive alternative measure. It would authorize the Justice Department, health care providers and private individuals and entities to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for injunctive relief against any state or government official charged with implementing or enforcing a requirement or limitation challenged as a violation of rights established by the bill. It would authorize district courts to award appropriate equitable relief, including temporary, preliminary or permanent injunctive relief, and to award costs of litigation to a prevailing plaintiff. It would require courts to 'liberally construe' provisions of the bill to effectuate its purposes. The bill is substantively identical to HR 3755, which the House passed in September 2021, but adds findings related to the June 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*." The bill passed by a vote of 219-210. [H.R. 8296, [Vote #360](#), 7/15/22; CQ, [7/15/22](#)]

- **The Women's Health Protection Act "Enshrine[d] The Protections Of Roe V. Wade Into Law."** "The House on Friday passed legislation that would protect access to reproductive health care, including the ability to travel across state lines for an abortion, as part of Democrats' efforts to minimize the consequences of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* last month. One bill, the Women's Health Protection Act, would enshrine the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law. The House already passed the bill last year, but it did not advance in a Senate vote in May. The House passed the bill, 219-210, prompting applause from Democrats in the chamber." [Washington Post, [7/15/22](#)]
- **The Women's Health Protection Act Prevented States From Prohibiting Abortions Before Fetal Viability Or After Fetal Viability When The Patient's Life Or Health Is At Risk.** "The bill would prevent state governments from limiting a health care provider's ability to prescribe certain drugs, offer abortion services via telemedicine, or immediately provide abortion services when the provider determines a delay risks the patient's health, according to CRS. It also prevents states from requiring patients to make medically unnecessary in-person visits before receiving abortion services or forcing women to disclose their reasons for obtaining abortions and related services. WHPA would ban states from prohibiting abortion services before or after fetal viability when a provider determines the pregnancy risks the patient's life or health." [ABC News, [3/7/22](#)]

2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill to Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Abortion Services, And Later Voted To Do The Same

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill to Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Abortion Services. "This bill prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from providing certain funding related to abortion services. Specifically, the bill prohibits DOD from paying or reimbursing any fees or expenses for a health care professional (who provides health care at a military medical treatment facility) to gain a license in a state if the purpose of gaining the license is to provide abortion services. The bill also repeals the DOD memorandum titled *Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care* (October 20, 2022). Such memo sets forth DOD policies and procedures in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Under the bill, DOD

may not obligate or expend funds to carry out the memo or any successor memo.” [H.R. 1297, Summary, [3/1/23](#); H.R. 1297, Cosponsors, [3/1/23](#)]

Johnson Voted For An Amendment To Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Expenses Related To Abortion Services. In July 2023, Johnson voted for: “Jackson, R-Texas, amendment no. 5 that would repeal a 2022 Defense Department memorandum regarding access to reproductive health care and prohibit the department from paying for or reimbursing expenses relating to abortion services.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 221-213. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #300](#), 7/13/23; CQ, [7/13/23](#)]

Johnson Voted Against Instructing Members To Disagree With Repealing An Amendment In FY 2024 Defense Authorization That Ensured Reproductive Health Care Access For Military Members. In September 2023, Johnson voted against: “Houlahan, D-Pa., motion to instruct conferees on the part of the House to disagree to section 716, which would repeal an October 2022 Defense Department memorandum concerning traveling for reproductive health care.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 205-214. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #400](#), 9/20/23; CQ, [9/20/23](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Protecting People Who Assist Others In Receiving Out Of State Abortions And Shielded Transportation Of Abortion Drugs Between States

Johnson Voted Against The Ensuring Access To Abortion Act To Prohibit Individuals From Interfering With A Patient’s Ability To Cross State Lines To Obtain An Abortion In A State Where It Is Legal. In July 2022 Johnson voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit individuals from interfering with patients’ ability to access to abortion services in another state where the services are legal. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from preventing, restricting or retaliating against health care providers’ ability to provide abortion services that are legal in the provider’s state to patients who do not reside in that state; a person’s ability to assist in providing such services; or a person’s ability to travel or assist another person traveling across state lines to obtain an abortion. It would also prohibit individuals from preventing, restricting or retaliating against the interstate movement of any drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the termination of a pregnancy. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates the prohibitions.” The bill passed by a vote of 223-205. [H.R. 8297, [Vote #362](#), 7/15/22; CQ, [7/15/22](#)]

- **The Ensuring Access To Abortion Act Protected People Who Assist Others In Receiving Out Of State Abortions And Shielded Transportation Of Abortion Drugs Between States.** “The legislation protects women who travel to another state to receive an abortion if their home state prohibits the medical procedure. And in states where abortion is lawful, the bill seeks to make it illegal for facilities to limit access to the medical procedure for individuals who arrived from out of state. Additionally, the measure includes a provision to protect people who assist others in receiving an abortion in a state where they do not reside. It also shields the state-to-state transportation of abortion drugs that have received approval from the Food and Drug Administration.” [The Hill, [7/15/22](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Protecting Women’s Right To Access Contraception

Johnson Voted Against The Right To Contraception Act To Establish A Statutory Right For Individuals To Obtain And Health Care Providers To Provide Contraceptives. In July 2022 Johnson voted against “Passage of the bill that would establish that individuals have a statutory right to obtain contraceptives and health care providers have a right to provide contraceptives, contraception and related information. It would prohibit any limitation or infringement of these rights that impedes access to or singles out the provision or providers of contraceptives, contraception or related information. It would supersede any federal and state law that conflicts with its provisions. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for equitable relief against an individual who violates these provisions. It would allow health care providers to bring action on behalf of themselves, their staff or their patients.” The bill passed by a vote of 228-195. [H.R. 8373, [Vote #385](#), 7/21/22; CQ, [7/21/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Passes Bill To Protect Access To Birth Control In Latest Answer To Supreme Court.”** [CBS News, [7/22/22](#)]
- **June 2022: Justice Thomas Wrote The U.S. Supreme Court Should “Reconsider” To “Correct The Error” In All “Substantive Due Process Precedents, Including Griswold, Lawrence, And Obergefell.”** “For that reason, in future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court’s substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell. Because any substantive due process decision is ‘demonstrably erroneous,’ *Ramos v. Louisiana*, 590 U. S. ___, ___ (2020) (THOMAS, J., concurring in judgment) (slip op., at 7), we have a duty to ‘correct the error’ established in those precedents, *Gamble v. United States*, 587 U. S. ___, ___ (2019) (THOMAS, J., concurring) (slip op., at 9). After overruling these demonstrably erroneous decisions, the question would remain whether other constitutional provisions guarantee the myriad rights that our substantive due process cases have generated. For example, we could consider whether any of the rights announced in this Court’s substantive due process cases are ‘privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States’ protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.” [U.S. Supreme Court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, Justice Thomas Concurring, [6/24/22](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Voted For Legislation That Would Punish Doctors For Providing Abortion Care To Patients

Johnson Voted For The Born Alive-Survivors Protection Act. In January 2023 Johnson voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to provide the same care to a child that is ‘born alive’ after an abortion or attempted abortion as they would for a child born at the same gestational age and to ensure the child is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital; require hospital and clinic practitioners and employees to report any knowledge of failures to provide such care; and impose criminal fines and penalties for failures to meet these requirements. It would state that a child born alive under these conditions is a legal person under U.S. law, entitled to the protections of U.S. law, and it would specifically make any act that kills or attempts to kill such a child punishable as murder or attempted murder. The bill would also prohibit the prosecution of the mother of a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion and permit such mothers to seek relief through civil action against any person who violates the bill’s requirements, including monetary and punitive damages.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-210. [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

- **The Born Alive Bill Would Punish Doctors For Providing Care To Patients.** “The offensively named ‘born-alive’ legislation is another cruel and misguided attempt to interfere with evidence-based medical decision making between patients and their physicians...Laws that ban or criminalize evidence-based care and rely on medically unsupported theories and misinformation are dangerous to families and their clinicians. This bill negatively affects all obstetric and gynecologic care.” [The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [6/26/23](#)]
- **Pro-Choice Advocates Said That The Bill Was “Deliberately Misleading And Offensive To Pregnant People.”** ““This bill is deliberately misleading and offensive to pregnant people and the doctors and nurses who provide their care. It is yet another attempt by anti-abortion politicians to spread misinformation as a means to their warped political end: to ban safe and legal abortion,’ Jacqueline Ayers, the senior vice president of policy, organizing, and campaigns at Planned Parenthood Federation of America said in a statement about the bill.” [ABC News, [1/12/23](#)]
- **Born Alive Legislation Would Take Away Power Over Medical Interventions From Families And Physicians.** ““The 2002 Born-Alive Infants Protection Act gives absolutely every protection that you would ever want or need for an infant who was born at any stage of development. In that situation, you want parents to be able to decide what the care for their child looks like,’ said Dr. Lauren Wilson, a hospital pediatrician and the president of the Montana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics...Live births after an attempted abortion are exceedingly rare, and the proposed measure would take away power over medical interventions from families and physicians.” [19th, [1/6/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors to Prosecution.”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

February 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Allow States To Exclude Abortion Providers From Their Medicaid Program

The Women’s Public Health And Safety Act Would Allow A State To Exclude Abortion Providers From The State’s Medicaid Program. “This bill allows a state to exclude from participation in the state's Medicaid program a provider that performs an abortion, unless (1) the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or (2) the woman suffers from a physical issue that would place her in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Under current law, a state plan for medical assistance must provide that any individual eligible for medical assistance may obtain required services from any provider qualified to perform them.” [H.R. 1074, Summary, [2/17/23](#); H.R. 1074, Cosponsors, [2/17/23](#)]

- **The Women’s Public Health And Safety Act Would Negate Current Federal Law Requiring States To Allow Any Legitimate Medical Provider To Participate In The Medicaid Program.** “The bill could give states the ability to exclude abortion providers from receiving state Medicaid funds unless an abortion is deemed necessary due to rape, incest or a life-threatening situation. It will negate current federal law, which requires states to allow any legitimate medical provider to participate in a state’s Medicaid program.” [Daily Tarheel, [3/21/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Banning Telehealth Appointments To Prescribe Medication Abortion

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Banning Telehealth Appointments To Prescribe Medication Abortion. “This bill restricts the use of telehealth for chemical abortions (also known as medication abortions). Specifically, it requires a provider who dispenses or prescribes medication for a chemical abortion to physically examine the patient, be physically present at the location of the chemical abortion, and schedule a follow-up visit for the patient. The bill provides an exception for a chemical abortion that is necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, injury, or condition. The bill establishes criminal penalties—a fine, a prison term of up to two years, or both—for a provider who does not comply with the requirements. A patient who undergoes a chemical abortion may not be prosecuted.” [H.R. 421, Summary, [1/20/23](#); H.R. 421, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood. “This bill restricts federal funding for Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. or any of its affiliates or clinics for one year. Specifically, it prohibits funding those entities unless they certify that the affiliates and clinics will not perform, and will not provide funds to entities that perform, abortions during that year. If the certification requirement is not met, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture must recoup any federal assistance received by those entities. However, the bill's funding restriction does not apply to abortions performed in cases of rape or incest or when necessary to resolve a physical condition that endangers a woman's life. The bill also provides additional funding for community health centers for the one-year period. These funds are subject to the same abortion-related restrictions and exceptions.” [H.R. 371, Summary, [1/17/23](#); H.R. 371, Cosponsors, [1/17/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortions Or Health Coverage That Includes Abortions

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortions Or Health Coverage That Includes Abortions. “This bill modifies provisions relating to federal funding for, and health insurance coverage of, abortions. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions or for health coverage that includes abortions. Such restrictions extend to the use of funds in the budget of the District of

Columbia. Additionally, abortions may not be provided in a federal health care facility or by a federal employee. Historically, language has been included in annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions—such language is commonly referred to as the Hyde Amendment. Similar language is also frequently included in appropriations bills for other federal agencies and the District of Columbia. The bill makes these restrictions permanent and extends the restrictions to all federal funds (rather than specific agencies). The bill's restrictions regarding the use of federal funds do not apply in cases of rape, incest, or where a physical disorder, injury, or illness endangers a woman's life unless an abortion is performed. The Hyde Amendment provides the same exceptions. The bill also prohibits qualified health plans from including coverage for abortions. Currently, qualified health plans may cover abortion, but the portion of the premium attributable to abortion coverage is not eligible for subsidies.” [H.R. 7, Summary, [1/9/23](#); H.R. 7, Cosponsors, [1/9/23](#)]

September 2023: Johnson Voted For Legislation That Would Restrict Access To The Abortion Medication Mifepristone – One Of The Most Common Methods For An Abortion

September 2023: Johnson Voted To Pass The Fiscal 2024 Agriculture Appropriations Including Republican Riders. In September 2023, Johnson voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide roughly \$22 billion in discretionary funding in fiscal 2024 for the Agriculture Department and related agencies. The bill would provide \$6.2 billion to the Food and Drug Administration, including \$3 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$3.2 billion in user fees; \$3.4 billion for Agriculture Department rural development activities; \$1.5 billion for the Agricultural Research Service; and \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. It would provide \$122 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, \$32 billion for child nutrition programs, and \$6 billion for the Women, Infants, and Children program. It would direct the USDA to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of U.S. agricultural land by non-resident aliens and foreign businesses associated with Russia, North Korea, Iran and China; nullify the FDA’s January 2023 rule allowing medical providers to dispense the abortion drug mifepristone without an in-person consultation; prohibit the use of funds for programs that promote critical race theory; and prohibit the use of funds to establish any office of diversity, equity and inclusion, among other policy provisions. As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds for carrying out various Biden administration executive orders related to climate change and sex discrimination, finalizing regulations that result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, implementing the USDA COVID-19 workplace safety policy, or for any operations of the Civilian Climate Corps, among other restrictions. It also would reduce the salary of Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Service Stacy Dean to \$1.” The bill was rejected by a vote of 191-237. [H.R. 4368, Vote #507, [9/28/23](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

- **The Agriculture Appropriations Bill Included A Provision To Ban Mifepristone From Being Sold In Retail Pharmacies Or By Mail.** “A provision in the legislation would nullify a Biden administration rule allowing mifepristone to be sold in retail pharmacies and by mail with prescriptions from a certified health care provider.” [Fox 59, [9/27/23](#)]
- **Abortion Pills Accounted For The Majority Of Abortions.** “The pills may be taken in a doctor’s office or clinic, where patients sometimes have an ultrasound or lab tests beforehand. Some providers also offer the pills through telehealth visits and then send patients the medication by mail. Use of the pills has been increasing in recent years. As of 2020, they accounted for 54% of all U.S. abortions, according to preliminary data from the Guttmacher Institute. The group’s final estimate is due later this year.” [Associated Press, [7/2/22](#)]

Johnson Consistently Received A+ Ratings On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard

117th Congress: Johnson Received An A+ On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard. [Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Scorecard, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

116th Congress: Johnson Received An A+ On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard. [Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Scorecard, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

As The Chair Of The Republican Study Committee (RSC), Johnson Released The RSC Conservative Playbook, Which Included Multiple Provisions To Prohibit Funding Abortions Under Healthcare Plans

Johnson Promoted His Work Helping Publish The Conservative Playbook. “I was honored to serve as chairman of the Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus of conservatives in Congress, known as ‘the intellectual arsenal of conservatism in the House,’ during the 116th Congress. Here is some of the important work our committee published under my chairmanship, including The Conservative Playbook, a publication of over 400 policy proposals aimed at improving health care, national security, access to the American Dream, government efficiency and accountability, and the U.S. budget.” [U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson, Republican Study Committee Chairmanship, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC’s Healthcare Plan Included Guaranteed Coverage Pools To Supplement Medical Costs For High-Risk Individuals. “The RSC plan would provide federal funding for states to supplement the medical costs of eligible high-risk individuals. The RSC plan refers to this mechanism as a Guaranteed Coverage Pool. These federally-funded, state-administered pools would provide premium stability in the individual marketplace, ensure that individuals with high-cost illnesses have access to affordable health coverage, and serve as a means of providing portability protections for individuals who have maintained continuous coverage.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

- **Guaranteed Coverage Pools Could Not Be Used To Subsidize Abortion Benefits.** “It should be noted that although states would be given maximum flexibility in utilizing Guaranteed Coverage Pool funds to lower costs for high-risk individuals, under the RSC plan, such funding could not be used to subsidize abortion benefits.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC Plan Would Ban Subsidized Abortions And Medical Abortions. “Critically, while the RSC plan would unleash health savings accounts, it would ensure that these accounts are pro-life and do not inadvertently allow a back-door method of subsidizing abortion procedures. Accordingly, the RSC plan would ensure these accounts cannot be linked to a plan that provides abortions, nor would abortions or abortion drugs be an eligible expense.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC Plan Proposed “Health Care Sharing Ministries” Where Faith-Based Nonprofits Could Opt Into Health Plans “Tailored To Those Who Have Specific Beliefs, Values, Or Faiths,” To Prevent Abortion From Being Covered Under Those Plans. “Health Care Sharing Ministries Health care sharing ministries (HSMs) are faith-based nonprofit organizations whose members share a common set of ethical and religious beliefs and share medical expenses among themselves in accordance with those beliefs. Funds come from monthly share amounts paid by members to other members. This model is based on long held faith based traditions of helping others when in need. HSM’s are tailored to those who have specific beliefs, values or faiths, or do not want certain benefits provided. For example, if a group of a particular religious faith does not want something like abortion covered, the group could join an HSM and provide health care dollars to participants without participating in insurance models that cover abortion.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

April 27, 2020: Johnson Signed A Letter From The RSC’s Health Care Task Force Requesting That New Health Laws In Response To The Pandemic Did Not Include Access To Elective Abortions. “Ensure that new funding, subsidies, tax credits, and reforms cannot be used to provide access to elective abortions” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$7,000 And An Endorsement From Steve Scalise, Who Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, And Cosponsored, And Repeatedly Voted For, Legislation To Ban Abortion

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” To Receive An Endorsement From Majority Leader Steve Scalise

McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” For Majority Leader Steve Scalise’s Endorsement. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]

McGraw Received \$7,000 From PACs And Committees Affiliated With Steve Scalise

March 2024: McGraw Received \$2,000 From Scalise For Congress. According to FEC Receipts, Scalise for Congress gave \$2,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on March 19th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
SCALISE FOR CONGRESS	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	LA	03/19/2024	\$2,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Received \$5,000 From Eye Of The Tiger PAC. According to FEC Receipts, Eye of the Tiger Political Action Committee gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on March 19th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
THE EYE OF THE TIGER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	VA	03/19/2024	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

- **The Eye Of The Tiger Political Action Committee Was Steve Scalise’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profile, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Scalise Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, Cosponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ban Abortion, And Said The Overturning Of Roe Was A “Huge Victory”

Scalise Said The Overturning Of Roe Was A “Huge Victory” And Praised Anti-Abortion Bills Passed By The Republican House

Scalise Referred To The Overturning Of Roe As A “Huge Victory” And Said It Was “Only The End Of The First Phase Of This Battle” And Praised Anti-Abortion Bills Passed By The Republican House “But the guests lacked some of the political wattage of past years, when top Republicans, including former President Donald J. Trump, former Vice President Mike Pence and former Speaker Paul Ryan, addressed the crowd. This year, the speakers included just two lawmakers: Representative Steve Scalise, the Republican majority leader, and Representative Chris Smith, one of the leaders of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. ‘Boy, did we get a huge victory just a few months ago when Roe was overturned, but as you all know, that’s only the end of the first phase of this battle,’ Mr. Scalise told the crowd, highlighting the package of abortion bills already passed by the new Republican majority in the House. Those measures include legislation that could subject doctors who perform abortions to criminal penalties.” [New York Times, [1/20/23](#)]

Scalise Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women, The Life At Conception Act Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exceptions

112th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 374, Introduced [1/20/11](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Grant Equal Protection Under The 14th Amendment To Fetuses, Effectively Banning Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Health Of The Woman. “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. ‘Human person’ is defined as: [...] each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. The bill would grant constitutional rights to fertilized eggs, embryos, fetuses, and clones. It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization. The bill would not allow for prosecution of any pregnant person for the ‘death’ of their ‘unborn child.’” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Scalise Cosponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ban Abortion, The Pain-Capable Unborn Protection Act Was A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Health Of The Women

117th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 1080, Introduced [2/15/21](#)]

116th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 784, Introduced [1/24/19](#)]

2017: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Imposing Criminal Penalties On Doctors, With Exceptions For Rape And Incest Only If It Had Been Reported To Law Enforcement. In October 2017, Scalise voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, if the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. The bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the ‘potential’ to survive outside the womb.” The bill passed, 237-189. [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

- **Abortion Rights Groups Said The Legislation Had No Exception If The Pregnancy Threatened The Mother’s Health, And The Rape And Incest Exceptions Were Too Narrow.** “Abortion rights groups and Democratic lawmakers panned the legislation ahead of its passage, arguing it is based on faulty science and contains no exception if a pregnancy would threaten a mother’s health. They also said the rape and incest exceptions are too narrow and that the bill is likely unconstitutional under existing Supreme Court rulings.” [Washington Post, [10/3/17](#)]

2015: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. In May 2015, Scalise voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman’s life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape if, as amended, for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. As amended, the bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the "potential" to survive outside the womb, and, if the fetus is born alive, the bill would require that the infant be provided medical care and immediately be transported and admitted to a hospital. As amended, women wishing to have abortions under the bill’s exceptions would need to sign (along with the doctor and a witness) an informed consent authorization form detailing the age of the fetus and stating that, if born alive, would be given medical assistance and transported to a hospital.” The bill passed by a vote of 242-184. [HR 36, [Vote #223](#), 5/13/15; CQ, [5/13/15](#)]

2013: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban, Including A Requirement For Women To Prove Rape Before Accessing An Abortion. In 2013, Scalise voted for: “Prohibits the abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater, except: (1) where necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, excluding psychological or emotional conditions; or (2) where the pregnancy is the result of rape, or the result of incest against a minor, if the rape has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency, or if the incest has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency or to a government agency legally authorized to act on reports of child abuse or neglect. Permits a physician to terminate a pregnancy under such an exception only in the manner that provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive, unless that manner would pose a greater risk than other available methods would pose of the death or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, excluding psychological or emotional conditions, of the pregnant woman.” The bill passed, 228-196. [HR 1797, [Vote #251](#), 6/18/13; Congress.gov, [6/18/13](#)]

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Would Ban Abortions At 20 Weeks Post-Fertilization. “By banning abortions beginning at 20 weeks post-fertilization—a pre-viability stage of pregnancy—H.R. 36 directly contradicts longstanding precedent holding that a woman should ‘be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion’ when deciding whether to continue or terminate a pre-viability pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

ACLU: The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act “Fail[ed] To Protect Women’s Health.” “H.R. 36 also fails to protect women’s health. It includes a narrow exception to preserve a woman’s life only—not her health, as longstanding precedent requires. Many things can go wrong during a pregnancy and a woman’s health could be at risk in complex ways that require urgent care. This bill would effectively force a woman and her doctor to wait until her condition is life threatening to finally act to protect her health, and she may suffer serious health consequences as a result.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

ACLU: The Mandatory Delay On Abortions For Rape Survivors “Would Completely Deny Care To Many Women.” “Further, the exceedingly narrow exceptions for survivors of rape and incest erect barriers to care that may be impossible for some women to meet. The bill would impose a 48-hour mandatory delay on adult survivors of rape, requiring them to seek medical care or counseling from a separate provider at least two days prior to an abortion. This burdensome requirement would completely deny care to many women as a result of the limited availability of abortions at this stage of pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

Minors Who Are Pregnant As A Result Of Rape Or Incest Would Have To Report The Assault To Authorities. “Minors who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest would be required to report the assault to authorities in order to access care after 20 weeks. These callous requirements clearly demonstrate both serious insensitivity towards survivors and an appalling lack of trust in women.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$10,000 And An Endorsement From Elise Stefanik, Who Cosponsored A 15-Week Federal Abortion Ban, And Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban With Criminal Penalties For Doctors And Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women

February 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Chairwoman Stefanik, And Said He Was “Honored” To Receive Her Endorsement Calling Her A “Bold, Conservative Leader In The House”

February 2024: Stefanik Endorsed McGraw. “I’m proud to endorse @judgejoemcgraw in #IL17. Judge Joe has dedicated his entire career to upholding the rule of law. As a former prosecutor and judge, he understands the impact of soft-on-crime policies on communities and the importance of enforcing the law. Joe is the type of leader we need in Washington, and I’m looking forward to serving with him in the 119th Congress.” [Elise Stefanik, Twitter, [2/7/24](#)]



2:51 PM · Feb 7, 2024 · 10.3K Views

[Elise Stefanik, Twitter, [2/7/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Was “Honored” To Have The Support Of Chairwoman Stefanik And Called Her A “Bold, Conservative Leader In The House.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/6/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/6/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Received \$10,000 From E-PAC, Elise Stefanik’s Leadership PAC

2024: McGraw Received \$10,000 From E-PAC. On February 12th, 2024 E-PAC donated \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. On March 31st 2024, E-PAC donated \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. [FEC.gov, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]




Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
E-PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	NY	03/31/2024	\$5,000.00
E-PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	NY	02/12/2024	\$5,000.00

[FEC.gov, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

- **E-PAC Was Elise Stefanik’s Leadership PAC.** E-PAC was the leadership PAC associated with New York Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. [FEC Committee Profiles, E-PAC, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

March 2024: Stefanik Congratulated McGraw On Winning The Republican Primary

March 2024: Stefanik Congratulated McGraw On Winning The Republican Primary. “Congratulations Judge Joe McGraw for winning the IL-17 Republican Nomination! Judge Joe is the law and order candidate who will FLIP this district from BLUE to RED this November to help grow our GOP majority and Save America.

   [Elise Stefanik, Facebook, [3/20/24](#)]



[Elise Stefanik, Facebook, [3/20/24](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored A Federal Abortion Ban After 15 Weeks And Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women

Stefanik Cosponsored The Protecting Pain Capable Unborn Children From Late Term Abortions Act

Stefanik Cosponsored The Protecting Pain Capable Unborn Children From Late-Term Abortions Act. [H.R. 8814, Introduced [9/13/22](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored A Bill That Would Ban Abortions Nationwide After The 15th Week Of Pregnancy With Exceptions For Rape, Incest And The Life Of The Woman. “Congresswoman Elise Stefanik is a co-sponsor of a new bill that would ban abortions nationwide after the 15th week of pregnancy. Republicans introduced the bill on Tuesday. It contains exceptions for rape, incest, and life-threatening physical conditions, but does not make exceptions for ‘psychological or emotional conditions.’ At a press conference in Washington, Republican leaders did not commit to bringing the bill to a vote if they take over the House majority. According to The Hill, Stefanik said the bill is ‘something that we’ll discuss with a majority.’” [NCPR, [9/16/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Stefanik Backs Federal Ban On Most Abortions After 15 Weeks.”** [7 News WWNYS, [9/15/22](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Life Of The Women And With Criminal Penalties For Doctors

117th Congress: Stefanik Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 1080, Introduced [2/15/21](#)]

116th Congress: Stefanik Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 784, Introduced [1/24/19](#)]

Stefanik Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Imposing Criminal Penalties On Doctors, With Exceptions For Rape And Incest Only If It Had Been Reported To Law Enforcement. In October 2017, Stefanik voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, if the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. The bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present

for abortions where the fetus has the ‘potential’ to survive outside the womb.” The bill passed, 237-189. [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

- **Abortion Rights Groups Said The Legislation Had No Exception If The Pregnancy Threatened The Mother’s Health, And The Rape And Incest Exceptions Were Too Narrow.** “Abortion rights groups and Democratic lawmakers panned the legislation ahead of its passage, arguing it is based on faulty science and contains no exception if a pregnancy would threaten a mother’s health. They also said the rape and incest exceptions are too narrow and that the bill is likely unconstitutional under existing Supreme Court rulings.” [Washington Post, [10/3/17](#)]
- **The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Would Ban Abortions At 20 Weeks Post-Fertilization.** “By banning abortions beginning at 20 weeks post-fertilization—a pre-viability stage of pregnancy—H.R. 36 directly contradicts longstanding precedent holding that a woman should ‘be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion’ when deciding whether to continue or terminate a pre-viability pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

Stefanik Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. In May 2015, Stefanik voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman’s life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape if, as amended, for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. As amended, the bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the “potential” to survive outside the womb, and, if the fetus is born alive, the bill would require that the infant be provided medical care and immediately be transported and admitted to a hospital. As amended, women wishing to have abortions under the bill’s exceptions would need to sign (along with the doctor and a witness) an informed consent authorization form detailing the age of the fetus and stating that, if born alive, would be given medical assistance and transported to a hospital.” The bill passed by a vote of 242-184. [HR 36, [Vote #223](#), 5/13/15; CQ, [5/13/15](#)]

McGraw Fundraised With And Accepted \$2,000 And An Endorsement From His “Friend” Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood, Who Cosponsored A National Abortion Ban Without Exceptions And Described Himself As A “Pro-Life Advocate”

February 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Accepted \$2,000 From His Campaign Committee

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Proud” To Be Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood. “Proud to have the endorsement of @DarinLaHoodIL in our fight to flip #IL17. Darin knows how to get things done and I look forward to working with him in Congress to deliver results for the people of Illinois.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Received \$2,000 From LaHood For Congress. According to FEC Receipts, LaHood for Congress gave \$2,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on February 1st 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
LAHOOD FOR CONGRESS	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/01/2024	\$2,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser With Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Helped McGraw “Each Step Of The Way”

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser Where Congressman Darin LaHood Was The Special Guest. [Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]



[Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]

- **Darin LaHood Represented Illinois’s 16th Congressional District.** “Congressman Darin LaHood, born and raised in Peoria, serves the constituents of the 16th District of Illinois.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, About, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Said He “Help[d] Me Each Step Of The Way.” HOST: “So you have probably been making your way up around the district. Do you have any specific locations and dates coming up?” MCGRAW: “Well we are gonna be in Peoria Thursday and the district is um well let's just say it is irregularly shaped.” HOST: “Hahaha.” MCGRAW: “If there was a uh picture in a dictionary that defined gerrymandering, the 17th congressional district would be an illustration of that point. It goes from Rockford on the east NE of IL to Rock Island on NW and down the Mississippi to Peoria area and across to Bloomington so as I said it is part of 14 counties so yeah we will be, I will be formally endorsed Thursday evening by Congressman Darin LaHood. He is the congressman in the 16th congressional district and he is one of the good friends and people who encouraged me to run and he has been helping me each step of the way because our districts are completely interlocked.” [Regional Media Podcast, 17th Congressional District Candidate Judge Joe McGraw, 9:37, [1/24/24](#)] (AUDIO)

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support Congressman LaHood And Called Him A “Friend”

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support His “Friend” Congressman LaHood. “Happy to be in Peoria today supporting my friend, Congressman Darin LaHood. He was joined by former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe. It's reassuring to know that we have great Americans like John & Darin looking out for the safety & security of our nation.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Was “A Great Role Model” And Said He Was Grateful To Talk With LaHood About His Ongoing Work In Congress

March 2024: McGraw Said Darin LaHood Was “A Great Role Model, Great Example, Of Someone Who Can Work With Everyone.” HOST: “To wrap things up um there is some conservative ball work Republicans that are retiring because they just cannot take the decisiveness in politics. They do wanna work across the aisle, it is just happening. One of them, Ken Buck CO, Mike Gallagher Wisconsin who works with one of our friends of the show, Roger Christian Murphy in the China select committee, they are working well together across the aisle. It just seems to be so divisive in trying to get these things done. Uh how will it affect you if elected?” MCGRAW: “You know I am a disappointed to see some of those folks leave some of them are really great legislators but Darin LaHood who entered I should say spoke to be about running early on as a great role model, great example, of

someone who can work with everyone and uh the China select committee is an example where you have to do that.” [Greg and Dan Interviews, Republican Candidate for the IL 17th Congressional District Preps for Primary Election, 8:24, [3/5/24](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Grateful To Converse With [LaHood] Today In Rockford About His Ongoing Work In Congress, And The Path Ahead For Our Nation On A Variety Of Meaningful Issues.”

“Grateful to converse with @DarinLaHoodIL today in Rockford about his ongoing work in Congress, and the path ahead for our nation on a variety of meaningful issues. Looking forward to serving the families of Northwest and Central Illinois with Congressman LaHood! #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]



November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood

November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood. “REMINDER: If you have not been able to sign a petition for our campaign or other Republicans, please stop by tomorrow at the following locations to do so! We need your help to ensure good candidates get their name on the ballot! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/17/23](#)]



LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act, An Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

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LaHood Cosponsored Anti-Abortion Legislation

LaHood Cosponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion At 20 Weeks. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Amends the US Code to prohibit any person from performing an abortion on an unborn child who is 20 weeks or older.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored Legislation “Declar[ing] That Life Begins At The Moment Of Conception” And A Bill To Prohibit Taxpayer Funding For Abortion. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: [...] No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Would make the Hyde Amendment and other current abortion funding prohibitions permanent and government-wide [...] Life at Conception Act – Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV) [...] This legislation declares that life begins at the moment of conception, therefore entitling the unborn to legal protection.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate”

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate.” “Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18) released the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization: ‘As a father of three and Pro-Life advocate, I applaud the Supreme Court's decision in the Dobbs case, returning the question of abortion to the states and to the people.’” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [6/24/22](#)]

LaHood Pushed For Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers

LaHood Opposed Limiting Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers, Calling The Centers A “Vital Alternative For Expectant Mothers.” “In a new twist to the fight over abortion access, congressional Republicans are trying to block a Biden administration spending rule that they say will cut off millions of dollars to anti-abortion counseling centers. [...] Congressional Republicans this week introduced legislation that would block the Health and Human Services Agency from restricting the funds from the centers. The bill has no chance of becoming law this year. ‘Pregnancy centers are an important and vital alternative for expectant mothers,’ Republican Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois said Thursday during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing to mark up the legislation.” [Spectrum News NY 1, [1/13/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, Who Repeatedly Voted Against Legislation And Resolutions Protecting Reproductive Rights In Illinois

Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2019: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One’s Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Hammond voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

State Rep. Norine Hammond Opposed Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act And Said It Was “Tragic” Governor Pritzker Signed The Legislation Into Law. “Moments ago, Governor Pritzker signed into law legislation expanding abortion in Illinois. State Representative Norine Hammond (R-Macomb) publicly voiced her opposition to the legislation when the Illinois House of Representatives voted on it this past May 28. ‘The governor’s signing of legislation expanding abortions in Illinois is tragic,’ said Rep. Hammond. ‘This legislation represents a radical expansion of abortion in Illinois, on top of our state’s extremely-permissive abortion laws. The people of our communities strongly believe that the unborn deserve protection in law. As your State Representative, I will continue to oppose these radical abortion laws and advocate for the unborn.’ The legislation, Senate Bill 25 (SB 25), referred to by proponents as the ‘Reproductive Health Act,’ eliminates legal protections for the unborn currently in state statute.” [State Rep. Norine Hammond, Press Release, [6/12/19](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Hammond Opposes Governor Pritzker’s Signing of Abortion Expansion Legislation.”** [State Rep. Norine Hammond, Press Release, [6/12/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act,

Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Dobbs* decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.’” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

2022: Hammond Voted Against A Reproductive Rights Resolution In The Illinois General Assembly

2022: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Rights Resolution, Which Declared “A Commitment To Ensuring Access To Quality Health Care, Including Reproductive Health Care, For Women In Illinois.” In 2022, Hammond voted against; “House Resolution 789, Declares a commitment to ensuring access to quality health care, including reproductive health care, for women in Illinois. Urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation and other efforts to ensure women's health and reproductive rights continue to be protected and upheld to the fullest extent. Opposes any effort to punish those who seek a constitutionally protected abortion. Condemns the efforts of those in Illinois and in other states, including Missouri, Texas, and Florida, to undermine women and their reproductive health. Calls on states across the nation to join Illinois in its commitment to women's health.” The motion passed by a vote of 68-38. [Illinois General Assembly, [HR 789](#), passed [3/31/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access, And Cosponsored Anti-Abortion Bills

Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2021-2023: Rep. Spain Cosponsored Five Anti-Abortion Bills, Including One To Reinstate The Requirement That An Abortion Provider Notify The Parent Of A Minor Child After An Abortion Has Been Conducted

2021-2023: Rep. Ryan Spain Co-Sponsored Five Anti-Abortion Bills During The 102nd General Assembly. “Rep. Ryan Spain- Standing Strong for LIFE Without Life, nothing else matters. A bipartisan group of 52 legislators opposed House Bill 370 to fight the repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion (PNA) Act in Illinois.

Rep. Ryan Spain opposed repeal of Parental Notification and co-sponsored legislation to reinstate the requirement that an abortion provider notify the parent of a minor child after an abortion has been conducted. During the 102nd General Assembly, Rep. Spain has co-sponsored the following ‘Pro-Life’ bills to protect the sanctity of Life, even when faced with fierce opposition to his principled stand. Partial Birth Abortion Ban (House Bill 827) Audit of Taxpayer-funded Abortions (House Bill 3041) Ultrasound Opportunity Act (House Bill 3049) Infant Born Alive Protection (House Bill 3050) Reinstate Parental Notification of Abortion (House Bill 4378).” [Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, accessed [3/12/24](#)]

Rep. Ryan Spain Co-Sponsored Legislation To Reinstate The Requirement That An Abortion Provider Notify The Parent Of A Minor Child After An Abortion Has Been Conducted. “Rep. Ryan Spain- Standing Strong for LIFE Without Life, nothing else matters. A bipartisan group of 52 legislators opposed House Bill 370 to fight the repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion (PNA) Act in Illinois. Rep. Ryan Spain opposed repeal of Parental Notification and co-sponsored legislation to reinstate the requirement that an abortion provider notify the parent of a minor child after an abortion has been conducted.” [Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, accessed [3/12/24](#)]

May 2019: Spain Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Spain Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One's Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Spain voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Dobbs* decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to

continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$1,500 And An Endorsement From Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access

Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

- **Chesney Was A State Senator Representing Illinois’s 45th District.** “On November 8, 2022, Andrew Chesney was elected to serve as Senator for the 45th District of the State of Illinois.” [Senator Andrew Chesney, Biography, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC records, Andrw Chesney donated \$1,000 on November 13th, 2023 And \$500 on February 19th, 2024 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. Both FEC receipts listed Chesney’s occupation as “IL State Senator.” [FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/19/2024	\$500.00
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/13/2023	\$1,000.00

[FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

2022: State Rep. Chesney Said He Was He Was “Pleased” With The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe V. Wade And Said He Would “Work Towards Ending Pro-Abortion Policies Here In Illinois”

June 2022: Chesney Said He Was “Pleased With The Supreme Court’s Decision On Roe V. Wade” And Said He Would “Work Towards Ending Pro-Abortion Policies Here In Illinois.” “Local Democrats on Friday denounced a U.S. Supreme Court decision that eliminated the right of Americans to access abortion while Republicans praised it. [...] State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, agreed. ‘I am pleased with the Supreme Court’s decision on Roe v. Wade that returns the debate about abortion to the states where it belongs,’ Chesney said. ‘State legislatures will now be tasked with setting the direction for abortion. I will continue to defend life and work towards ending pro-abortion policies here in Illinois.’” [Rockford Register Star, [6/24/22](#)]

May 2019: Chesney Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Chesney Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One’s Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Chesney voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or

to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

Chesney Said The Signing Of The Reproductive Health Act Was A “Sad Day For Illinois.” “Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Wednesday signed a bill in to law that expands abortion access in the state. The controversial Reproductive Health Act removes restrictions on both abortions later in pregnancy and any criminal penalties for doctors that perform them. It also repeals the state’s Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act and the Illinois Abortion Act of 1975. Under the new law, insurance coverage for the procedures and contraception will be expanded. [...] Republican Rep. Andrew Chesney said in a release, ‘This is a sad day for Illinois. Making good on distinguishing Illinois as an abortion destination is a sad distinction for a state plagued by so many sad distinctions, both fiscal and social.’” [27 WKOW, [6/13/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Dobbs* decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.’” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

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McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access And Bills Which Protected Physicians And Nurses

Illinois State Representative Brian Stewart Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

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McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Dan Brady, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access And Bills Which Protected Physicians And Nurses

Illinois State Representative Dan Brady Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress And Donated \$50

Illinois State Representative Dan Brady Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Dan Brady endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

November 2023: Friends Of Dan Brady Donated \$50 To Judge Joe McGraw For Congress. According to FEC documents, Friends of Dan Brady donated \$50 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on November 27th, 2023. [FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
FRIENDS OF DAN BRADY	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/27/2023	\$50.00

[FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

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- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

April 2022: Brady Voted Against Four Abortion Rights Bills, Including One Which Protected Physicians And Nurses Who Practiced Reproductive Health Care In Multiple States

April 2022: Brady Voted Against Four Abortion Rights Bills. “House Speaker Emanuel ‘Chris’ Welch made an unplanned visit onto the House floor to speak in favor of one of the four abortion rights bills lawmakers passed yesterday along party lines. ‘It’s pretty clear who stands with women in this state. Democrats stand with women in this state,’ Welch said, invoking Women’s History Month and referring to laws in Texas and other states that restrict abortions. Welch, gesturing to the Republican side of the chamber, added: ‘Clearly, by their votes today, they say women are on their own. ...Did you see those votes today? Did you see them?’ Oh, we saw: It was a political move as subtle as a lightning strike, meant to put Republicans on the record for legislation that was mostly symbolic but would solidify Illinois as a safe haven for women who find themselves needing an abortion should Roe v. Wade be overturned in a few months. [...] Rep. Dan Brady, who’s running for secretary of state in the Republican primary — without any help from Griffin — was a no on all four bills. The most substantive bill was House Bill 1464, which says physicians and nurses who find their licenses challenged in other states because they performed or assisted in an abortion can’t be punished in Illinois for doing so if they’re otherwise qualified to practice here. Three resolutions called for expressing ‘unwavering support’ and commitment for abortion rights, and support for the work of Planned Parenthood.” [Politico, [4/1/22](#)]

- **Brady Voted Against A Bill That Would Protect Physicians And Nurses Who Had Their Licenses Challenged In Other States For Performing Or Assisting In Abortions.** “Rep. Dan Brady, who’s running for secretary of state in the Republican primary — without any help from Griffin — was a no on all four bills. The most substantive bill was House Bill 1464, which says physicians and nurses who find their licenses challenged in other states because they performed or assisted in an abortion can’t be punished in Illinois for doing so if they’re otherwise qualified to practice here. Three resolutions called for expressing ‘unwavering support’ and commitment for abortion rights, and support for the work of Planned Parenthood.” [Politico, [4/1/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie, Who Co-Sponsored The Ultrasound Opportunity Act, Which Served As A Barrier To Abortion Care In Illinois

Tony McCombie Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed, [12/6/23](#)]

McCombie Cosponsored A Bill That Was A Barrier To Abortion Care In Illinois

McCombie Cosponsored IL HB 1148, The Ultrasound Opportunity Act. McCombie co-sponsored IL HB 1148, The Ultrasound Opportunity Act. [Illinois General Assembly, H.B. 1148, cosponsored [1/24/23](#)]

- **The Ultrasound Opportunity Act Provided That Any Facility Where Abortions Were Performed, The Physician Performing The Abortion Would Offer Any Woman Seeking An Abortion After 8 Weeks Of Gestation An Opportunity To Receive And View An Active Ultrasound.** “Creates the Ultrasound Opportunity Act. Sets forth legislative findings and definitions. Provides that at any facility where abortions are performed, the physician who is to perform the abortion, the referring physician, or another qualified person working in conjunction with either physician shall offer any woman seeking an abortion after 8 weeks of gestation an opportunity to receive and view an active ultrasound of her unborn child by someone qualified to perform ultrasounds at the facility, or at a facility listed in a listing of local ultrasound providers provided by the facility, prior to the woman having any part of an abortion performed or induced and prior to the administration of any anesthesia or medication in preparation for the abortion. Provides that the requirements of the Act shall not apply when, in the medical judgment of the physician performing or inducing the abortion,

there exists a medical emergency. Effective immediately.” [Illinois General Assembly, H.B. 1148, introduced [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Bill Hauer, Who Was “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Illinois State Representative Bill Hauer Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Bill Hauer Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Bill Hauer endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

Hauer Voted Against And Criticized Illinois Senate Bill 1909, Which Forbid Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Centers From Engaging In Deceptive Practices Meant To Discourage Women From Obtaining Abortions

May 2023: Hauer Voted Against The Deceptive Practices Of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act. In May 2023, Hauer voted against: “Senate Bill 1909, “the Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act. Prohibits a limited services pregnancy center from using or employing any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact, with the intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact: to interfere with an individual seeking to gain entry or access to a provider of abortion or emergency contraception; to induce an individual to enter or access the limited services pregnancy center; in advertising, soliciting, or otherwise offering pregnancy-related services; or in conducting, providing, or performing pregnancy-related services. Allows the Attorney General to enforce the Act when: it appears to the Attorney General that a limited services pregnancy center has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in any practice declared to be unlawful by the Act; the Attorney General receives a written complaint of the commission of a practice declared to be unlawful under the Act; or the Attorney General believes it to be in the public interest that an investigation should be made to ascertain whether a limited services pregnancy center has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in, any practice declared to be unlawful by the Act. Establishes the remedies available under the Act for violation of the Act, including preliminary or permanent injunction and a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000. Allows any party aggrieved by a violation of the Act to bring an action against any limited services pregnancy center that has committed such a violation, in which the court may award actual damages and any other relief the court deems proper.” The motion was passed by a vote of 72-40. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 1909](#), passed [5/10/23](#)]

Senate Bill 1909 Would Forbid Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Centers From Engaging In Deceptive Practices Meant To Discourage Women From Obtaining Abortions. “Hauer, a doctor who opposes abortion, said the passage of Senate Bill 1909, which would forbid anti-abortion pregnancy centers from engaging in deceptive practices meant to discourage women from obtaining abortions, was the biggest disappointment of session for him. ‘That bill, I think, was just a travesty. I don’t think it’s constitutional. It limits free speech, it treats pregnancy care centers with viewpoint discrimination ... I think it’s going to be overturned,’ he said. ‘But that really doesn’t matter to them. ‘I don’t think the pro-abortion extremists really care if it’s overturned — they want to be able to campaign on it, they want to be able to harass, and, in the end, it’s not their money, it’s not their time. It’s the taxpayers’ time in court.’” [Hearld & Review, [6/21/23](#)]

Hauer Was A Vocal Opponent Of Legislation To Protect Illinois Women From Crisis Pregnancy Centers. “Hauer, a doctor who opposes abortion, said the passage of Senate Bill 1909, which would forbid anti-abortion pregnancy centers from engaging in deceptive practices meant to discourage women from obtaining abortions, was the biggest disappointment of session for him. ‘That bill, I think, was just a travesty. I don’t think it’s constitutional. It limits free speech, it treats pregnancy care centers with viewpoint discrimination ... I think it’s going to be overturned,’ he said. ‘But that really doesn’t matter to them. ‘I don’t think the pro-abortion extremists really care if it’s overturned — they want to be able to campaign on it, they want to be able to harass, and, in the end, it’s not their money, it’s not their time. It’s the taxpayers’ time in court.’” [Hearld & Review, [6/21/23](#)]

Hauter Said He And His Wife Were “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Hauter’s Wife Was The Director Of A Crisis Pregnancy Center In Pekins, Illinois

Hauter Said He And His Wife Were “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Hauter’s Wife Was The Director Of A Crisis Pregnancy Center In Pekins, Illinois. “Illinois would become one of the first states to make so-called crisis pregnancy centers subject to the same consumer fraud standards as car dealerships, retailers and service-based businesses under a bill that will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker. Upon the measure becoming law, crisis pregnancy centers could be sued under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act if they engage in ‘unfair methods of competition’ or ‘deceptive acts or practices.’ Crisis pregnancy centers are facilities affiliated with anti-abortion, often religious, organizations designed to deter newly pregnant women from seeking an abortion. [...] ‘So Planned Parenthood of Chicago can rain down complaints as an ‘aggrieved party’ on a pregnancy center in Peoria, Illinois,’ Hauter said during debate on the bill. Hauter, whose wife is the director of the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Pekin, described the couple as ‘heavily involved’ in crisis pregnancy centers. Under SB 1909, Hauter’s wife could be sued under Illinois’ consumer fraud law, although as a licensed physician, Hauter could not. The bill exempts medical professionals with active licenses who work or volunteer at CPCs are exempted from the extended purview of the state’s consumer fraud law as they’re subject to other state regulations like medical malpractice laws. Hauter also characterized the bill as ‘viewpoint discrimination.’” [Rockford Register Star, [5/12/23](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Known For Being Misleading And Using Incorrect Information To Discourage People From Accessing Abortion Care And Contraceptives

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Known For Being Misleading And Using Incorrect Information To Discourage People From Accessing Abortion Care And Contraceptives. “The nonprofits known as crisis pregnancy centers are typically religiously affiliated and counsel clients against having an abortion as part of their free but limited services. [...] The centers have also been accused of providing misleading information about abortion and contraception — for example, suggesting that abortion leads to mental health problems or breast cancer.” [Associated Press, [2/5/22](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Often Placed Close To Abortion Clinics “With The Goal Of Luring Pregnant Women Away.” “The nonprofits known as crisis pregnancy centers are typically religiously affiliated and counsel clients against having an abortion as part of their free but limited services. [...] The pregnancy centers often pop up close to abortion clinics with the goal of luring pregnant women away.” [Associated Press, [2/5/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, Who Voted Against A Bill Which Would Protect Abortion In Illinois And Reinforce Protections For Physicians And Patients

Illinois State Senator Win Stoller Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Senator Win Stoller Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Win Stoller endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2023: Stoller Voted Against An Abortion Expansion Bill Which Prevented Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Physicians And Patients

2023: Stoller Voted Against An Abortion Expansion Bill Which Prevented Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Physicians And Patients. In January 2023, Stoller voted against: “Wholesale Drug License-Variou: [...] Amends the Wrongful Death Act. Provides that there shall be no cause of action against a health care professional, medical institution, or pregnant person (rather than a physician) for the wrongful death of a fetus caused by an abortion where the abortion was permitted

by law and the requisite consent was lawfully given. Amends various licensing Acts to restrict the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation from taking action against a license or permit issued under those Acts based solely upon the license of the person being revoked or the person otherwise being disciplined by any other state or territory for actions related to any health care, medical service, or procedure if the revocation or disciplinary action was based solely on a violation of the other state's law prohibiting such action performed in any state for any person and such conduct is permissible under State law. Amends the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987, the Medical Practice Act of 1987, and the Nurse Practice Act. Allows the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue temporary permits for health care to a person who is licensed to practice under Acts equivalent to those in another state. Amends the Reproductive Health Act. Allows an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant to perform abortion procedures that do not require general anesthesia. Requires a health care professional's report of each abortion to be transmitted to the Department of Public Health on a quarterly basis (rather than not later than 20 days following the end of the month in which the abortion is performed). Provides that such reports are not admissible as evidence or discoverable in any action of any kind. Allows the Department to make aggregate data derived from the reports publicly available so long as such disclosure does not reveal any identifying information about a patient or health care professional. Amends the Telehealth Act. Allows a health care professional with a temporary permit for health care to treat a patient located in the State through telehealth services. Creates the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to administer an Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. Sets forth Program administration and reporting, coordinating organization duties, and rules. Creates the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program Fund. Amends the Pharmacy Practice Act. Allows pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives without prior establishment of a relationship between the pharmacist and the person receiving hormonal contraception. Provides that no employee of the Department of Public Health shall be liable for injury caused by the pharmacist's or patient's use of the self-screening assessment or the dispensation of hormonal contraceptives. Amends various Acts to remove references to the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995. Amends the Illinois Parentage Act of 2015. Provides that the terms of the most recent informed consent governs the disposition of a fertilized ovum when the intended parent or parents no longer wish to use any remaining cryopreserved fertilized ovum. Amends the Illinois Insurance Code. Requires abortion care coverage to include medications prescribed for the purpose of producing an abortion with or without proof of pregnancy. Requires coverage for abortifacients, hormonal therapy, and human immunodeficiency virus pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis." Passed by a vote of 41-16. [Illinois General Assembly, [HB 4664](#), passed [1/10/23](#)]

Stoller Criticized Illinois House Bill 4664 And Said “Illinois Already Had Extreme Pro-Abortion Laws, But This Is Beyond The Pale.” “State Senator Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) released the following statement in response to the Senate passing an abortion expansion bill this evening. ‘Illinois Democrats are in a race to pass the most extreme abortion laws in the nation so the Governor and his allies garner national publicity for being the most pro-abortion lawmakers in the entire country. ‘Just a year and half ago, the Majority Party chose to remove parental notification for minors who seek an abortion, ignoring the will of nearly 72 percent of Illinois citizens who wanted to keep the law. Now, if all of that wasn’t already bad enough, this new and last-minute amendment to House Bill 4664 will also require insurance companies to cover puberty blockers, even for minors. Illinois already had extreme pro-abortion laws, but this is beyond the pale.’” [Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, Press Release, [1/10/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Stoller: 'Illinois Democrats Are In A Race To Pass The Most Extreme Abortion Laws In The Nation.’”** [Dupage Policy Journal, [1/19/23](#)]

Illinois House Bill 4664 Built On Existing Law Protecting The Right Of Every Person In Illinois To Make Reproductive Healthcare Decisions Without Government Interference. “House Bill 4664 builds on existing Illinois law, including the fundamental right of every person in Illinois to make all reproductive health care decisions without governmental interference. States across the country continue to pass dangerous restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming health care. HB 4664 will prevent those states from imposing those restrictions in this state. It reinforces protections for Illinois health care providers and patients travelling here to access abortion or gender affirming health care.” [ACLU of Illinois, [1/12/23](#)]

Illinois House Bill 4664 Would Prevent Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Health Care Providers And Patients Traveling To Access Abortion. “House Bill 4664 builds on existing Illinois law, including the fundamental right of every person in Illinois to make all reproductive health care decisions without governmental interference. States across the country continue to pass dangerous restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming health care. HB 4664 will prevent those states from imposing those restrictions in this state. It reinforces protections for Illinois health care providers and patients travelling here to access abortion or gender affirming health care.” [ACLU of Illinois, [1/12/23](#)]

June 2022: Stoller Said The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe Was “Welcome News” But Said It Was “Unfortunate” The Decision Would Not Impact Abortion Access In Illinois

June 2022: Stoller Said The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe Was “Welcome News” But Said It Was “Unfortunate” The Decision Would Not Impact Abortion Access In Illinois. “As a strong supporter of life, today’s decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court is welcome news for those who seek to protect the most vulnerable among us. That being said, this decision will unfortunately have no impact on the state of Illinois and our extreme abortion laws. It will not affect any of the wildly unpopular laws that the Majority Party have passed, which includes late-term abortions for any reason and allowing minors of any age to undergo surgical procedures without their parents ever knowing. In reality, this court decision will only be used by our Governor and his allies as a means to justify and push for even more aggressive and unpopular abortions laws.’ — State Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills)” [1470 WMBD, [6/24/22](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event With Nebraska Senator Pete Ricketts, Who Favored Banning Abortion Even In Cases Of Rape And Incest

McGraw Attended An Event With Pete Ricketts

December 2023: McGraw Attended An Event Where Senator Pete Ricketts Was The Guest Speaker – And Praised Ricketts, Saying He “Shared An Inspirational Message.” “Enjoyed attending the Illinois GOP’s Holiday party over the weekend with fellow Republicans. The guest speaker, U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts shared an inspirational message about the fight we are in to restore common sense principles in Washington. Thanks to all who organized this opportunity to discuss the future of our state and nation! #judgejoecongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/3/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/3/23](#)]

- **Ricketts Was A Senator For Nebraska.** “Senator Pete Ricketts was sworn in as Nebraska’s U.S. Senator on January 23, 2023.” [Pete Ricketts, Senator For Nebraska, Biography, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

Ricketts Favored Banning Abortion In Nebraska, Even In Cases Of Rape Or Incest

Ricketts, Who Was Formerly Governor Of Nebraska, Favored Banning Abortion In The State, Even In Cases Of Rape Or Incest. “Gov. Pete Ricketts voiced support Sunday for an abortion ban in Nebraska, including in cases of rape and incest, and repeated his intent to call a special legislative session to take up the matter if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. Speaking on CNN’s State of the Union on Sunday morning, Ricketts said Nebraska would take ‘further steps to protect those preborn babies’ if the court strikes down Roe, which the governor called “a horrible constitutional decision,” according to a transcript of the interview. Host Dana Bash then asked the Nebraska governor if that would apply to cases of rape or incest. ‘They’re still babies, too,’ Ricketts said. ‘Yes, they’re still babies.’” [Omaha World Herald, [5/16/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Rape Victims Should Be Forced to Have Rapist’s Baby, GOP Gov. Openly States.”** [Rolling Stone, [5/15/22](#)]

May 2022: As Governor Of Nebraska, Ricketts Said He Would Call A Special Session Of The State’s Legislature To Pass A Total Ban On Abortion If The Supreme Court Overturned Roe v. Wade. “Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts of Nebraska said Sunday that he will call a special session of his state’s legislature to pass a total ban on abortion if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade this term. ‘Nebraska is a pro-life state. I believe life begins at conception, and those are babies too,’ Ricketts told CNN’s Dana Bash on ‘State of the Union’ when asked if he thought the state should require a young girl who was raped to carry the pregnancy to term. ‘If Roe v. Wade, which is a horrible constitutional decision, gets overturned by the Supreme Court, which we’re hopeful of, here in Nebraska, we’re going to take further steps to protect those preborn babies.’ ‘Including in the case of rape or incest?’ Bash asked. To which the governor replied: ‘They’re still babies, too. Yes.’ Ricketts said that in case Roe falls, ‘I will work with our speaker of the legislature to work on a special session and do more to protect preborn babies. We’ll have to wait and see what that decision is before we can take further steps, but that would certainly be my intention.’” [CNN, [5/15/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Nebraska GOP Governor Says He Will Call A Special Session To Pass Total Abortion Ban If Roe Is Overturned.”** [CNN, [5/15/22](#)]

McGraw Repeatedly Supported And Defended Men Accused Of Domestic Abuse And Sexual Misconduct

McGraw Refused To Allow A Jury To Hear Testimony Of Domestic Violence Allegations In A Murder Trial Where A Man Killed His Ex-Girlfriend’s Daughter, Saying “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence,” Using Air Quotes For ‘Domestic Violence’

McGraw Heard A Case Where The Defendant Was Accused Of Shooting And Stabbing His Ex-Girlfriend’s Teenage Daughter To Death

Michael Mernack Was Accused Of Shooting And Stabbing His Ex-Girlfriend’s Teenage Daughter To Death. “Jurors won’t see certain pieces of evidence or hear key testimony when a Rockford man goes on trial next week over the slaying of his ex-girlfriend’s teenage daughter. Michael E. Mernack, 37, is accused in the death of Rebecca A. Finkenhof, 16. The teen was shot and stabbed to death on Dec. 28, 2016, at her Machesney Park home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them off and on.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Did Not Let Jurors Hear About Domestic Violence Anecdotes In The Trial

McGraw Did Not Let Jurors Hear About Michael Mernack’s Threat To Make His Ex-Girlfriend’s “Face Like Hamburger” Or Mernack Threatening The Teenager’s Father With A Knife. “McGraw ruled Friday that unless Mernack testifies, prosecutors cannot tell jurors about two calls he made to his mother from the Winnebago County Jail — a month before Finkenhofers slaying — after he was arrested in a domestic battery case involving Cabay. Assistant State’s Attorney Alison Meason said on Wednesday, while asking to use those recorded calls, that Mernack ‘indicates that he is going to kick in the door of Megan Cabay’s home and make her face like hamburger. He did stab Rebecca numerous times in the face.’ McGraw said he could reconsider that ruling if Mernack testifies. Jurors also won’t hear that Finkenhofers father, Tim Finkenhofers, sought an order of protection against Mernack, but didn’t receive one after Mernack allegedly threatened him with a knife on Oct. 27, 2016. Tim Finkenhofers had gone to pick up his daughter for school that day and wanted to introduce himself to Mernack, Meason said during Wednesday’s hearing. ‘I don’t find that relevant or probative,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Justified Not Discussing Domestic Violence Issues By Saying One Of the Anecdotes Was Not “Relevant Or Probative” And Saying He Did Not Want The Case “To Be A Referendum On Social Issues”

McGraw Said The Domestic Violence Anecdote Was Not “Relevant Or Probative.” “Jurors also won’t hear that Finkenhofers father, Tim Finkenhofers, sought an order of protection against Mernack, but didn’t receive one after Mernack allegedly threatened him with a knife on Oct. 27, 2016. Tim Finkenhofers had gone to pick up his daughter for school that day and wanted to introduce himself to Mernack, Meason said during Wednesday’s hearing. ‘I don’t find that relevant or probative,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw: “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence.” “Judge Joseph McGraw said during a hearing on Friday that he wants the trial to stick to ‘case-specific’ facts, ruling that jurors won’t be allowed to hear certain allegations of domestic violence and threats to Finkenhofers relatives. ‘I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,’ McGraw said, using air quotes as he said ‘domestic violence.’” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

- **McGraw Used Air Quotes As He Said “Domestic Violence.”** “Judge Joseph McGraw said during a hearing on Friday that he wants the trial to stick to ‘case-specific’ facts, ruling that jurors won’t be allowed to hear certain allegations of domestic violence and threats to Finkenhofers relatives. ‘I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,’ McGraw said, using air quotes as he said ‘domestic violence.’” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Allowed Photos Of The Teenager’s Injuries

McGraw Allowed Photos Of The Teenager’s Injuries, Including A Chest Wound And A Bullet Hole. “Jury selection concluded Monday, hours after McGraw ruled on the photos. None were shown Monday, but they are likely to be viewed by jurors at trial. Other photos that McGraw said will be admitted include images of a tooth Meason said was knocked out of Finkenhofers mouth, injuries to her face, a chest wound, a puncture wound to her brain and a bullet injury to her right arm. ‘There is a lot of blood, but that is the way it was,’ Meason told McGraw, who asked why one photo of Finkenhofers should be allowed at trial. ‘It shows her position in the doorway,’ she said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/27/18](#)]

A Jury Found Michael Mernack Guilty On All Counts, And McGraw Sentenced Him To Life In Prison Plus 45 Years

A Jury Found Michael Mernack Guilty On All Counts. “A jury Thursday evening found Michael E. Mernack guilty on all counts in the 2016 murder of a Machesney Park teenager. Mernack, 37, killed Rebecca A. Finkenhofers, 16, and wounded her grandmother, Cheryl Puckett. The teen was attacked during the early morning hours of Dec.

28, 2016, at her Minns Drive home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them in Machesney Park until a November 2016 domestic altercation.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/18](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Michael Mernack To Life In Prison Plus 45 Years For The Murder of His Ex-Girlfriend’s Teenage Daughter And Shooting Of The Girl’s Grandmother In The Face. “Telling a Rockford man he had acted in ‘a savage, cruel and violent manner,’ a judge on Friday sentenced Michael E. Mernack to life plus 45 years behind bars for killing his ex-girlfriend’s teenage daughter and shooting the girl’s grandmother in the face. Mernack, 38, was convicted in August of killing Rebecca A. Finkenhofner, 16, and shooting her grandmother Cheryl Puckett. The teen was attacked during the early-morning hours of Dec. 28, 2016, at her Minns Drive home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them in Machesney Park until a November 2016 domestic altercation. A month after Cabay kicked Mernack out of her home, he returned in the middle of the night, kicked in the door in a rage, and slashed and stabbed her teenage daughter to death, prosecutors have said. Finkenhofner also was shot. ‘You brought great violence, great carnage,’ Judge Joseph McGraw said slowly before handing down his sentence. ‘That scene of carnage is indelibly etched in all of our memories.’ [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/18](#)]

McGraw Touted The Endorsement Of Zach Oyler, A Peoria City Council Member Who Was Accused Of Domestic Abuse But Took A “Rarely Used” Plea Agreement To Resolve The Charges Which Conceded There Was Likely Enough Evidence To Convince A Judge Or Jury Of His Guilt

February 2024: McGraw Bragged About An Endorsement From Zach Oyler, A Peoria City Council Member

February 2024: McGraw Received An Endorsement From Zach Oyler, Peoria City Council Member. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]

Councilman Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Battery, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint

Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Battery, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint

According To Police Reports, Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Batter, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint. “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day

and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’ An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Police Reports Reveal Details Of Night Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Domestic Battery.”** [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

According To Police Reports, Zach Oyler’s Wife Told A Peoria Police Officer “Stuff Had Gone On For A Long Time And He Came Home Drunk. Zachary Had Been Drinking All Day.” “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

An Officer Spoke With Zach Oyler And Reported Smelling The Strong Odor Of Alcohol. “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

- **Zach Oyler Told The Police Officer He Had Met A Friend Earlier And Had ‘A Little’ To Drink.** “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

Police Reports Stated An Officer Checked Zach Oyler’s Wife’s Neck And Saw Several Areas On Her Neck And Chest That Were Red And The Marks Looked Fresh And Appeared To Have Come From The Fight. “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at

Heather's neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint." [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

Oyler's Wife Claimed After An Argument, He Threw Her To The Ground And Wrapped His Arm Around Her Neck, She Obtained An Order Of Protection Against Him, But Later Tried To Recant Her Testimony

Oyler's Wife Claimed Oyler Got Into An Argument With Her After Returning From A Bar, When She Tried To Leave She Claimed He Took Her Phone, Threw Her To The Ground And Wrapped His Arm Around Her Neck. "Under an Alford plea, Oyler maintains he is innocent, but concedes there is likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt. Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision on Friday, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and court fees. Charges of domestic battery and interfering in a report of domestic violence were dropped as part of the plea arrangement. Having a misdemeanor on his record doesn't require Oyler to give up his council seat. Oyler's wife claimed the councilman got into an argument with her after coming home from a bar last summer. When she tried to leave the house, she claimed Oyler took her phone, threw her to the ground, and wrapped an arm around her neck. Oyler was arrested after his wife managed to get her phone back and call 911. She obtained an order of protection against him, but later tried to recant her testimony. Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos refused to drop the case. Oyler has never commented publicly on the incident [sic], nor has any other member of the Peoria City Council." [WCBU, [10/16/20](#)]"

- **Oyler's Wife Obtained An Order Of Protection Against Him But Later Tried To Recant Her Testimony, Peoria County's State Attorney Refused To Drop The Case.** "Under an Alford plea, Oyler maintains he is innocent, but concedes there is likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt. Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision on Friday, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and court fees. Charges of domestic battery and interfering in a report of domestic violence were dropped as part of the plea arrangement. Having a misdemeanor on his record doesn't require Oyler to give up his council seat. Oyler's wife claimed the councilman got into an argument with her after coming home from a bar last summer. When she tried to leave the house, she claimed Oyler took her phone, threw her to the ground, and wrapped an arm around her neck. Oyler was arrested after his wife managed to get her phone back and call 911. She obtained an order of protection against him, but later tried to recant her testimony. Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos refused to drop the case. Oyler has never commented publicly on the incident [sic], nor has any other member of the Peoria City Council." [WCBU, [10/16/20](#)]

Oyler Entered A Rarely Used Plea To Resolve The Charges, The Plea Allowed Him To Maintain His Innocence But Concede There Was Likely Enough Evidence To Convince A Judge Or Jury Of His Guilt

Oyler Entered An Alford Plea To Charges That He Acted Disorderly To Resolve The Domestic Battery Allegations

HEADLINE: "Councilman Zach Oyler Enters Rarely Used Plea To Disorderly Conduct Charge." [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

Zach Oyler Entered An Alford Plea To Charges That He Acted Disorderly, Which Resolved A Domestic Battery Allegation Involving His Wife. "City Council member Zachary Oyler entered an Alford plea to charges that he acted disorderly last summer, resolving a domestic battery allegation involving his wife. Oyler, 36, appeared in Peoria County Circuit Court on Friday afternoon for a plea hearing, effectively ending the case brought against him last September. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision, which is a form of non-reporting probation and ordered to complete domestic violence counseling. [...] An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday." [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

- **As Part Of The Plea, Prosecutors Agreed To Drop Misdemeanor Counts Of Domestic Battery And Interfering With Reporting Of Domestic Violence And Oyler Was Ordered To Pay A \$400 Fine And State-Mandated Fees.** “An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday. The disorderly conduct charge alleges that Oyler acted in an alarming way on July 30, 2019. Prosecutors, as part of the plea, agreed to drop misdemeanor counts of domestic battery and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence. He was also ordered to pay a \$400 fine and state-mandated fees. Legally speaking, it does not affect his ability to serve on the council.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

An Alford Plea Allowed A Defendant To Avoid Admitting Guilt And Assert Innocence, While Agreeing That Sufficient Evidence Existed That Could Convince A Judge Or A Jury To Find The Defendant Guilty

An Alford Plea Was When A Defendant Does Not Admit The Act And Asserts Innocence But Agrees That Sufficient Evidence Exists That Could Convince A Judge Or Jury To Find The Defendant Guilty. “City Council member Zachary Oyler entered an Alford plea to charges that he acted disorderly last summer, resolving a domestic battery allegation involving his wife. Oyler, 36, appeared in Peoria County Circuit Court on Friday afternoon for a plea hearing, effectively ending the case brought against him last September. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision, which is a form of non-reporting probation and ordered to complete domestic violence counseling. [...] An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

McGraw Stood As A Character Witness To Defend An Attorney And Former County Prosecutor Whose Law License Was Suspended After A State Commission Found That He “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Women” Including Battery And Sexual Harassment

March 2007: Five Women Came Forward To Allege Dennis Schumacher Engaged In A Pattern Of Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct And Battery

March 2007: Five Women Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct, And Battery

March 2007: Five Women Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct, And Battery. “A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State’s Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client’s buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

One Woman Alleged That Dennis Schumacher Grabbed Her Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2003

A Complaint Filed With The Attorney Registration And Disciplinary Commission Alleged Dennis Schumacher Grabbed A Female Client's Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2003. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

A Second Women Alleged That Dennis Schumacher Grabbed Her Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2005

A Second Female Client Alleged Dennis Schumacher Did The Same To Her In June 2005. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

Other Women Accused Dennis Schumacher Of Making Unwanted Sexual Advances, Battery, And Improper Conduct

Other Complaints Included In The ARDC Report Included Allegations That Dennis Schumacher Made Unwanted Sexual Advances, Battery, And Improper Conduct. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

December 2009: McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher During An Attorney Registration And Disciplinary Commission Investigation Into His Potential Sexual Misconduct

In December 2009, McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher

December 2009: McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher. “In his defense, Schumacher also had some of the Rock River Valley’s legal elite stand in as character witnesses, including retired Appeals Court Judge Dan Doyle, Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw and United Way CEO Paul Logli. But the commission was not swayed by their testimony. ‘We do not find (Schumacher’s) misconduct to be mitigated by the evidence of his good character,’ the report read. ‘He may have a good reputation for honesty, morality and chastity, but he was not forthright in connection with this case.’ The report now goes to the Illinois Supreme Court for a final decision.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

- **Character Witnesses Could Testify On Behalf Of A Defendant And Speak To That Person’s Positive Or Negative Character Traits And The Person’s Reputation In The Community.** “Character witnesses can testify on behalf of another as to that person’s positive or negative character traits and the person’s reputation in the community. Such character evidence is often used in criminal cases. Its usage is limited in civil cases. The testimony has to be within the scope of a federal rule of evidence or state rule of evidence. Under common law, the defendant is allowed to call character witnesses to testify for his or her character. Character witnesses can only testify for the defendant by introducing testimony about the defendant’s reputation or by relevant instances of the defendant’s conduct. The government can then cross-examine that witness regarding his/her knowledge of specific instances of the defendant’s misconduct in order to help the jury evaluate the quality of the character testimony.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/27/24](#)]

In McGraw’s Testimony With ARDC, He Said Dennis Schumacher Had A Reputation For Being An Honest And Moral Person

McGraw Said Based On Conversations With “Hundreds” Of Conversations With People In The Illinois Legal Community Dennis Schumacher Had A Reputation In The Community For Being An Honest Person. “Joe McGraw is a circuit court judge in Winnebago and Boone counties. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw is the presiding judge of the criminal division and handles major felonies. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw has known Respondent for 25 years and has observed him in both professional and social settings. (Tr. 673). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘hundreds’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being an honest person. (Tr. 673-75). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘dozens’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being a moral person because of his strong Christian beliefs. (Tr. 673-75).” [Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, In the Matter Of: Dennis R. Schumacher, Case Number: 2007PR00020, filed [12/2/09](#)]

McGraw Said Based On His Conversations With “Dozens” Of People In The Illinois Legal Community Dennis Schumacher Had A Reputation For Being A Moral Person Because Of His Strong Christian Beliefs. “Joe McGraw is a circuit court judge in Winnebago and Boone counties. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw is the presiding judge of the criminal division and handles major felonies. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw has known Respondent for 25 years and has observed him in both professional and social settings. (Tr. 673). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘hundreds’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being an honest person. (Tr. 673-75). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘dozens’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being a moral person because of his strong Christian beliefs. (Tr. 673-75).” [Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, In the Matter Of: Dennis R. Schumacher, Case Number: 2007PR00020, filed [12/2/09](#)]

December 2009: The ARDC Panel Recommended Dennis Schumacher Lose His Law License For At Least A Year After Finding He “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Different Women”

HEADLINE: “Panel Recommends Attorney Lose License For At Least 1 Year.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The Illinois ARDC, A State Commission That Investigated Attorney Misconduct Recommended That Dennis Schumacher, An Attorney And A Former County Prosecutor, Lose His License For At Least A Year For

Sexual Misconduct. “A state commission that investigates attorney misconduct has recommended that a Mount Morris attorney who was once Ogle County’s top prosecutor lose his license for at least a year for sexual misconduct. The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission wrote that Dennis Schumacher’s ‘actions were reprehensible and insulting’ to legal practitioners in its 76-page report filed Wednesday. Schumacher served as Ogle County State’s Attorney from 1980 to 1992 and opened a private practice after leaving public life. He also filed as a Republican candidate for Ogle County Board District 4 for the February primary.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The ARDC Panel Found Shumacher “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Different Women” That “Could Not Have Been Reasonably Considered By Him To Be Acceptable Behavior Under The Ethical Rules Of Our Profession.” “A state commission that investigates attorney misconduct has recommended that a Mount Morris attorney who was once Ogle County’s top prosecutor lose his license for at least a year for sexual misconduct. The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission wrote that Dennis Schumacher’s ‘actions were reprehensible and insulting’ to legal practitioners in its 76-page report filed Wednesday. [...] The panel found that Schumacher ‘engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three different women’ that ‘could not have been reasonably considered by him to be acceptable behavior under the ethical rules of our profession.’ The women in question were one-time clients, and in one case, the wife of a client, who had hired Schumacher for representation in their divorce cases. All the women alleged that Schumacher made unwanted sexual advances toward them which, in some cases, involved groping and kissing, or pressing his body against theirs.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The ARDC Panel Found That Shumacher’s Misconduct Was Not “Mitigated By The Evidence Of His Good Character, He May Have A Good Reputation For Honesty, Morality And Chastity, But He Was Not Fortright In Connection With This Case.” “In his defense, Schumacher also had some of the Rock River Valley’s legal elite stand in as character witnesses, including retired Appeals Court Judge Dan Doyle, Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw and United Way CEO Paul Logli. But the commission was not swayed by their testimony. ‘We do not find (Schumacher’s) misconduct to be mitigated by the evidence of his good character,’ the report read. ‘He may have a good reputation for honesty, morality and chastity, but he was not forthright in connection with this case.’ The report now goes to the Illinois Supreme Court for a final decision.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court Affirmed The ARDC Panel’s Findings And Ruled That Dennis Schumacher Be Unable To Practice Law For A Year

March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court Affirmed The ARDC Panel’s Findings And Ruled That Dennis Schumacher Be Unable To Practice Law For A Year. “A local attorney accused of sexual misconduct with client and a client’s wife will be unable to practice law for a year, starting April 6, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled. The decision aligns with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission’s Dec. 9 recommendation that Dennis Schumacher be suspended. Three women testified at an IARDC hearing that Schumacher made inappropriate sexual comments and unwanted sexual advances in incidents dating back to 2003. Schumacher denied the allegations, but did not appeal the commission’s recommendation.” [Shaw Local News Network, [3/20/10](#)]

ARDC Found Dennis Schumacher “Engaged In Conduct Involving Battery When He Made Unsolicited And Improper Sexual Advances Toward Both A Female Client And The Wife Of A Second Client.” “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 07CH0020. Disposition: Suspension for a specified period. Effective Date of Disposition: 04/06/2010. End Date of Disposition: 04/06/2011 Case Summary: Mr. Schumacher, who was licensed in Illinois in 1979, was suspended for one year. He engaged in conduct involving battery when he made unsolicited and improper sexual advances toward both a female client and the wife of a second client. He then breached a fiduciary duty to both women clients and to a third client to whom he also made an unsolicited sexual advance over the telephone. The suspension is effective on April 6, 2010.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

- **ARDC Also Found Dennis Schumacher “Breached A Fiduciary Duty To Both Women Clients And To A Third Client To Whom He Also Made An Unsolicited Sexual Advance Over The Telephone.”** “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 07CH0020. Disposition: Suspension for a specified period. Effective Date of Disposition: 04/06/2010. End Date of Disposition: 04/06/2011 Case Summary: Mr. Schumacher, who was licensed in Illinois in 1979, was suspended for one year. He engaged in conduct involving battery when he made unsolicited and improper sexual advances toward both a female client and the wife of a second client. He then breached a fiduciary duty to both women clients and to a third client to whom he also made an unsolicited sexual advance over the telephone. The suspension is effective on April 6, 2010.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

August 1994: McGraw Had Previously Briefly Represented Dennis Schumacher In A Lawsuit

August 1994: McGraw Represented Defendant Schumacher In A Lawsuit Brought By Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, And Gail Crenshaw. Joseph Gerard McGraw Represented Defendant, Dennis Schumacher, in Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, and Gail Crenshaw v. Dennis Schumacher, Richard Witkowski, William Kozacek and Ogle County. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Civil Docket, filed 8/1/94]

- **The Lawsuit’s Cause Was Listed As “Violation Of Civil Rights.”** Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al ‘s cause was listed as “violation of civil rights.” [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Case Summary, filed 8/1/94]
- **January 1992 – April 1993: McGraw Represented Defendant Schumacher In Subacz, et al v. Schumacher Until Shumacher Was Terminated From The Case.** Joseph Gerard McGraw Represented Defendant, Dennis Schumacher, in Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, and Gail Crenshaw v. Dennis Schumacher, Richard Witkowski, William Kozacek and Ogle County from the lawsuit’s filing date on 1/23/92 until Schumacher was terminated from the case on 4/29/93. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Civil Docket, filed 8/1/94]

1990: Dennis Schumacher Was Found To Have Engaged In Misconduct After He Failed To Recuse Himself From A Case Involving An Alleged Act Of Child Abuse Where He Had A Conflict Of Interest

According To A Petition Filed With The Illinois Supreme Court, Dennis Schumacher Failed To Recuse Himself From A Case Involving An Alleged Act Of Child Abuse At A School Where He Had A Conflict Of Interest. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State’s Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State’s Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State’s Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent’s professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent’s financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

Dennis Schumacher Had A Connection To The School Where The Child Abuse Allegedly Occurred But Did Not Recuse Himself From The Case. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal

Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

- **Dennis Schumacher Was A Member Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Church Affiliated With The School And A Personal Guarantor On The Church Note.** "As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

The Petition Also Alleged Dennis Schumacher Contacted The Mother Of The Child Who Was The Alleged Subject Of Abuse And Informed Her That He Would Convene A Grand Jury And Subpoena The Minor Child To Appear. "As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

The Petition Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Including: Accepting Employment When His Judgment May Have Been Affected By Financial And Personal Interest, Failure As A Lawyer To

Represent The People Of Illinois With Undivided Fidelity, And Conduct Prejudicial To The Administration Of Justice. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State’s Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State’s Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State’s Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent’s professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent’s financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

May 1990: The Commission Found Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct And Censured Him. “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 90CH0233. Disposition: Censure. Effective Date of Disposition: 05/30/1990. End Date of Disposition: Not Applicable. Censures and reprimands do not affect the authority of the lawyer to continue to practice law. Definition of Disposition: A censure reflects a determination that the lawyer has engaged in misconduct, but that the violation is not so serious to warrant a sanction that would affect the lawyer’s authority to continue to practice law. As a result, censure does not affect the authority of a lawyer to continue to practice law.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

McGraw Supported Anti-LGBT Legislation And Taught At And Supported Multiple Homophobic Educational Institutions

McGraw Supported Federal Anti-LGBT Legislation Which Would Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families And Ban Certain Books In Department Of Defense Schools

McGraw Supported “The Parents Bill Of Rights” Act, Legislation Leaning Into Culture War Issues, Which Teachers Warned Would Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families

McGraw Supported House Resolution 5 The Parents Bill Of Rights

2024: McGraw Supported House Resolution 5, The Parents Bill Of Rights. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “7 | H.R. 5 Parents Bill of Rights (2023) safeguards the right of parents to view curriculum, books, and reading materials at school; requires parent’s consent for a school to change gender marker.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

March 2023: House Republicans Passed A Federal Parents’ Bill Of Rights That Leaned Into Culture War Issues, Teachers Said It Would Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families And Drive Out Educators

March 2023: The Federal Parents’ Bill Of Rights Passed By House Republicans “Leaned Into A Hot-Button, Culture War Issue.” “House Republicans passed an education bill on Friday that emphasizes parental rights in the classroom, leaning into a hot-button, culture war issue that has gained popularity in GOP politics across the country. The legislation, titled the Parents Bill of Rights, passed in a 213-208 vote, and it now heads to the Senate for consideration. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Democratic-controlled chamber will take up the measure, with House Democrats dubbing the bill the ‘Politics over Parents Act.’” [Hill, [3/24/23](#)]

LGBTQ Advocates Said The Parents’ Bill Of Rights Act Posed A Threat To LGBTQ Students By Potentially Forcing Them To Come Out To Their Families. “Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. who made the Parents’ Bill of Rights Act a priority during the early weeks of his tenure, said Republicans were ‘keeping our promise, our commitment to America, that parents will have a say in their kids’ education.’ The bill passed 213-208, with five Republicans — mostly members of the House Freedom Caucus — voting against it. It would require schools to publish course studies and a list of books kept in libraries, as well as affirm parents’ ability to meet with educators, speak at school board meetings and examine school budgets. [...] Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., successfully added amendments that would require schools to report when transgender girls join girls’ athletics teams and if trans girls are allowed to use girls’ school restrooms or locker rooms. The bill would also require elementary and middle schools get parents’ consent to change a child’s gender designation, pronouns or name. Advocates for LGBTQ people said the proposal poses a threat to LGBTQ students by potentially forcing them to come out to their families, which can sometimes lead to abuse or abandonment. ‘It’s part of a pattern of attempts we’re seeing where the right wing of the Republican Party is really trying to marginalize LGBTQ people,’ said David Stacy, the government affairs director for Human Rights Campaign.” [PBS, [3/24/23](#)]

The Parents’ Bill Of Rights Required Schools To Notify Parents Of Their Right To Review The School’s Curriculum, Budget, And Library Materials, And To Receive Information About Any Violent Activity. “House Republicans passed legislation Friday aimed at boosting parents’ access to information about their child’s education, fulfilling a midterm pledge that GOP lawmakers hope will be a galvanizing issue next year. ‘The Parents Bill of Rights is an important step towards protecting children and dramatically strengthening the rights of parents,’ House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the bill’s passage. [...] The bill, introduced by Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow, requires schools to notify parents that they have the right to review the curriculum and school budget, inspect books and other library materials, and receive information about any violent activity in the school. The bill would also prohibit schools from selling student information. Elementary schools or schools housing grades 5-8 would be required to obtain parental consent before changing a student’s pronouns or preferred name or allowing a student to change their sex-based accommodations, like locker rooms or bathrooms.” [NPR, [3/24/23](#)]

- **Under The Federal Parent’s Bill Of Rights, Elementary Schools Or Schools With Grades 5-8 Would Be Required To Obtain Parental Consent Before Using A Student’s Preferred Name Or Pronouns.** “House Republicans passed legislation Friday aimed at boosting parents’ access to information about their child’s education, fulfilling a midterm pledge that GOP lawmakers hope will be a galvanizing issue next year. ‘The Parents Bill of Rights is an important step towards protecting children and dramatically strengthening the rights of parents,’ House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the bill’s passage. [...] The bill, introduced by Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow, requires schools to notify parents that they have the right to review the curriculum and school budget, inspect books and other library materials, and receive information about any violent activity in the school. The bill would also prohibit schools from selling student information. Elementary schools or schools housing grades 5-8 would be required to obtain parental consent before changing a student’s pronouns or preferred name or allowing a student to change their sex-based accommodations, like locker rooms or bathrooms.” [NPR, [3/24/23](#)]

Teachers Worried The Proposed Federal Parents’ Bill Of Rights Would “Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families,” “Push Parents To Fear And Distrust Educators And Drive Teachers Out Of The Profession.” “A proposed federal parents’ bill of rights aims to give parents more power over what is taught in classrooms, but teachers worry the bill would drive a wedge between schools and families. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy announced the Parents’ Bill of Rights Act to a crowd of parents and conservative lawmakers last week shortly before Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., reintroduced it into Congress with 73 GOP representatives signing on as co-sponsors. The bill follows a growing national movement for parents’ rights policies that often call for restrictions on how teachers can talk about race, gender, and sexuality. It’s also a primary education priority for the U.S. House’s new Republican majority following last November’s elections. The bill faces longer odds for gaining traction in the Senate where Democrats have a slim majority. While the bill appears straightforward—and even details rights parents already largely have at the local level—some teachers worry it will push parents to fear and distrust educators and drive teachers out of the profession. The bill would ‘make teachers’ jobs harder by creating a

narrative of teachers as shadowy bureaucrats or petty tyrants suppressing parents,’ said Chris Dier, a history teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, La., and the 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. ‘This bill creates barriers and makes it harder for teachers to teach in an already overburdensome occupation.’” [Education Week, [3/7/23](#)]

- **Chris Dier, The 2020 Louisiana Teacher Of The Year: “This Bill Creates Barriers And Makes It Harder For Teachers To Teach In An Already Overburdensome Occupation.”** “A proposed federal parents’ bill of rights aims to give parents more power over what is taught in classrooms, but teachers worry the bill would drive a wedge between schools and families. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy announced the Parents’ Bill of Rights Act to a crowd of parents and conservative lawmakers last week shortly before Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., reintroduced it into Congress with 73 GOP representatives signing on as co-sponsors. [...] While the bill appears straightforward—and even details rights parents already largely have at the local level—some teachers worry it will push parents to fear and distrust educators and drive teachers out of the profession. The bill would ‘make teachers’ jobs harder by creating a narrative of teachers as shadowy bureaucrats or petty tyrants suppressing parents,’ said Chris Dier, a history teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, La., and the 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. ‘This bill creates barriers and makes it harder for teachers to teach in an already overburdensome occupation.’” [Education Week, [3/7/23](#)]

McGraw Supported An Amendment To The National Defense Authorization Act That Would Ban Certain Books From Department Of Defense Schools

McGraw Supported An Amendment To HR 2670, The National Defense Authorization Act, That Would Ban Certain Books In Military-Funded Schools

McGraw Supported House Resolution 2670 AM No. 35, Which Would Ban Certain Books That Included Explicit Content, And Or A “Positive Portrayal Of Gender Identity.” McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “5 | H.R. 2670 Am. No. 35 (2023) would prohibit subjecting children in military-funded schools to books containing pornographic content and/or a positive portrayal of gender identity.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

Introduced By Rep Lauren Boebert, House Resolution 2670 Would Prevent The Department Of Defense From Purchasing And Having Certain Books In Their Libraries

Rep. Lauren Boebert Introduced An Amendment To The NDAA That Would Prevent The Department Of Defense Education Activity Schools “From Purchasing And Having Pornographic And Radical Gender Ideology Books In Their Libraries.” “The National Defense Authorization Act is typically a bipartisan project in Congress and is necessary to keep the military running. But amendments added by several Republicans, including Rep. Lauren Boebert of Silt, have led to another culture-war conflict in Congress as Democrats argued the bill’s focus on social issues weakens its military substance and threatens the bill’s viability. [...] Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools ‘from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.’ DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school.” [Colorado Newline, [7/14/23](#)]

When Introducing Her Amendment, Boebert Cited Examples Of Books She Claimed Were “Explicit” Including Multiple LGBTQ-Themed Books. “Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools ‘from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.’ DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school. ‘Speaking as a mother of four boys, enough is enough. I don’t send my boys to school to receive indoctrination from the woke mob or to be sexualized by groomers,’ Boebert said when introducing the amendment. ‘And the same can be said for our service members, who are also parents sending their children to DODEA schools.’ Boebert cited examples of books she found in DODEA libraries that she claimed include sexually explicit material, as well as multiple LGBTQ-themed books. Book bans targeting

material about LGBTQ people, particularly transgender people, have increased across the U.S. and in Colorado. Colorado’s representatives voted along party lines on Boebert’s amendment, with Democrats opposed.” [Colorado Newswire, [7/14/23](#)]

McGraw Was An Adjunct Instructor At An Evangelical Christian University That Promoted “Sexual Purity” And Prohibited “Homosexual Behavior”

McGraw Was Formerly An Adjunct Instructor At Judson University, An Evangelical Christian University With Locations In Elgin And Rockford, Illinois

According To His Biography From The Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, McGraw Was Formerly An Adjunct Instructor At Judson University. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. [...] He is a former adjunct instructor at Rockford University and Judson University.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

Judson University Described Itself As “An Evangelical Christian University. “Judson is an evangelical Christian university that represents the Church at work in higher education, equipping students to be fully developed, responsible persons who glorify God by the quality of their personal relationships, their work, and their citizenship within the community, the nation and the world.” [Judson University, Mission, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University’s Main Campus Was In Elgin, Illinois And Had A Satellite Campus In Rockford, Illinois. “Our main campus, Elgin, Illinois, is home to our traditional undergraduates, University chapel, athletic programs, the Demoss Center for Worship in the Performing Arts and More! [...] Our satellite campus, Rockford, Illinois host classes for adult professional students at the Swedish American Riverfront YMCA.” [Judson University, Our Locations, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University Promoted “Sexual Purity” And Prohibited “Any Form Of Sexual Immorality,” Which The School Defined As Including Pre-Marital Sex And “Homosexual Behavior”

Judson University Cited “Sexual Purity” As A Conduct Guideline. “CONDUCT GUIDELINES Specific disciplinary consequences for the following behaviors are spelled out in the Judson University Judicial Code at the end of the Judson University Student Handbook. [...] Sexual Purity Any form of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, premarital sex, adultery, homosexual behavior and the use of pornography is prohibited.” [Judson University, Lifestyle Statement, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University’s Student Handbook Said The School Prohibited “Any Form Of Sexual Immorality,” Including Pre-Marital Sex And “Homosexual Behavior.” “Any form of sexual immorality-including but not limited to pre-marital sex, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, and the use of pornography-is prohibited.” [Judson University, 2023/2024 Student Handbook, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Students At Judson University Could Be Suspended For Having Visitors Of The Opposite Sex In Their Rooms Or Living Areas. “In all campus residence facilities for single students, visitors from off-campus or students should not be present in the rooms or in the corridors in living areas of members of the opposite sex, except during open dorm. Students who do not comply with this regulation are subject to suspension from the University.” [Judson University, 2023/2024 Student Handbook, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University Hosted A Speaker Who Said That People Who “Struggle With Same-Sex Attraction” Should “Do Whatever It Takes To See Victorious Living In [Their] Life.”

Judson University Hosted A Speaker Who Said That People Who “Struggle With Same-Sex Attraction” Should “Do Whatever It Takes To See Victorious Living In [Their] Life.” SPEAKER: “And remember first

and foremost, are you a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ? And if you are, are you living victoriously? I don't care today if you struggle with the sin of envy or if you struggle with same-sex attraction or if you struggle with pornography on a regular basis. Are you intent on saying, if I am a Christian a follower of Jesus Christ I'm gonna do whatever it takes to see victorious living in my life? That's the conversation that we need to be having." [Judson University via YouTube, 32:47, uploaded [1/25/19](#)] (VIDEO)

February 2024: McGraw Claimed Democrats Were “Radical On Gay And Transgender Rights”

February 2024: McGraw Claimed Democrats Were “Radical On Gay And Transgender Rights.” HOST: “Are you prepared for the current political sphere? Is it a different world?” MCGRAW: “Things are exceptionally polarized, and that’s because of the radicalism of the Democratic party, the radical extremes on every issue. They are radical extremists on the border, they’re radical extremists on rights for certain groups, the exclusion of others. They are radical environmental activists, they are radical on gay and transgender rights. They undermine the values that parents try and teach their kids, they’ve infiltrated the school system with their ideas. They are definitely trying to change America, and that’s why I felt called to do this, because I was blessed to grow up in a time, I grew up in a blue collar home. My dad had a family business where he made horse shoes for harness racers and I worked with him at the forge everyday. And he was a WWII combat veteran and my mom was a lawful immigrant to the United States, she came from Italy. I saw how our country was changing and is denying Americans the opportunity to live the American dream. And our country is being remade and our heritage is being stolen from us and we are being told, you know, that we are a racist country, you know, that nothing is salvageable and that we are built on evil and not virtue. I am a student of American history, Roger, and I know what the Founding Fathers believed, I know what their values were. They were committed to Judeo-Christian values, they were committed to individual freedom and individual responsibility. And that’s why I am running to reestablish those values.” [Joe McGraw, Breakfast with Roger and Friends, 11:38, 2/8/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Anti-LGBT Republicans, Many Of Whom Voted Against Marriage Equality In Illinois

McGraw Accepted \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, Who Voted Against Recognizing Same-Sex Marriages And Spoke Out Against LGBTQ+ Youth

McGraw Received \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, McGraw Also Appeared At An Event With Johnson Who Called Him “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen”

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

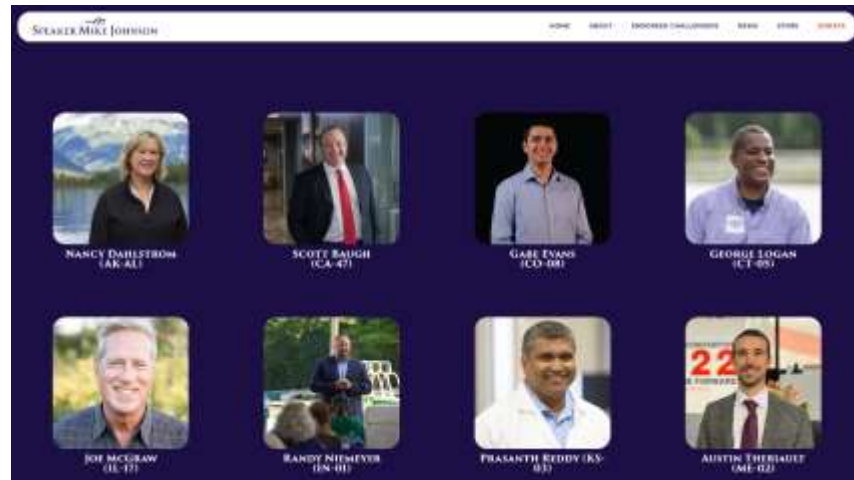
Source name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson’s Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen.” “McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we’ve ever seen.’ ‘He’s been a guy who’s stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas.’”

He's professional, he's smart, he knows what he's doing and he's gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner.

“Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

Mike Johnson Voted Against A Law That Recognized Same-Sex Marriages

Mike Johnson Voted Against A Law That Recognized Same-Sex Marriages. In December 2022, Mike Johnson voted for: “Nadler, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to, or any rights based on, a marriage between two individuals on the basis of the individuals' sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions. The bill would also replace the current federal definition of marriage, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, to define a marriage as valid if it is between two individuals and valid in the place where the marriage was entered into and would be considered valid in a U.S. state. It would specify that no provisions in the bill may be construed to diminish or abrogate religious liberty and that religious organizations and their employees would not be required to provide services for the celebration of a marriage, consistent with First Amendment protections. It would also specify that the bill would not authorize federal recognition of polygamous marriage and that it would not impact any benefits, status or rights that do not arise from marriage.” The motion passed with a vote of 224-164. [H.R. 8404, [Vote #513](#), 12/8/22; CQ, [7/18/22](#)]

Johnson Twice Argued To Uphold Louisiana’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban At The State Supreme Court

2014: Johnson Was The Main Attorney That Argued For Marriage Without Recognition For Same-Sex Couples In The Louisiana State Supreme Court. “In June, Shreveport attorney Mike Johnson and his legal team presented oral arguments in the federal court on behalf of the state explaining why Louisiana’s Defense of Marriage Amendment should be upheld. Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., who operates a legal ministry called Freedom Guard, successfully defended the amendment a decade ago against its original challenge at the state Supreme Court. [...] ‘The decision today is precisely correct,’ Johnson said after Feldman’s ruling. ‘The court has merely affirmed that it is the people of each state who have the authority to define and regulate marriage

within their borders, rather than a handful of unelected federal judges. ‘We believe the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately uphold this important principle,’ Johnson said.” [Baptist Press, [9/5/14](#)]

2004: Johnson Was The Main Attorney That Argued For Marriage Without Recognition For Same-Sex Couples Before The Supreme Court. “In June, Shreveport attorney Mike Johnson and his legal team presented oral arguments in the federal court on behalf of the state explaining why Louisiana’s Defense of Marriage Amendment should be upheld. Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., who operates a legal ministry called Freedom Guard, successfully defended the amendment a decade ago against its original challenge at the state Supreme Court. [...] ‘The decision today is precisely correct,’ Johnson said after Feldman’s ruling. ‘The court has merely affirmed that it is the people of each state who have the authority to define and regulate marriage within their borders, rather than a handful of unelected federal judges. ‘We believe the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately uphold this important principle,’ Johnson said.” [Baptist Press, [9/5/14](#)]

Johnson Twice Argued To Uphold Louisiana’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban At The State Supreme Court. “When Louisiana was defending its ban on same-sex marriage, Mr. Johnson twice argued its case at the state Supreme Court.” [New York Times, [10/3/22](#)]

Johnson “Warned” In A Hearing That Nearly 1 In 4 High Schoolers Identify As LGBTQ

Johnson “Warned” In A Hearing That Nearly 1 In 4 High Schoolers Identify As LGBTQ. JOHNSON: “Today, nearly one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ. Whether it’s by scalpel or by social coercion from teachers, professors, administrators, and left-wing media, it’s an attempt to transition the young people of our country. Something has gone terribly wrong and today we hope to shed light on what that is and how we can address the problem. Contrary to what the Democrats believe, the scourge of radical gender ideology is very real, efforts to cover up what’s being done to children are extreme, and the science is on our side.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

Johnson Called LGBTQ Youth A “Problem” And Said That “Something Has Gone Terribly Wrong”

Johnson Called LGBTQ Youth In A Hearing A “Problem” And That “Something Has Gone Terribly Wrong.” JOHNSON: “Today, nearly one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ. Whether it’s by scalpel or by social coercion from teachers, professors, administrators, and left-wing media, it’s an attempt to transition the young people of our country. Something has gone terribly wrong and today we hope to shed light on what that is and how we can address the problem. Contrary to what the Democrats believe, the scourge of radical gender ideology is very real, efforts to cover up what’s being done to children are extreme, and the science is on our side.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

Johnson Said Youth Identify As LGBTQ Through “Scalpel Or Social Coercion... From Left Wing Media”

Johnson Said Youth Identify As LGBTQ Through “Scalpel Or Social Coercion... From Left Wing Media.” JOHNSON: “Today, nearly one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ. Whether it’s by scalpel or by social coercion from teachers, professors, administrators, and left-wing media, it’s an attempt to transition the young people of our country. Something has gone terribly wrong and today we hope to shed light on what that is and how we can address the problem. Contrary to what the Democrats believe, the scourge of radical gender ideology is very real, efforts to cover up what’s being done to children are extreme, and the science is on our side.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

Johnson Introduced A Bill That Barred Any Display Of LGBTQ Identity In Front Of Children

Johnson Introduced The Stop Sexualization Of Children Act. “To prohibit the use of Federal funds to develop, implement, facilitate, or fund any sexually oriented program, event, or literature for children under the age of 10, and for other purposes.” [H.R. 9197, [10/18/22](#)]

- **This Bill Would Allow Any Parent To Sue Any Public Or Private Entity For A Perceived “Exposure” That Used Federal Dollars.** “This bill allows parents to sue any public or private entity that uses federal dollars to expose their young children to sexually explicit materials or programs. If any organization violates the law twice in a five-year period, they would lose access to all federal funding.” [Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]

Johnson Said The Bill Would Prevent “Radical Gender Ideology At School And In Public”

Johnson Said H.R. 9197 Would Prevent “Radical Gender Ideology At School And In Public” “BREAKING: Republicans are introducing the Stop the Sexualization of Children Act—the first bill to ensure that none of your tax dollars go to federal programs, state or local government agencies, or private orgs that expose children under 10 to sexually explicit material. [...] The Democrat Party and their cultural allies are on a crusade to immerse young children in sexual imagery and radical gender ideology at school and in public.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]

Johnson Led A Hearing Arguing Against The Right To Gender-Affirming Care For Children

Johnson Led A Hearing Arguing Against The Right To Gender-Affirming Care For Children. “On Thursday, U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson (LA-04), Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, led a hearing on ‘The Dangers and Due Process Violations of “Gender-Affirming Care” for Children.’ The hearing examined motivations for the rapid increase in the use of these treatments on children and highlighted the ongoing, barbaric mutilation of children under the guise of ‘care.’ The hearing featured testimony from Paula Scanlon, former University of Pennsylvania swimmer, Chloe Cole, a detransitioner and advocate, Jennifer Bauwens Ph.D., Director at the Center for Family Studies, and May Mailman, senior legal fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

In A Hearing, Johnson Said Gender Affirming Care Was “Barbaric.” “On Thursday, U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson (LA-04), Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, led a hearing on ‘The Dangers and Due Process Violations of “Gender-Affirming Care” for Children.’ The hearing examined motivations for the rapid increase in the use of these treatments on children and highlighted the ongoing, barbaric mutilation of children under the guise of ‘care.’ [...] ‘Sex isn’t something you are assigned at birth. It is a prenatal development that occurs when every unborn child is in its mother’s womb. You can’t surgically free yourself, or someone else, from this fact of life. ‘However, we see adults inflicting harm on helpless children to affirm their world view: that is, that gender is fluid, sex can be surgically altered, and that there are no lasting consequences as a result of these gender transition procedures. ‘The reach of radical sexual identity politics isn’t limited to young children. We see this extended to young adults—especially at the university level. [...] ‘Something has gone terribly wrong and today we hope to shed light on what that is and how we can address the problem. Contrary to what the Democrats believe, the scourge of radical gender ideology is very real, efforts to cover up what’s being done to children are extreme, and the science is on our side.’” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

- **Johnson Spoke Out Against Gender-Affirming Care.** “‘Gender affirming care’ is anything but ‘affirming’ and ‘caring.’ It is adults deciding to permanently alter the bodies of children who do NOT have the capacity to make life altering decisions on their own. Watch my opening statement from today’s @JudiciaryGOP hearing [↓](#)” [Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [7/27/23](#)]

Johnson Co-Sponsored A Bill Banning Gender-Affirming Care On Minors

Johnson Co-Sponsored The Protect Children’s Innocence Act, Banning Gender-Affirming Care On Minors. “To amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender affirming care on minors.” [H.R. 5636, Text, [9/21/23](#); H.R. 5636, Cosponsors, [9/26/23](#)]

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo, Who Voted Against Repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’

Manzullo Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign

Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Illinois’s 17th Congressional District. Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Illinois’s 17th congressional district. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed, [12/6/23](#)]

Manzullo Voted Against The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act Of 2010

Manzullo Voted Against H.R. 2965, The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act Of 2010. Manzullo voted against H.R. 2965, The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010. [Congress.gov, H.R. 2965, [7/8/09](#)]

The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act Of 2010 Was A Landmark U.S. Federal Statue That Established A Process To End The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Policy, “Thus Allowing Gays, Lesbians, And Bisexuals To Serve

Openly In The United States Armed Forces. “The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (H.R. 2965, S. 4023) is a landmark United States federal statute enacted in December 2010 that established a process for ending the Don't ask, don't tell (DADT) policy (10 U.S.C. § 654), thus allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces. It ended the policy in place since 1993 that allowed them to serve only if they kept their sexual orientation secret and the military did not learn of their sexual orientation.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2965, [12/22/10](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, Who Voted Against Legalizing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart

Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

Stewart Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois

2013: Stewart Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. “The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor's signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here's how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] Brian Stewart [...]” [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski, Who Voted Against Legalizing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

McGraw Received \$250 And An Endorsement From Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski

Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Received \$250 From Citizens for Sosnowski. According to FEC receipts, Citizens for Sosnowski donated \$250 to Judge Joe McGraw on March 27th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CITIZENS FOR SOSNOWSKI	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	IL	03/27/2024	\$250.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Sosnowski Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois

2013: Sosnowski Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. “The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor's signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here's how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] Joe Sosnowski [...]” [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois Representative John Cabello, Who Once Likened Gay Marriage To Bestiality And Voted Against Allowing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

October 2023: Illinois State Representative John Cabello Endorsed McGraw

October 2023: John Cabello Endorsed McGraw. McGraw wrote on Twitter, “Our campaign is honored to have the trust, support, and guidance of many state leaders who represent the voters across #IL17.” Cabello was included in the list of state leaders. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]

- Cabello Was An Illinois State Representative From The State’s 90th District.** “State Representative John Cabello (R-Machesney Park) was appointed to fill a vacancy in the 68th District and sworn into office in August of 2012. He was then elected to that seat in November of 2012 and re-elected in 2014, 2016 and 2018. In 2022, John was elected State Representative for the new 90th District which starts in Boone County and cuts across the top of Winnebago County out to Stephenson County and Freeport.” [Illinois General Assembly, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

Cabello Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois And Once Compared Gay Marriage To Bestiality

2013: Cabello Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. “The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor’s signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here’s how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] John Cabello [...]” [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

2012: Cabello Likened Gay Marriage To Bestiality, Saying, “Does This Now Say That Somebody Can Get Married To Their Dog?” “Illinois Rep. John Cabello was criticized this week for comments he made at a Rockford Tea Party forum earlier this month about gay marriage. The Windy City Times, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender newspaper in Chicago, reported Wednesday that Cabello likened same-sex marriage to bestiality. The quote that drew the ire of gay rights groups is when Cabello reportedly said, ‘Does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?’” [Rockford Register Star, [10/19/12](#)]

- Cabello Also Said That He Was “Dead-Set Opposed To Civil Unions,” And That “Marriage [Was] Between A Man And A Woman.”** “Illinois Rep. John Cabello was criticized this week for comments he made at a Rockford Tea Party forum earlier this month about gay marriage. [...] Carl Wasco’s campaign forwarded a transcript of Cabello’s comments to the Register Star. Wasco is challenging Cabello for his House seat in the

Nov. 6 general election. The transcript reads: I’m dead-set opposed to civil unions. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Now, unfortunately, in my opinion, they have opened up the door for other things. Now, and please bear with me, does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?” [Rockford Register Star, [10/19/12](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$1,500 And An Endorsement From Illinois Representative Andrew Chesney, Who Was Against Allowing Gender Neutral Restrooms In Illinois And Said To “Drop The Pronoun Crap”

October 2023: Illinois State Senator Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw

October 2023: Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw. McGraw wrote on Twitter, “Our campaign is honored to have the trust, support, and guidance of many state leaders who represent the voters across #IL17.” Cabello was included in the list of state leaders. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]

- **Chesney Was A State Senator Representing Illinois’s 45th District.** “On November 8, 2022, Andrew Chesney was elected to serve as Senator for the 45th District of the State of Illinois.” [Senator Andrew Chesney, Biography, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC records, Andrw Chesney donated \$1,000 on November 13th, 2023 And \$500 on February 19th, 2024 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. Both FEC receipts listed Chesney’s occupation as “IL State Senator.” [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/24/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/19/2024	\$500.00
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/13/2023	\$1,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/24/24](#)]

Chesney, Speaking On The Illinois House Floor, Said There Were Only Two Genders, And Told Fellow Lawmakers To “Drop The Pronoun Crap”

May 2023: Chesney, Speaking In The Illinois House, Said, “There Are Only Two Genders,” And Told His Fellow Lawmakers To “Drop The Pronoun Crap.” CHESNEY: “There are two genders. There are two genders possible. There’s not three, there’s not four, there’s two. The crazy stuff like this is why people are confused and the kids don’t know what the hell is going on, because they’re confused because of legislation like this. Drop the pronoun crap. There are two genders. Period.” [Bishop on Air via YouTube, 00:42, uploaded [5/5/23](#)] (VIDEO)

Chesney Opposed A Bill Allowing Gender-Neutral Bathrooms In Illinois, Calling It “Woke” And “Radical”

May 2023: Chesney Called A Bill Allowing Illinois Establishments To Have Gender-Neutral Restrooms “Woke” And “Radical.” “The Illinois State Senate passed a bill on Thursday which would expand gender-neutral bathrooms, and it sparked a heated debate on the Senate floor. Right now, the public gender-neutral bathrooms in Illinois are single-occupancy, meaning one person at a time. HB1286 would allow establishments to install gender-neutral bathrooms that are multi-occupancy, meaning a shared bathroom across all genders, and all gender identities. ‘This is woke,’ said State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-45), who voted against the bill. ‘This is radical. This is out of touch with everybody in my district and your districts.’” [Fox 32 Chicago, [5/18/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, Who Threatened Violence On The Illinois Senate Floor During A Debate On Gendered Bathrooms

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson And Repeatedly Referred To Him As A “Friend”

Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Repeatedly Referred To Anderson As A “Friend” And Attended Several Events With Him

February 2024: McGraw Called Anderson A “Friend” And Attended A Fish Fry With Him. “Packed house at the 7th annual Wild Game Feed & Fish Fry in Abingdon! It was great to be with my friend, Senator Neil Anderson, and so many great Americans coming together to support a good cause.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]

McGraw Campaigned With The Henry County IL GOP And Said It Was Great To See “Friends” Including Senator Neil Anderson. “Had a blast ending our weekend of campaigning with the Henry County IL GOP at their Fall Jamboree! Great to see so many friends including Senator Neil Anderson IL Rep Dan Swanson Jan Weber and many more candidates! Thanks to all who turned in or signed a petition as we get ready to file for the ballot! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/20/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/20/23](#)]

May 2023: During A Debate On Gendered Bathrooms, Anderson Threatened Violence While On The Illinois Senate Floor

HEADLINE: “Illinois State Senator Sparks Controversy with Violent Remarks on Gender-Neutral Restrooms.” [BNN Breaking, [9/23/23](#)]

HEADLINE: “Quad-City Sen. Neil Anderson Threatens Violence On Senate Floor.” [Quad-City Times, [5/25/23](#)]

During A Debate On Legislation That Would Allow Businesses To Construct All Gender Multi-Capacity Restrooms, Anderson Said He Would “Beat The Living P---” Out Of Any Man Who Walked Into A Restroom With His Daughter. “Tempers flared on the state Senate floor Thursday during debate of Democratic-led measures, including a bill that clears the way for gun manufacturers to be sued and another that would allow businesses to create multi-capacity bathrooms open to all genders — an idea one Republican warned will spark violence. State Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, told lawmakers that he would ‘beat the living p---’ out of any man who walked into a restroom with his daughter. ‘This is gonna cause violence, and it’s gonna cause violence from dads like me,’ the Moline firefighter and paramedic said to some cheers from fellow Republicans during floor debate on the measure. The bill ultimately cleared the Senate 35-20. The legislation, which now heads back to the Illinois House, would allow businesses to construct all-gender multi-capacity restrooms, but it would not require them to do so. The restrooms would include floor to ceiling stall dividers with locks and toilets instead of urinals, among other provisions. The state already has in place a law that requires that every single-occupancy restroom be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [5/18/23](#)]

- **Anderson: “This Is Gonna Cause Violence, And It’s Gonna Cause Violence From Dads Like Me.”** “Tempers flared on the state Senate floor Thursday during debate of Democratic-led measures, including a bill that clears the way for gun manufacturers to be sued and another that would allow businesses to create multi-capacity bathrooms open to all genders — an idea one Republican warned will spark violence. State Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, told lawmakers that he would ‘beat the living p---’ out of any man who walked into a restroom with his daughter. ‘This is gonna cause violence, and it’s gonna cause violence from dads like me,’ the Moline firefighter and paramedic said to some cheers from fellow Republicans during floor debate on the measure. The bill ultimately cleared the Senate 35-20. The legislation, which now heads back to the Illinois House, would allow businesses to construct all-gender multi-capacity restrooms, but it would not require them to do so. The restrooms would include floor to ceiling stall dividers with locks and toilets instead of urinals, among other provisions. The state already has in place a law that requires that every single-occupancy restroom be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [5/18/23](#)]

McGraw Said There Should Be No Separation Of Church And State, Said “The Jury’s Out” On Whether Human Activity Causes Climate Change, And Was Endorsed By Rogue Sheriffs Who Refused To Enforce The Law Banning Assault Weapons In Illinois

McGraw Said There Was No Separation Between Church And State, Calling It An “Unbiblical Concept” That Had “Deceived Many People Over The Years”

February 2024: McGraw Called The Separation Of Church And State An “Unbiblical Concept” And Said It Had “Deceived Many People Over The Years”

McGraw Called The Separation Of Church And State An “Unbiblical Concept” And Said It Had “Deceived Many People Over The Years.” MCGRAW: “And it's great being here this morning and before the service, I was with Apostle Marla, Prophet Michelle, and back in the office and we were remembering days gone by. And one of the things I was remembering was Apostle Lyon, who's gone home to be with the Lord. And he was a spiritual father to me in so many ways, in that he set an example for all those who sought to go into government service, that everything was under the Lordship of Christ, including government, and there was no separation between church and state. That's not a biblical concept. It's an unbiblical concept. This deceived many people over the years and so its great to be welcomed so warmly this morning.” [Faith Center, YouTube, 40:41, [2/11/24](#)] (VIDEO)

McGraw Said His “Spiritual Father” Taught Him “There Was No Separation Between Church And State.” MCGRAW: “And it's great being here this morning and before the service, I was with Apostle Marla, Prophet Michelle, and back in the office and we were remembering days gone by. And one of the things I was remembering was Apostle Lyon, who's gone home to be with the Lord. And he was a spiritual father to me in so many ways, in

that he set an example for all those who sought to go into government service, that everything was under the Lordship of Christ, including government, and there was no separation between church and state. That's not a biblical concept. It's an unbiblical concept. This deceived many people over the years and so its great to be welcomed so warmly this morning." [Faith Center, YouTube, 40:41, [2/11/24](#)] (VIDEO)

2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said, "The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It"

October 2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said "The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It"

McGraw: "All The Data That I've Seen Shows Me That The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It"

Pantagraph: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said "All The Data That I've Seen Shows Me That The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It." "McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about 'pocketbook issues' and are ready for a change. 'Years ago, there was an expression 'Reagan Democrats' and I think it's so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who've got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.' [...] McGraw was less detailed in answers to questions about addressing crime, though his campaign website said he will 'increase funding for our police, and go after the liberal state's attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the law.' He does not believe the scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change, saying that 'all the data that I've seen shows me that the jury's out on whether or not we're causing it.' He questioned if the U.S. could do anything about climate change given the polluting of countries like China and India. 'I want our country to be as clean and prosperous and healthy as possible,' he said. 'But some of the extreme environmentalists are willing to put everything on the chopping block for a theoretical goal of a reduction in a degree or something like that.'" [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

- **McGraw: "I Want Our Country To Be As Clean And Prosperous And Healthy As Possible, [...] But Some Of The Extreme Environmentalists Are Willing To Put Everything On The Chopping Block For A Theoretical Goal Of A Reduction In A Degree Or Something Like That."** "McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about 'pocketbook issues' and are ready for a change. 'Years ago, there was an expression 'Reagan Democrats' and I think it's so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who've got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.' [...] McGraw was less detailed in answers to questions about addressing crime, though his campaign website said he will 'increase funding for our police, and go after the liberal state's attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the law.' He does not believe the scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change, saying that 'all the data that I've seen shows me that the jury's out on whether or not we're causing it.' He questioned if the U.S. could do anything about climate change given the polluting of countries like China and India. 'I want our country to be as clean and prosperous and healthy as possible,' he said. 'But some of the extreme environmentalists are willing to put everything on the chopping block for a theoretical goal of a reduction in a degree or something like that.'" [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Criticized Sorensen's Focus On The Environment And Climate Change In The 2022 Election And Said Voters Were "Not Thinking About Radical Environmentalism Or Some Other Policy"

McGraw Indirectly Referenced Sorensen's Focus On Climate Change In The 2022 Election And Said Voters Were "Not Thinking About Radical Environmentalism Or Some Other Policy, They're Thinking About How Am I Going To Make Ends Meet." "McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said

voters in the district care about ‘pocketbook issues’ and are ready for a change. ‘Years ago, there was an expression ‘Reagan Democrats’ and I think it’s so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who’ve got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.’ ‘They’re not thinking about radical environmentalism or some other policy, they’re thinking about how am I going to make ends meet,’ McGraw said, indirectly referencing Sorensen’s focus on climate change in the 2022 election. McGraw broadly laid out some of his policy positions, calling for the building of a border wall to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, but also expressing openness to a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Nine Illinois Sheriffs Who Refused To Enforce In Part Or In Full The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois

The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, Banned The Sale And Distribution Of Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines, And Switches In Illinois

The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, Banned The Sale And Distribution Of Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines, And Switches In Illinois. “Standing alongside lawmakers and gun control activists, Governor Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act banning the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois, effective immediately. ‘For the past four years, my administration and my colleagues in the State Capitol have been battling the powerful forces of the NRA to enshrine the strongest and most effective gun violence legislation that we possibly can,’ said Gov. JB Pritzker. ‘I couldn’t be prouder to say that we got it done. And we will keep fighting — bill by bill, vote by vote, and protest by protest — to ensure that future generations only hear about massacres like Highland Park, Sandy Hook, and Uvalde in their textbooks.’ [...] House Bill 5471 also caps sales of high-capacity ammunition magazines, bans ‘switches’ that convert legal handguns into assault weapons, and extends the ability of courts to prevent dangerous individuals from possessing a gun through firearm restraining orders. The new law also requires existing owners of semi-automatic rifles to register their ownership, ensuring that law enforcement knows the location of these weapons of war and who to hold accountable if they fall into the wrong hands.” [Governor Pritzker, Press Release, [1/10/23](#)]

August 2023: The Illinois Supreme Court Allowed The State’s Assault Weapon Ban To Stay In Place. “The Illinois Supreme Court will allow the state’s assault weapons ban to stay in place following a 4-3 decision Friday morning. A lawsuit had challenged the ban as unconstitutional. ‘We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs’ waived claim concerning the second amendment,’ the filing stated. State lawmakers approved the ban in early January, and Gov. JB Pritzker quickly signed it into law. Before signing the bill, Pritzker invoked the memory of the July 4th parade mass shooting in Highland Park last year – which left seven people dead and 36 injured, and left a 2-year-old boy parentless and wandering around. [...] Restraining orders sought in lower courts had blocked the state from enforcing the ban against hundreds of gun owners and several gun shops who challenged the ban, but those rulings only applied to the plaintiffs directly involved in those lawsuits. The law is also facing challenges in federal court, and in May the U.S. Supreme Court declined to block the law statewide.” [CBS, [8/11/23](#)]

May 2023: The U.S. Supreme Court Declined To Block The Law Statewide. “The Illinois Supreme Court will allow the state’s assault weapons ban to stay in place following a 4-3 decision Friday morning. A lawsuit had challenged the ban as unconstitutional. ‘We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs’ waived claim concerning the second amendment,’ the filing stated. State lawmakers approved the ban in early January, and Gov. JB Pritzker quickly signed it into law. Before signing the bill, Pritzker invoked the memory of the July 4th parade mass shooting in Highland Park last year – which left seven people dead and 36 injured, and left a 2-year-old boy parentless and wandering around. [...] Judges in both Effingham County and Macon County downstate ruled the ban unconstitutional, but Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who is defending the ban, appealed those rulings to the state’s highest court. Restraining orders sought in lower courts had blocked the state from enforcing the ban against hundreds of gun owners and several gun shops who challenged the ban, but those rulings only applied to the

plaintiffs directly involved in those lawsuits. The law is also facing challenges in federal court, and in May the U.S. Supreme Court declined to block the law statewide.” [CBS, [8/11/23](#)]

Everytown For Gun Safety: Prohibiting Access To Assault Weapons Can Reduce The Number Of People Killed And Wounded By Shooters Intent On Inflicting Mass Casualties

Everytown For Gun Safety: “Prohibiting Access To Assault Weapons And Limiting The Capacity Of Ammunition Magazines Can Reduce The Number Of People Killed And Wounded By Shooters Intent On Inflicting Mass Casualties.” “Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines help fuel gun violence in the United States. Research and evidence from mass shooting incidents in which four or more people are killed clearly show that assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are the weapon of choice for public mass shooters. Prohibiting access to assault weapons and limiting the capacity of ammunition magazines can reduce the number of people killed and wounded by shooters intent on inflicting mass casualties.” [Everytown for Gun Safety, [5/24/23](#)]

Everytown For Gun Safety: “Over Twice As Many People Are Killed When Mass Shootings Involve An Assault Weapon.” “Over twice as many people are killed when mass shootings involve an assault weapon. Mass shooting incidents with four or more people killed where the shooter used an assault rifle resulted in an average of 2.3 times more people killed and 22.7 times more people wounded compared to incidents where the shooter did not use an assault rifle.” [Everytown for Gun Safety, accessed [6/27/24](#)]

Many Sheriffs In Illinois Refused To Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois, Despite The Ban Surviving Numerous Legal Challenges

HEADLINE: “Will Illinois’ Assault Weapons Ban Be Enforced? It Depends Where You Live.” [25 News Peoria, [1/12/23](#)]

A Majority Of County Sheriffs In Illinois Said They Did Not Plan To Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois. “There are 102 counties in Illinois. Each has a sheriff. One hundred and two men — and they’re all men — who enforce state law. Except when they don’t. Since the start of the year, a majority of county sheriffs in Illinois have stated that they don’t plan to enforce the Protect Illinois Communities Act, a sweeping ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines state lawmakers passed in January. What the sheriffs oppose specifically is PICA’s effect on private assault weapon owners. The law not only prohibited the sale and purchase of new assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, but also forbid, with some exceptions, their private ownership. One of those exceptions was a grandfather measure ensuring those who already owned assault weapon could keep their guns and weapon accessories so long as they registered them with the Illinois State Police before New Year’s Day, 2024.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

Despite The Numerous Legal Challenges The Assault Weapons Ban Survived Since Sheriffs Stated They Would Not Enforce The Law, Courthouse News Could Not Find Any Examples Of A Sheriff Who Changed Course And Agreed To Abide By The Court’s Decisions. “Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA’s Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln. Despite this, Courthouse News could find no examples of a sheriff who, after saying he wouldn’t enforce the bans in January, reversed course and agreed to abide by the courts’ decisions. Of the multiple PICA-opposing sheriffs’ offices CNS reached out to for comment, none responded.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

- **The Protect Illinois Communities Act Survived Numerous Legal Challenges At The State And Federal Level, And Was Upheld By The Illinois Supreme Court And The Federal Seventh Circuit Of Appeals.** “Though a few sheriffs who opposed the ban, like Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley, simply voiced their opposition without saying what it means in practical terms, dozens of others weren’t so coy. ‘I, among many

others, believe that [the Protect Illinois Communities Act] is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution,' read a near-identical statement issued by sheriffs across the state in January. 'Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for _____ County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State (sic), nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.' Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA's Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln." [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

- **The U.S. Supreme Court Declined To Hear Challenges To The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban On Two Occasions.** "Though a few sheriffs who opposed the ban, like Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley, simply voiced their opposition without saying what it means in practical terms, dozens of others weren't so coy. 'I, among many others, believe that [the Protect Illinois Communities Act] is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution,' read a near-identical statement issued by sheriffs across the state in January. 'Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for _____ County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State (sic), nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.' Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA's Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln." [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

McGraw's Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana; Caruana Said He Would Not Enforce Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban

Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana Said He Would Not Enforce The Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban requires those who already own such guns to register with the state. "Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana said today that he will not enforce the state's newly enacted law that bans military-style weapons and requires those who already own such guns to register with the state. Caruana's statement comes as gun rights groups are preparing to sue the state over the new law, which Gov. JB Pritzker signed Tuesday. Caruana is among several sheriffs, including those in Ogle, Stephenson and Lee counties, who say they won't enforce the law. The law bans the sale, distribution and manufacturing of assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles and ammunition, and large-capacity magazines. It allows those who already own such weapons to keep them provided they register with the Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024. 'Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the 2nd Amendment,' Caruana said in a statement on Facebook. 'The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people.' He said that no one from his office will check to see that gun owners register with the state, nor will they arrest anyone for non-compliance with the law." [Rock River Current, [1/11/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Winnebago County Sheriff Among Those Who Say They Won't Enforce The State's Weapons Ban."** [Rock River Current, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb; Webb Refused To Enforce Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban

Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Jon Webb Refused To Enforce "The Protect Illinois Communities Act" To Ban The Sale Of All Assault Weapons And Magazines In The State. "The Protect Illinois Communities Act (HB 5471) bans the sale of all assault weapons and magazines in the state. It also requires owners to register existing guns, among other provisions. Gov. Pritzker signed the bill into law on Tuesday night. LaSalle County Sheriff Adam Diss, Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb, Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan, and Woodford County Sheriff Matt Smith released identical statements deeming the law unconstitutional and say they will not enforce it." [CI Proud, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Assault Weapons Ban. "The sheriffs of Henry, Knox and Whiteside counties have declared their stance in opposition to House Bill 5471, the assault weapons ban bill that passed with Gov. Pritzker's signature on Tuesday. In separate statements, Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure, Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan and Whiteside County John Booker delivered the same news release, drafted with the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, in which they said: 'As your Sheriff, I wanted to give citizens of (Knox, Whiteside) County an update on the recent passage of HB 5471, also known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act. 'As your duly elected Sheriff my job and my office are sworn, in fact, to protect the citizens of (Knox, Whiteside) County. This is a job and responsibility that I take with the utmost seriousness. 'Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the 2nd amendment. 'The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people. 'I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. 'Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Knox County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State, nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.'" [WQAD 8, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill, Who Said He Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapon Ban

Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill Said He Would Not Be Enforcing The State's Assault Weapon Ban. "Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill and Mercer County State's Attorney Grace Simpson will not be enforcing the state's assault weapon ban. Terrill and Simpson believe HB 5471 is a violation of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. 'As Sheriff and State's Attorney of Mercer County, we find it is impossible to understand the logic of the State Legislators who take steps to restrict law enforcement's ability to hold true criminals accountable and then move to criminalize law abiding citizens,' Terrill and Simpson said in a joint statement. 'Illinois needs to give law enforcement the tools necessary to enforce the existing common-sense laws and stop trying to create criminals out

of everyday citizens. Further, Illinois needs to stop putting prosecutors in a position where we are forced to prosecute political agendas instead of actual crimes. We are doing our best as elected officials to protect your rights as law abiding citizens while still holding criminals accountable.’ They also said that ‘The right to keep and bear arms for the defense of life, liberty, and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people.’ ‘As Sheriff of Mercer County, neither myself, nor my office will be proactively checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State,’ Terrill said.” [Rock Island Today, [1/30/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

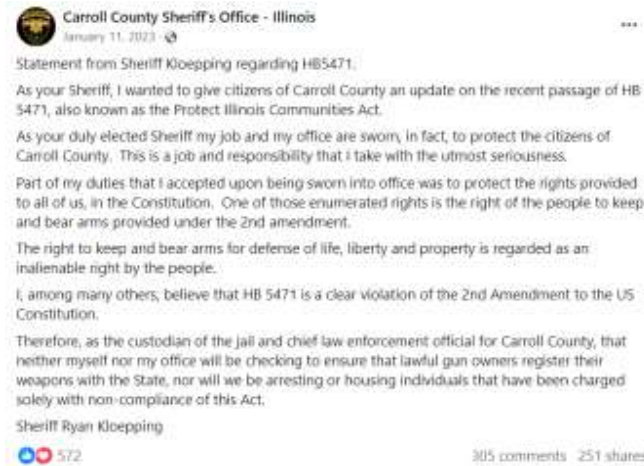
Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan Said His Office Would Not Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act. “Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan announced in a Wednesday news release that his office will not enforce a state law passed Tuesday that will require people to register their ownership of semi-automatic rifles. The law, known as House Bill 5471 or the Protect Illinois Communities Act, bans the manufacture, sale and purchase of assault-style, semi-automatic weapons in Illinois. Under the bill, people must register their weapons with Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024, in order to keep them.” [Register-Mail, [1/11/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Knox County Sheriff Says Office Will Not Cooperate With New Illinois Weapons Law.”** [Register-Mail, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping Said His Office Would Not Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act. “Statement from Sheriff Kloeping regarding HB5471. As your Sheriff, I wanted to give citizens of Carroll County an update on the recent passage of HB 5471, also known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act. As your duly elected Sheriff my job and my office are sworn, in fact, to protect the citizens of Carroll County. This is a job and responsibility that I take with the utmost seriousness. Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the 2nd amendment. The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people. I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Carroll County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State, nor will we be arresting or housing individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this Act. Sheriff Ryan Kloeping.” [Carroll County Sheriff’s Office – Illinois, Facebook, [1/11/23](#)]



[Carroll County Sheriff's Office – Illinois, Facebook, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower; Tazewell County Was Listed A County Not Enforcing Illinois' Assault Weapons Ban

March 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Jeff Lower, Tazewell County Sherrif. [Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]



[Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]

Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower Released A Statement Criticizing The Protect Illinois Communities Act And Tazewell County Was Listed As Refusing To Enforce The Assault Weapons Ban. “At least 30 county sheriffs are refusing to enforce the newly-passed assault weapons ban because they contend it violates the Second Amendment. The Protect Illinois Communities Act (HB 5471) bans the sale of all assault weapons and magazines in the state. It also requires owners to register existing guns, among other provisions. Gov. Pritzker signed the bill into law on Tuesday night. [...] Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower also released a statement expressing his dissatisfaction with the Act and his commitment to upholding the Constitution. ‘I am extremely disappointed with the passage of HB 5471 that further erodes our Constitutional freedoms...as your elected Sheriff, I pledge to do everything within my power to steadfastly protect the Second Amendment and all other individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution. I understand the destructive influences currently existing within our state and our country will only relent when we all vigorously defend and preserve the Constitution and the freedoms it preserves.’ [...] Counties refusing to enforce the law include: Clay, Edwards, Dekalb, Dewitt, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Iroquois, Jefferson, Jo Daviess, Kankakee, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Logan, Massac, McLean, McDonough, Ogle, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Randolph, Richland, Stephenson, Tazewell, Washington, Wayne, White, Winnebago, and Woodford.” [CI Proud, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane, Who Said He Would Not Implement The Protect Illinois Communities Act

McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

According To Cities 92.9 Radio Station, McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane Promised Not To Implement The Protect Illinois Communities Act. "Last week, Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which prohibits the possession of semi-automatic rifles such as the AR-15 and paves the way for expedited universal background checks. The legislation also requires firearm owners of now-restricted weapons to register with state police. Many sheriffs have vowed to defy the law, calling it a gross abuse of power. [...] McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane has also promised not to implement the law, according to Cities 92.9 radio station." [National Review, [1/16/23](#)]

McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane Said Police Were Not Bound To Follow The Law As It Was Unconstitutional. "McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane says the bill Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law this week banning the sale, delivery and manufacture of assault weapons is unconstitutional, so he says police aren't bound to follow it. 'The U.S. Constitution is trumping his law. That's the way I see it,' Lane said. Lane said his biggest concern is the requirement that people who currently own such weapons register them with the Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024. 'I don't see sending deputies door to door to check and make sure people have registered their weapons. That is not something I will have my people doing,' Lane said." [WGLT, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout, Who Said He Wouldn't Enforce Parts Of The Protect Illinois Communities Act

McDonough County Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. McDonough County Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce Parts Of HB 5471. "McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas M. Petitgout said he and his office will not be enforcing parts of an assault weapons ban signed into law on Tuesday, because he believes 'HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution.' In a news release, Petitgout said neither he nor his office will be checking to ensure lawful gun owners register with the Illinois State Police as required by the new law. Petitgout also said his deputies won't be 'arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this Act.' On Tuesday, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act banning the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois. The new law also requires existing owners of semi-automatic rifles to register their ownership, ensuring that law enforcement knows the location of these weapons." [KHQA, [1/12/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Local Sheriff Calls Assault Weapons Ban Unconstitutional, Won't Enforce Parts Of It."** [KHQA, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Said He Was "Voting For Trump" And Said Ron DeSantis Was "Electric" At An Illinois Event

McGraw Said He Was Waiting To See The Outcome Of Trump's Criminal Charges To Make "An Informed Decision" On His 2024 Vote, But Just Four Months Later Flipfopped And Said He Was Voting For Trump

October 2023: McGraw Said, "We Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is, And Only Then Can We Make An Informed Decision," On Voting For Donald Trump In The 2024 Election

McGraw Said, “We Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is, And Only Then Can We Make An Informed Decision,” On Voting For Donald Trump In The 2024 Election. “The possible presence of former President Donald Trump, currently the frontrunner for the GOP presidential nomination despite facing 91 felony charges across four criminal cases, at the top of the ballot also presents a wild card. McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had ‘no reason to doubt’ that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president’s legal troubles, McGraw said ‘we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Voting For Donald Trump”

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Voting For Donald Trump.” “What’s happening at the border is a disaster. Joe Biden caused this crisis and refuses to do anything to stop it. It’s time to get serious about securing this border. That’s why I’m voting for Donald Trump. He’ll put America First and keep our country safe.” [Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/20/24](#)]



[Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/20/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Would Vote For Trump Despite None Of His Legal Problems Being Resolved

March 2024: Trump Won A Series Of Delays As He Sought To Avoid Going To Trial On Any Of Four Criminal Indictments Before The Election. “Donald Trump has won a series of delays as he seeks to avoid going to trial on any of four criminal indictments before the Nov. 5 U.S. election, when the Republican former president aims to unseat Democratic President Joe Biden. Trump denies any wrongdoing. The U.S. Supreme Court will on April 25 hear Trump’s claim of presidential immunity from prosecution on charges he conspired to prevent Congress from certifying his 2020 election loss to Biden and deprive voters of a fair election.” [Reuters, [3/15/24](#)]

- **Trump Faced 91 Felony Counts Connected To Four Different Criminal Cases Related To Subverting Democracy, Risking National Security, And A Hush Money Payment.** “In total, Mr. Trump faces 91 felony counts, charged with an array of crimes: trying to subvert democracy, risking national security secrets and falsifying business records in connection with a hush money payment to a porn actress.” [New York Times, [8/23/23](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event With Ron DeSantis And Said DeSantis Was “Electric,” And Attendees “Pretty Much Unanimous[ly]” Agreed He Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination

February 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Ron DeSantis And Said DeSantis Was “Electric,” And Attendees “Pretty Much Unanimous[ly]” Agreed He Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination

February 2023: McGraw Attended A DeSantis Event In Elmhurst And Said DeSantis Was “Electric.”

“DeSantis was ostensibly on the road to make a sales pitch for police to move to Florida and tout his tough-on-crime policies, but it was clear that those in the crowds were already seizing up the Florida governor as a possible alternative to Trump. At DeSantis' stop in Elmhurst, Illinois, Joe McGraw, an Illinois circuit court judge, said DeSantis was ‘electric’ and that it was ‘pretty much unanimous’ among attendees that DeSantis should seek the GOP presidential nomination.” [WSILTV, [2/22/23](#)]

McGraw Said It Was “Pretty Much Unanimous” Among Attendees That DeSantis Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination. “DeSantis was ostensibly on the road to make a sales pitch for police to move to Florida and tout his tough-on-crime policies, but it was clear that those in the crowds were already seizing up the Florida governor as a possible alternative to Trump. At DeSantis' stop in Elmhurst, Illinois, Joe McGraw, an Illinois circuit court judge, said DeSantis was ‘electric’ and that it was ‘pretty much unanimous’ among attendees that DeSantis should seek the GOP presidential nomination.” [WSILTV, [2/22/23](#)]

DeSantis’ Legislative Agenda In Florida Targeted “Immigrants, LGBTQ Individuals, Black Americans, And Women” And Included A 15 Week Abortion Ban That Made Providing An Abortion A Third Degree Felony

Vox: DeSantis’s Legislative Agenda In Florida Targeted “Immigrants, LGBTQ Individuals, Black Americans, And Women, As Well As The Corporations Who Come To Their Defense.” “DeSantis’s legislative agenda in Florida — which he has framed as a ‘blueprint’ for America — has targeted immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, Black Americans, and women, as well as the corporations who come to their defense. And state lawmakers have advanced DeSantis’s own political career at the expense of transparency and accountability. That’s all been done in the name of wooing an activist GOP base, which still loves former President Donald Trump and has given him a historically large lead in Republican primary polls.” [Vox, [5/25/23](#)]

- **The NAACP And Equality Florida Have Cautioned People Against Traveling To Florida Because Of Increasing Policy Attacks On LGBTQ Rights And Black Americans Under Governor Ron DeSantis.** “Many of the Florida laws passed this session, which concluded earlier this month, go further even than other red states. Proposals banning gender-affirming care for minors and establishing a six-week abortion ban, for example, impose harsh new restrictions that could have severe consequences on those seeking such care in the state. Immigration proposals targeting undocumented people have also inspired fear among the roughly 772,000 undocumented immigrants in the state, and prompted some to leave. The attacks on LGBTQ rights and Black Americans via policies that restrict the teaching of systemic racism and trans people’s ability to use bathrooms have been so harsh that civil rights groups like the NAACP and Equality Florida have cautioned people against traveling to the state. Some of those groups are challenging laws DeSantis has signed in court. DeSantis has nevertheless doubled down on those policies.” [Vox, [5/25/23](#)]

DeSantis Signed Bill Banned Abortion After 15 Weeks And Made Providing An Abortion A Third Degree Felony, That Carried 5 Year Prison Sentence. “In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill on April 14 that, with some exceptions, bans abortions after 15 weeks. Doctors that violate the law are guilty of a third degree felony. That carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.” [Austin Statesman, [5/7/22](#)]

McGraw Spoke At An Event With A Group Who Posted Conspiracy Theories And Attended An Event With Someone Who Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

Jan 2024: McGraw Spoke At An Event For The Peoria Patriots, Who Had Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The World Health Organization’s Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event

January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event And Said It Was “A Pleasure” To Speak With The Group. “It was a pleasure speaking with the Peoria Patriots last night. Voters across #IL17 are fired up and ready to put an end to the out of touch Biden-Sorensen agenda that has left our southern border wide open and families with less money in their pocket. In Congress, I’ll stand strong to secure our border and ensure Illinois families have every opportunity to live out their dreams.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

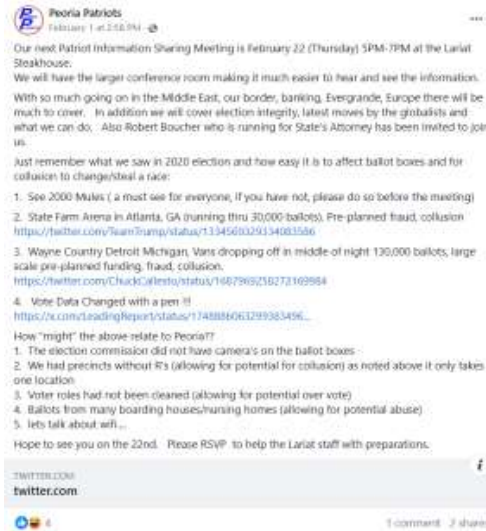


[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The WHO Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

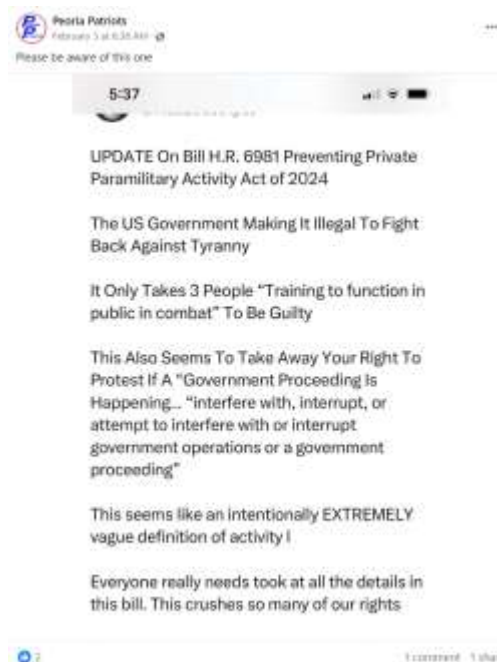
Peoria Patriots Reminded Its Followers To “Remember What We Saw In 2020 Election And How Easy It Is To Affect Ballot Boxes And For Collusion To Change/Steal A Race” And Pushed Election Conspiracies. “Our next Patriot Information Sharing Meeting is February 22 (Thursday) 5PM-7PM at the Lariat Steakhouse. We will have the larger conference room making it much easier to hear and see the information. With so much going on in the Middle East, our border, banking, Evergrande, Europe there will be much to cover. In addition we will cover election integrity, latest moves by the globalists and what we can do. Also Robert Boucher who is running for State's Attorney has been invited to join us. Just remember what we saw in 2020 election and how easy it is to affect ballot boxes and for collusion to change/steal a race: 1. See 2000 Mules (a must see for everyone, if you

have not, please do so before the meeting) 2. State Farm Arena in Atlanta, GA (running thru 30,000 ballots). Pre-planned fraud, collusion <https://twitter.com/TeamTrump/status/1334569329334083586> 3. Wayne Country Detroit Michigan, Vans dropping off in middle of night 130,000 ballots, large scale pre-planned funding, fraud, collusion. <https://twitter.com/ChuckCallesto/status/1687969258272169984> 4. Vote Data Changed with a pen!!! <https://x.com/LeadingReport/status/1748886063299383496> ... How 'might' the above relate to Peoria?? 1. The election commission did not have camera's on the ballot boxes 2. We had precincts without R's (allowing for potential for collusion) as noted above it only takes one location 3. Voter roles had not been cleaned (allowing for potential over vote) 4. Ballots from many boarding houses/nursing homes (allowing for potential abuse) 5. lets talk about wifi.... Hope to see you on the 22nd. Please RSVP to help the Lariat staff with preparations.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots Posted To Be Aware Of A Federal Bill That They Said Would Make It “Illegal To Fight Back Against Tyranny.” “Please be aware of this one.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]

A Peoria Patriots Post That Claimed The World Health Organization’s Agenda Was To Sexualize Children Was Flagged For Containing False Information. “Hope everyone is now aware of this.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef; Raef Supported False Election Conspiracies And Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

November 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef And Offered Her A “Special Thanks” On Facebook For Sharing Her “Thoughts On The State Of Our Party”

November 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef And The Republican Women Of Rock Island County. “A wonderful lunch spent with the Republican Women of Rock Island County. An honor to hear from them about the work they are doing, and to see their new Executive Board sworn in by outgoing Illinois Federation of Republican Women President Jayne Lehman Raef. Special thanks to Jeanne Ives for also coming to share her thoughts on the state of our party, and what each of us can do to elect more Republicans. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17 #republicanwomen” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]



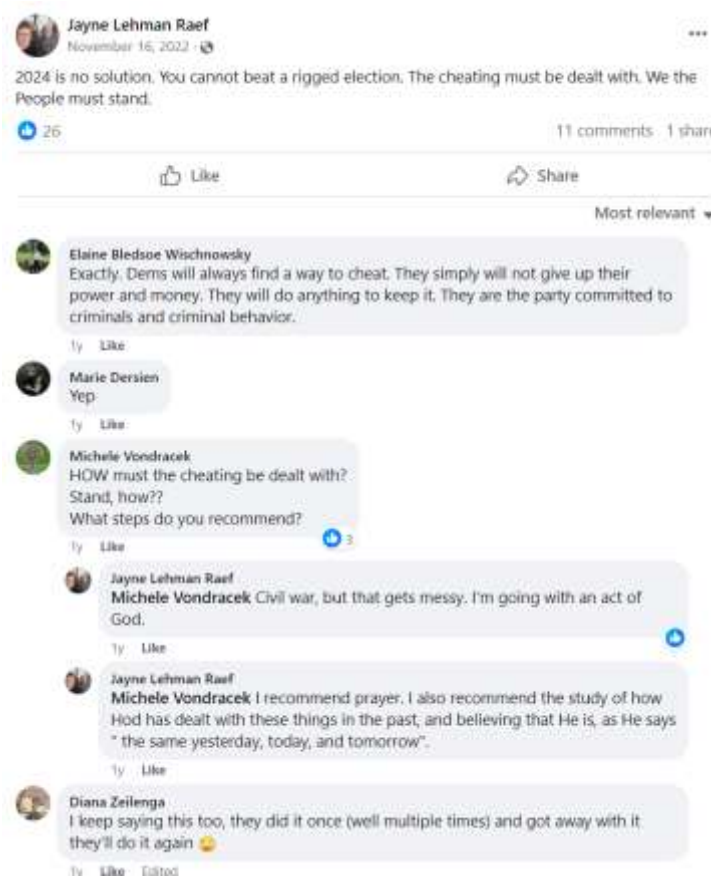
[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]

- **Jayne Lehman Raef Was The Outgoing Illinois Federation Of Republican Women President.** “A wonderful lunch spent with the Republican Women of Rock Island County. An honor to hear from them about the work they are doing, and to see their new Executive Board sworn in by outgoing Illinois Federation of Republican Women President Jayne Lehman Raef. Special thanks to Jeanne Ives for also coming to share her thoughts on the state of our party, and what each of us can do to elect more Republicans. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17 #republicanwomen” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]

Jayne Raef Posted Supporting False Election Conspiracies, Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud, And Posted A Meme That Implied Bill Gates Created COVID-19 To Profit From The Vaccine

Jayne Raef Posted Supporting False Election Conspiracies And Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

One Commentor Asked Jane Raef What Steps She Recommended To Deal With Election Fraud, She Responded “Civil War, But That Gets Messy. I'm Going With An Act Of God.” Jayne Lehman Raef: “2024 is no solution. You cannot beat a rigged election. The cheating must be dealt with. We the People must stand.” [...] Michele Vondracek: “HOW must the cheating be dealt with? Stand, how?? What steps do you recommend?” [...] Jayne Lehman Raef: “Civil war, but that gets messy. I'm going with an act of God.” [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/16/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/16/22](#)]

Jayne Raef Responded, “Cannot Agree More” To A Facebook Post Promoting False Election Claims And Calling For The Election To Be Immediately Called Off. “Cannot agree more.” [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/13/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/13/22](#)]

Jane Raef Posted A Meme That Seemed To Imply Bill Gates Created COVID-19 In Order To Profit From A Vaccine

Jane Raef Posted A Meme That Said “I Remember When This Guy Used To Create Viruses In Windows And Then Sell The Antivirus. I Wonder What He’s Doing Now...” With A Photo Of Bill Gates Holding A Medicine Vial In Front Of A WHO Seal. [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/28/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/28/22](#)]

2023-2024: McGraw Used Talking Points From The “Great Replacement Theory” A Conspiracy Theory That Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler, Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings, And Was Supported By QAnon And Other Extremist Groups

2023: McGraw Repeatedly Used Talking Points That Aligned With The Great Replacement Theory And Said, “You Can See The Consequences Of This Huge Influx Of Immigration And Draw Your Own Conclusions As To Whether That’s By Design Or Despite This”

2024: McGraw Used Talking Points That Aligned With The Great Replacement Theory And Said, “You Can See The Consequences Of This Huge Influx Of Immigration And Draw Your Own Conclusions As To Whether That’s By Design Or Despite This.” QUESTION: “The question that I wrestle with more and more, [indecipherable] why are they doing this? Why is the liberal [indecipherable] out there just [indecipherable]?” MCGRAW: “Well you know, I talk to a lot of people and there are a lot of theories on that, but one thing you can see for sure is its changing our country and so whether that’s being done consciously like we want to change our country, we want to change the demographics of our country, we want to change the culture of our country, or if for some reason we didn’t have that insight and for some reason it happened in spite of a lack of insight. These are facts, ok. I’m sure you’ve heard about census wide count of those who are here illegally and thereby gaining more congressional representation. Illinois lost a congressman last time, lost a congressional seat because you know everyone was leaving Illinois. [...] You can see the consequences of this huge influx of immigration and draw your own conclusions as to whether that’s by design or despite this.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall. 28:24, 30:22, 4/27/24] (AUDIO)

2023: When Asked If He Was Familiar With The “Replacement Theory For Voters” McGraw Said He Was Familiar In General Terms With The Concept. QUESTION: “Judge are you familiar with this new talking point that we seem to be coming up with called the replacement theory for voters. That the dems really just want to just flood the zone persay with a whole core of new voters, a voter base? So Paul Valles’ plea to have armouries open and secure these people is really going to fall on deaf ears with JB because JB’s out there parlaying Joe Biden for more federal bailout money for his sancuturay state which he obviously put in place via Bruce Rounder, former governor Rounder’s legislation to make us a sanctuary state.” MCGRAW: “I’m familiar in general terms with the concept, but I think the issue is the Democrats are realizing they are loosing their base. You know many of the people who come here illegally and become citizens including in the Hispanic community are very strong on having a secure border. Flooding the zone as you say with immigrants from who knows where has all kinds of consequences, it drives down wages as they are willing to compete for jobs that are unskilled jobs, low wages, take jobs away from Americans. They are being promised who knows what exactly but many many many who are here in the US who really cannot contribute in a meaningful way who are not necessarily asylum seekers and who can’t really contribute in a meaningful way and we have a right as a sovereign country to decide who gets to come in. So as far as the replacement theory goes, I think in general terms they assume these people become dependent on the Democratic Party, on the government, and will automatically vote to, vote for Democrats, but the bottom line is those that are here already that are Democrat constituents are already feeling the competition are already feeling the squeeze from this huge influx of migrants. I think they risk alienating their current base.” [Joe McGraw, Cities 92.9 Radio Show, 13:20, 11/7/23] (VIDEO)

- **McGraw: “As Far As The Replacement Theory Goes, I Think In General Terms They Assume These People Become Dependent On The Democratic Party, On The Government, And Will Automatically Vote To, Vote For Democrats, But The Bottom Line Is Those That Are Here Already That Are Democrat Constituents Are Already Feeling The Competition, Are Already Feeling The Squeeze From This Huge Influx Of Migrants.”** QUESTION: “Judge are you familiar with this new talking point that we seem to be coming up with called the replacement theory for voters. That the dems really just want to just flood the zone persay with a whole core of new voters, a voter base? So Paul Valles’ plea to have armouries open and secure these people is really going to fall on deaf ears with JB because JB’s out there parlaying Joe Biden for more federal bailout money for his sancuturay state which he obviously put in place via Bruce Rounder, former governor Rounder’s legislation to make us a sanctuary state.” MCGRAW: “I’m familiar in general terms with the concept, but I think the issue is the Democrats are realizing they are loosing their base. You know many of the people who come here illegally and become citizens including in the Hispanic community are very strong on having a secure border. Flooding the zone as you say with immigrants from who knows where has all kinds of consequences, it drives down wages as they are willing to compete for jobs that are unskilled jobs, low wages, take jobs away from Americans. They are being promised who knows what exactly but many many

many who are here in the US who really cannot contribute in a meaningful way who are not necessarily asylum seekers and who can't really contribute in a meaningful way and we have a right as a sovereign country to decide who gets to come in. So as far as the replacement theory goes, I think in general terms they assume these people become dependent on the Democratic Party, on the government, and will automatically vote to, vote for Democrats, but the bottom line is those that are here already that are Democrat constituents are already feeling the competition are already feeling the squeeze from this huge influx of migrants. I think they risk alienating their current base.” [Joe McGraw, Cities 92.9 Radio Show, 13:20, 11/7/23] (VIDEO)

McGraw Said Illegal Immigrants Were “Being Cultivated As Future Democratic Voters, Teaching Them To Be On The Dole. They Are Also Getting Free Healthcare, Free Housing. The List Goes On And On And On.”

MCGRAW: “And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?” AUDIENCE: “And veterans taken out of homes to.” MCGRAW: “And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 20:01, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

The “Great Replacement” Was A Conspiracy Theory Stating That Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler, Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings, And Was Supported By QAnon And Other Extremist Groups

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: The “Great Replacement” Theory Was “A Conspiracy Theory Whose Roots Go Back To The Late 18th Century And Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler That Climaxed In The Genocide Of Millions Of Jews During The Holocaust.” “Billed as the ‘Hearing on the Biden Border Crisis, Part 1,’ Jordan opened the proceedings by asserting that the crisis of immigrants and asylum seekers at the nation’s southern border is a plot by Biden and the Democrats. ‘I think it’s intentional. ... It seems deliberate, it seems premeditated, it seems intentional,’ he said. Jordan went on to say more directly, ‘Make no mistake about it, the Biden administration is carrying out its plan.’ This sounds an awful lot like the ‘great replacement’ conspiracy theory that has been touted by neo-Nazis and KKK members in the United States for nearly half a century. It’s a conspiracy theory whose roots go back to the late 18th century and was one of the early incitements used by Adolf Hitler that climaxed in the genocide of millions of Jews during the Holocaust.” [Las Vegas Sun, Editorial, [2/3/23](#)]

“Great Replacement Theory” Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings That Left A Total Of 86 Dead. “One unifying factor for many groups, investigators said, was belief in the great replacement theory, a white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely claims shadowy elites are intentionally displacing white Americans through immigration. The theory is tied to major white supremacist demonstrations, like the 2017 Charlottesville ‘Unite the Right’ march in Virginia, and was cited in the manifestos and online posts of four white supremacist mass shooters in 2018 and 2019 who left a total of 86 dead.” [NBC, [2/8/22](#)]

January 6th Committee Investigators Found That QAnon Supporters United With Other Extremist Groups To Attack The Capitol Through Common Belief In The “Great Replacement Theory,” A White Nationalist Conspiracy That Immigrants Would Displace White Americans. “Investigators for the House Jan. 6 committee are scrutinizing rallies and events as far back as a year before the Capitol riot in an effort to identify a broader network of planning and the causes of the attack, according to a half-dozen people helping conduct the committee’s investigation who spoke with NBC News. [...] One wider goal is to determine how groups with seemingly

disparate ideals — such as believers in broad conspiracy movements like QAnon, as well as more narrowly defined militias like the Oath Keepers — had what appeared to be a shared goal of storming the Capitol on Jan. 6. One unifying factor for many groups, investigators said, was belief in the great replacement theory, a white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely claims shadowy elites are intentionally displacing white Americans through immigration.” [NBC, [2/8/22](#)]

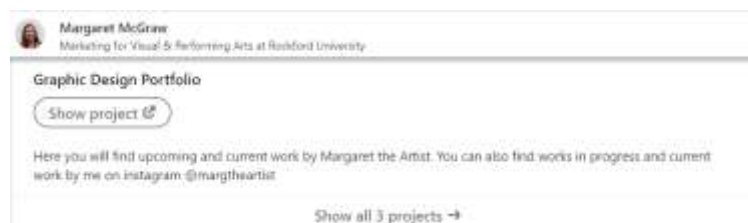
Marjorie Taylor Greene Shared A Video Claiming That There Was A Jewish Plan To Destroy Europe Through A Great Replacement Theory Style Takeover. “A 2015 video, which appeared to be the result of a collaboration between 4chan and 8chan users — both message forums which lean heavily toward fringe conspiracy theories — spliced Barbara Lerner Spectre, an Israeli-American academic, out of context so that she appeared to be discussing a Jewish plan to destroy Europe. The video also quoted Nick Griffin, a former leader of far-right British political party, warning about an “unholy alliance of leftists, capitalists and Zionist supremacists” plotting to destroy European society by ‘breeding us out of existence in our own homelands.’ Greene shared the video in 2018, complaining that she had been censored from speaking about the issue of ‘illegal invaders.’” [Haaretz, [2/4/21](#)]

On A Podcast, Joe McGraw’s Daughter, Margaret, Described A Supernatural Experience She And Her Family Blamed On Manga Comic Books, And A Video Her Father Borrowed That Claimed Fallen Angels Became Aliens

Joe McGraw’s Daughter, Margaret McGraw, Appeared On An Episode Of ‘Maybe It’s Spiritual’, A Podcast About Paranormal Experiences

Margaret McGraw Was Joe McGraw’s Daughter. “Retired Circuit Judge Joe McGraw, a former chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, announced on Wednesday that he will run for Congress in the 17th District. [...] McGraw said that he’ll work to end corruption by banning politicians from becoming lobbyists. He said he’ll also ensure that Congress passes a balanced budget before they get paid. McGraw and his wife, Gail, live in Rockford, where they raised their five children: Kathleen, Elizabeth, Victoria, Margaret and Joseph.” [Rock River Current, [10/11/23](#)]

According To Her LinkedIn, Margaret McGraw’s Instagram Was @Margheartist. [Margaret McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [1/18/24](#)]



[Margaret McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Maybe It’s Spiritual Was A Podcast About Paranormal Experiences Where You Could “Tell Your Story Without The Fear Of Being Told You’re Crazy.” “Maybe it’s Spiritual. This podcast is about people: their stories, their experiences and the things they can’t explain. We listen to and explore the paranormal occurrences that happen to people more often than we talk about. This is a place where you can tell your story without the fear of being told you’re crazy.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Spotify, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Maybe It’s Spiritual Posted That @Margheartist Appeared On An Episode To Discuss “Covid Dreams, Angels, Demons, Near Death Experiences Aliens And A Tinfoil Hat Style Theory.” [Maybe Its Spiritual, Instagram, [2/16/21](#)]



[Maybe Its Spiritual, Instagram, [2/16/21](#)]

Margaret McGraw Watched A Video Her Father Borrowed, Which Claimed That Fallen Angels Did Not Die In The Biblical Flood And Instead Became What We Know Today As Aliens

As A Child, Margaret McGraw Watched A Video Her Father Borrowed, Which Claimed The Fallen Angels Did Not Die In The Flood And Instead Became What We Know Today As Aliens. MARGARET MCGRAW: “My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought.” HOST: “I am” McGraw: “So” HOST: “I may or may not entertain it as well.” MCGRAW: “Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can’t be possessed, or I don’t know if you believe that but that’s something I’ve grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn’t watch, there’s a reason I don’t watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don’t really.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw’s Father, Joe McGraw, Lent The Video From A Friend Who “Had A Lot Of Conspiracy Theories” Who She Claimed Used To Be Part Of The CIA. MARGARET MCGRAW: “My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought.” HOST: “I am” McGraw: “So” HOST: “I may or may not entertain it as well.” MCGRAW: “Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can’t be possessed, or I don’t know if you believe that but that’s something I’ve grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn’t watch, there’s a reason I don’t watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don’t really.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Maragaret McGraw Seemed To Imply That Demons Were “Among Us And Around Us.” MARGARET MCGRAW: “My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought.” HOST: “I am” McGraw: “So” HOST: “I may or may not entertain it as well.” MCGRAW: “Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can’t be possessed, or I don’t know if you believe that but that’s something I’ve grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn’t watch, there’s a reason I don’t watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don’t really.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw Said She Had A Supernatural Experience, Which She And Her Family Felt Was Due To Manga Comic Books; Her Father Removed The Books From Their Household

Margaret McGraw Had A Supernatural Experience, Which She And Her Family Felt Was Due To Manga Books. MARGARET MCGRAW: “So I’ll move forward to when I was in Highschool, so I hate to even say what the books were because I really don’t think there are anything inherently wrong with them but, so I don’t know should I?” HOST: “Yeah, go ahead, I mean” MCGRAW: “So back in the day I watched a lot of anime and I read a lot of manga, do you know what those are? Do you know what that is?” HOST: “Yeah, that’s how I learned to draw!” McGraw: “Yeah! So that’s how I learned or literally got into drawing. [...] So someone lent me these books and I literally don’t even remember what the series was called, but I kept them behind my bed.” HOST: “Yeah.” McGraw: “And I had them for a long time before anything weird happened, and one night I fell asleep like normal, it was a school night. And I woke up and my blanket was at my feet, obviously I put a blanket on when I went to bed and it was at my feet. I felt this incredible pressure on my chest like it wasn’t like an anxiety attack, it was something I had never felt before in my life and it was really really scary like I had no idea and I had nightmares before that. [...] MCGRAW: “I told my parents about it, because I was in high school at the time. And I told them like you know, I couldn’t sleep last night, I felt this weird pressure like I don’t know what it is and so the only new item in that room that I slept in was those books. So I’m thinking well, and I think they, we talked about it and came to the same conclusion it’s those books. I tried to fall asleep the following night, couldn’t the pressure was back, everything was off, so then eventually we got rid of those books. I have no idea where they are now, I don’t know if they got thrown away, I don’t know if they got burned but they are not in my house anymore.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 5:45, 6:26, 9:12, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw’s Father, Joe McGraw, Removed The Manga Books From The House. HOST: “Let me ask you, so did you do anything over it? Besides just remove them?” MCGRAW: “I honestly left it up to my dad to remove them, I think I personally put them in a box. And then, cause my dad was aware of this whole situation and um was like, you know, there for me I guess during that time, so I have no idea what he did with them but they are, I’m assuming they aren’t in my house anymore yeah.” HOST “He’s not reading them somewhere.” MCGRAW: “I would hope not.” HOST: “I just wonder if they prayed or blessed it or anything or just kind of, if just removing them fixed it?” MCGRAW: “Removing them fixed it, I mean I would say for the most part.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 12:10, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

McGraw Repeatedly Referenced A Book He Read While Deciding To Run For Congress, The Book Urged Readers To Fight Against Abortion And Same-Sex Marriage And Contained Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

McGraw Repeatedly Said He Read “Letter To The American Church” To Help Him Make His Decision To Run For Congress And Called It “Important”

March 3rd 2024: McGraw Said Part Of His Decision To Run For Congress Was Due To “Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas. MCGRAW: “Part of making my decision, I did a lot of praying and getting counsel, and I read a book called the Letter to the American Church by Eric Metaxas. And some of you folks have probably read that. Yeah. And I love history, I'm a student of history. And the key theme of that book is focusing on the church in Germany in the 1930s, the state church, and how, as Hitler was in his ascendancy, was coming to power, gaining power, gaining more power. And there was no secret who he was. I mean, he'd written this book, Mein Kampf, my struggle, he told everybody what he believed. And so it wasn't like he had to read tea leaves or something. He told them what he was all about. And so the German church, listened, and did nothing. And Hitler became more powerful, and they did nothing. And then the church became co opted by the Nazi Party. And the leadership became co opted. And in the end, the church was completely irrelevant. All right. So, I mean, I played sports growing up. So I mean, some of these analogies really resonate with me. Folks, we're in the fourth quarter here in America. Okay. We're not just in the fourth quarter. The two minute warning has already sounded. And I tell people and I believe this in my heart, that this election, this November, is really about the church. It's really about the church. Are you going to rise up? Speak up and act up? Or are you just going to be silent and become irrelevant? So, I believe in my heart, God is at work all across the country and people I've met.” [Joe McGraw, Kingdom Center, 8:14, 3/3/24] (VIDEO)

February 11th, 2024: McGraw Said Part Of His Decision Making Process In Running For Congress Was To Read “Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas. MCGRAW: “But the reason why I'm here this morning is because I felt God laid on my heart, a special insight for the church. The church is at a tipping point between making all the difference and becoming completely irrelevant. This is the moment. This is that tipping point. And part of the decision, part of my decision making process was I read a book by Eric Metaxas, you may have heard of him. And he wrote a book called Letter to the American church. And in that book, he spoke about all the parallels and similarities between the state church, the Lutheran Church in Nazi Germany, during the 30s, and the rise of Adolf Hitler, in the state church had numerous opportunities to rise up and stand against Adolf Hitler. But they didn't do it. They didn't do it. And so they sowed to the wind, and they reap the whirlwind. And I don't want any of you to stand before the Lord on Judgement Day. Where all our deeds revealed. And say, you know, what, back in 2024, I decided to sit this one out. There's no one that gets to sit this out. You know, we've heard the adage that the pendulum swings this way, and then it swings that way. And what is that's a myth, okay. It's the myth that things will always be as they've always been, that is not so God has written history, we are on his timeline for history.” [Joe McGraw, Rockford Faith Center, 4:58, 2/11/24] (VIDEO)

March 10th, 2024: McGraw Said “Letter To The American Church” Was “Important” To Him, And The Message Of The Book Was That “The Church Always Has An Obligation To Speak Light And Truth To The Culture.” MCGRAW: “I'll leave you with this final reference. When I was talking to Pastor, I found out that we had a book in common that was important to both of us. It was called Letter to the American church, by Eric Metaxas. Some of you read that. Yeah. And the message of that book, succinctly put, is that the church always has an obligation to speak light and truth to the culture. The truth always has a prophetic voice that it must speak to the culture. And in Germany in the 30s, the church abdicated that role during the ascendancy of Adolf Hitler. And the message there was that because they didn't do their God ordained job, at the time that they could have made a difference. That window closed, they lost the opportunity, the church became co opted, and became completely irrelevant to the culture. Don't let that happen to you, don't let that happened to us. This is that inflection point. This is the turning point. And I encourage each of you to come before the Lord and say how do you want me to be involved in these historic times? How do you want me to intercede and act on behalf of candidates who love God and fear God? That's my request, that that same fire that burns in me, that made me decide to run for Congress in the 17th Congressional District in Illinois, that that same vision would burn each one of you.” [Joe McGraw, River City Church, 6:08, 3/10/24] (VIDEO)

“Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas Warned The American Church Was Committing The Same Mistakes Today As The German Church Did In The 1930s By Not Speaking Out Against The Rise Of Nazism

In “Letter To The American Church,” Author Eric Metaxas Warned That The American Church Was Committing The Same Mistakes In The 2020s As The German Church Did In The 1930s When The Institution Did Not Speak Out Against The Rise Of Nazism. “Eric Metaxas has written a provocative book for a large audience. In Letter to the American Church, he assumes a prophetic role—the American church, he warns, is committing the same mistakes in the 2020s as the German church did in the 1930s. If we continue course, similar catastrophic consequences await. By choosing silence, German pastors facilitated the rise of Nazism—and the innocent blood of millions is on their hands. The current complicity of the American church, especially its pastors, leads to similar red-handed guilt (45–46). As a best-selling Christian author and host of a nationally syndicated radio program, Metaxas has cultivated a wide influence and this book will be well received by his many fans.” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

“Letter To The American Church” Urged Christians To Fight Against Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, Transgender Rights, Critical Race Theory And The Black Lives Matter Movement

“Letter To The American Church” Urged Christians To Fight Against Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, Transgender Rights, Critical Race Theory And The Black Lives Matter Movement. “ Eric Metaxas has written a provocative book for a large audience. In Letter to the American Church, he assumes a prophetic role—the American church, he warns, is committing the same mistakes in the 2020s as the German church did in the 1930s. [...] Letter urges Christians to fight against Marxist ideology, abortion, same-sex marriage, transgenderism, critical race theory, Black Lives Matter, and government policies that threaten religious liberty. These are indeed credible threats to the church in America. Metaxas wants to motivate pastors to raise their voices and lead their members to political activism (100).” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

“Letter To The American Church” Warned About The Radical “Pro-Abortion Ideology” And Said That “Abortion Is Morally Wrong” And “Under No Circumstance Must We Equivocate On It”

In “Letter To The American Church,” Metaxas Wrote That “Radical Transgender And Pro-Abortion Ideologies [Were] All Inescapably Anti-God And Anti-Human.” “These ideas seem to have emerged lately, but they have been growing quietly in our midst and we have not taken them seriously enough. Many have been fooled into thinking them essential harmless. We are today like the proverbial frog in the saucepan, simmering along and never realizing that unless we see our situation and leap out now, we are very soon to be booked and beyond all leaping. [...] But what we must dare to see is that these many ideas share a bitter taproot that leads all the way down to Hell. Critical Race Theory – which is atheistic and Marxist – and radical transgender and pro-abortion ideologies are all inescapably anti-God and anti-human. So they are dedicatedly at war with the ideas of family and marriage, and with the idea of American as a force for good – as a force for spreading the Gospel and Gospel values throughout the world.” [Letter To The American Church, Eric Metaxas, 10-11, published [9/20/22](#)]

Metaxas: “Are We Afraid To Say That Abortion Is Morally Wrong, And That Under No Circumstance Must We Equivocate On It?” “We must be honest and admit that much of the time we are not living out our faith but are at least partially enslaved to public opinion over the truth. And this is the main reason we are silent when we should not be silent. Do we fear that someone will think less of us if we say that we believe sex is made by God for men and women in lifelong marriage? Have we perhaps halfway been persuaded that this idea is outdated enough that it’s worth keeping silent about? Are we afraid that someone in a sexual relationship will feel judged by us, and will see us as religious legalists rather than as loving and compassionate followers of Jesus? At what point does our silence encourage someone along in their sin and in their path away from God? Are we afraid to say that abortion is morally wrong, and that under no circumstance must we equivocate on it? Would we have spoken against slavery in 1850? Would we have spoken against the monstrously antisemitic actions of the Nazis in 1933? We do we believe

we would have spoken then if we are silent now?” [Letter To The American Church, Eric Metaxas, 137-128, published [9/20/22](#)]

Several Reviews Warned That “Letter To The American Church” Contained “Reckless And Dangerous” Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals And Criticized It’s Comparison Of The Current Day To Nazi Germany

A Review Of “Letter To The American Church” Warned That The Book Was “Reckless And Dangerous” In Its Implication That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

Gospel Coalition: Metaxas’ “Words [Were] Reckless And Dangerous In Our Polarized Cultural Moment” As He Briefly Debated Biblical Position On When, Where, And How To Deceive And Employ Violence. “Metaxas believes desperate times call for desperate measures. To put candidates in power who will ‘enact policies to help people’ (121), Christ-followers may need to ‘vote for someone whom others may criticize for being guilty of this or that’ (121). He intimates that Christians may even need to ‘tell a lie for the larger good’ (120). Christians can do these things because we serve ‘a God who has a wildness and unpredictability to him’ (123). And like Bonhoeffer in opposition to Hitler, violence may be necessary (78, 109). Metaxas has now ranged into the sophisticated discipline of moral theology and may be in over his head. Christian ethicists have long debated the biblical position on when, where, and how to deceive and employ violence. But his brief and selective tour of the subject provides unwarranted justification for Christians with a shallow understanding of biblical ethics to do sinful things. Metaxas unfortunately practices what he preaches, and his words are reckless and dangerous in our polarized cultural moment. Are we willing to sacrifice the church’s mandate to be a pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15) by trafficking in lies for political gain?” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

Metaxas’ Implication That Violence May Be Necessary Provided “Unwarranted Justification For Christians With A Shallow Understanding Of Biblical Ethics To Do Sinful Things.” “Metaxas believes desperate times call for desperate measures. To put candidates in power who will ‘enact policies to help people’ (121), Christ-followers may need to ‘vote for someone whom others may criticize for being guilty of this or that’ (121). He intimates that Christians may even need to ‘tell a lie for the larger good’ (120). Christians can do these things because we serve ‘a God who has a wildness and unpredictability to him’ (123). And like Bonhoeffer in opposition to Hitler, violence may be necessary (78, 109). Metaxas has now ranged into the sophisticated discipline of moral theology and may be in over his head. Christian ethicists have long debated the biblical position on when, where, and how to deceive and employ violence. But his brief and selective tour of the subject provides unwarranted justification for Christians with a shallow understanding of biblical ethics to do sinful things. Metaxas unfortunately practices what he preaches, and his words are reckless and dangerous in our polarized cultural moment. Are we willing to sacrifice the church’s mandate to be a pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15) by trafficking in lies for political gain?” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

One Review Criticized Metaxas’ Comparison Of American Pastors Who Did Not Sign A Declaration For Christian Unity On Abortion, Marriage, And Religious Liberty, To German Pastors Who Didn’t Sign A Declaration Calling For Resistance Against The Theological Claims Of The Nazi State

The Gospel Coalition Criticized Metaxas’ Comparison Of American Pastors Who Did Not Sign The Manhattan Declaration To German Pastors Who Didn’t Sign The Barmen Declaration. “Of all the logical fallacies in Letter, the reductio ad Hitlerum fallacy is most prominent and is always in the background. By comparing American pastors who didn’t sign the Manhattan Declaration to German pastors who didn’t sign the Barmen Declaration (40), Metaxas has played the Nazi card. Those German pastors enabled Hitler; therefore, these American pastors would have enabled Hitler. The insinuation is clear. If, as a matter of conscience, pastors choose doctrinal integrity over political solidarity? Well, you know, Hitler. If pastors don’t publicly endorse candidates on the right? Well, Hitler. If pastors acknowledge nuance in political arguments? Hitler. This kind of lazy thinking and careless accusation (which may typify some conservative talk-show hosts) falls far short of the biblical standard for godly speech.” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

- **The Manhattan Declaration Was A Call For Christian Unity On The Issues Of Abortion, Marriage Between A Man And A Woman And Religious Liberty.** “Late last week, representatives from leading evangelical political advocacy groups unveiled ‘The Manhattan Declaration,’ a call for Christian unity on issues of life, marriage, and religious liberty. The coalition of advocacy groups and ministries cut across Christian traditions but did not include many leaders from what some consider the Christian Right’s old guard. Chuck Colson, who led the declaration’s creation, called it ‘a wake-up call—a call to conscience—for the church’ and a ‘crystal-clear message to civil authorities that we will not, under any circumstances, stand idly by as our religious freedom comes under assault.’ The declaration, which now has over 20,000 signatures, begins with a reminder of the church’s non-cooperation with injustice, tyranny, and oppression. It then states that today, this non-cooperation must include the protection of life, marriage, and religious liberty.” [Christianity Today, [11/24/09](#)]
- **The Barmen Declaration Was A Call To Resistance Against The Theological Claims Of The Nazi State.** “The Barmen Declaration, 1934, was a call to resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state. Almost immediately after Hitler’s seizure of power in 1933, Protestant Christians faced pressure to ‘aryanize’ the Church, expel Jewish Christians from the ordained ministry and adopt the Nazi ‘Führer Principle’ as the organizing principle of church government. In general, the churches succumbed to these pressures, and some Christians embraced them willingly. The pro-Nazi ‘German Christian’ movement became a force in the church. They glorified Adolf Hitler as a ‘German prophet’ and preached that racial consciousness was a source of revelation alongside the Bible. But many Christians in Germany—including Lutheran and Reformed, liberal and neo-orthodox—opposed the encroachment of Nazi ideology on the Church’s proclamation. At Barmen, this emerging ‘Confessing Church’ adopted a declaration drafted by Reformed theologian Karl Barth and Lutheran theologian Hans Asmussen, which expressly repudiated the claim that other powers apart from Christ could be sources of God’s revelation. Not all Christians courageously resisted the regime, but many who did—like the Protestant pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Roman Catholic priest Bernhard Lichtenberg—were arrested and executed in concentration camps.” [United Church of Christ, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

The Gospel Coalition Criticized Metaxas’ Comparison Of Current Day And Nazi Germany And Said It Fell “Far Short Of The Biblical Standard For Godly Speech.” “Of all the logical fallacies in Letter, the reductio ad Hitlerum fallacy is most prominent and is always in the background. By comparing American pastors who didn’t sign the Manhattan Declaration to German pastors who didn’t sign the Barmen Declaration (40), Metaxas has played the Nazi card. Those German pastors enabled Hitler; therefore, these American pastors would have enabled Hitler. The insinuation is clear. If, as a matter of conscience, pastors choose doctrinal integrity over political solidarity? Well, you know, Hitler. If pastors don’t publicly endorse candidates on the right? Well, Hitler. If pastors acknowledge nuance in political arguments? Hitler. This kind of lazy thinking and careless accusation (which may typify some conservative talk-show hosts) falls far short of the biblical standard for godly speech.” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

Eric Metaxas, The Author Of “Letter To The American Church,” Made False Election Claims And Told Trump He Would “Be Happy To Die In This Fight” During A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Result, And Once Punched A Protestor

Eric Metaxas, The Author Of “Letter To The American Church,” Was A Christian Writer And Radio Host

Eric Metaxas Was The Author Of “Letter To The American Church.” “LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH ‘Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. God will not hold us guiltless.’ [...] Can it really be God’s will that His children be silent at a time like this? Decrying the cowardice that masquerades as godly meekness, Eric Metaxas summons the Church to battle. The author of a bestselling biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Metaxas reveals the haunting similarities between today’s American Church and the German Church of the 1930s. Echoing the German martyr’s prophetic call, he exhorts his fellow Christians to repent of their silence in the face of evil.” [Eric Metaxas, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Metaxas Was A Christian Writer And Radio Host. “The PR pitch was brazen: Eric Metaxas, it declared, is ‘America’s #1 Bad Christian.’ The Christian writer and radio host has been promoting doubts about the legitimacy of the 2020 election, including at a prayer rally he emceed on the National Mall in December. Metaxas has tweeted ‘martial rhetoric’ in defense of former President Donald Trump, his publicist wrote cheerfully. He even appeared in a New York Times article about Christian extremism. Oh, and by the way, he has a new book out.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

Metaxas Repeatedly Made False Claims About the 2020 Election And Told Trump He Would “Be Happy To Die In This Fight,” In A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Results

Metaxas Repeatedly Claimed The Election Results Were Fraudulent And Told Trump He Would “Be Happy To Die In This Fight,” In A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Results. “In Kalamazoo, Mich., Laura Kloosterman, 34, attended Mass on Wednesday and prayed that Congress would decline to certify Mr. Biden’s victory. She had read claims online about flawed voting machines undercounting votes for Mr. Trump — there is no evidence for these claims, which Mr. Trump and right-wing voices online have promoted. Ms. Kloosterman follows the evangelical writer and radio host Eric Metaxas, who has repeatedly claimed the election results were fraudulent. Mr. Metaxas, who punched a protester outside the White House last summer, told Mr. Trump in an interview in late November that he would ‘be happy to die in this fight,’ in a conversation about attempts to overturn the election results. ‘God is with us,’ he added. Other supporters of the president have spent months sowing doubts among Christians about fraud. These false beliefs have forged even stronger connections between white evangelicals and other conservative figures.” [New York Times, [1/19/21](#)]

When Asked If He Believed Joe Biden Was The Legitimately Elected President, Metaxas Responded “No. He Is The President. But There Will Always Be An Asterisk Next To Him For Me Until-If-Things Are Clarified.” “Green: Do you believe that Joe Biden is the legitimately elected president of the United States? Metaxas: No. He is the president. But there will always be an asterisk next to him for me until-if-things are clarified.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

After The Republican Convention, Metaxas Punched A Protestor

Metaxas Punched An Activist Who Traveled To DC To Protest The Republican Convention. “A Portland activist who had traveled to Washington, D.C., to protest the Republican convention says he was punched in the head by one of President Donald Trump’s most ardent evangelical Christian allies. Video of the attack appears to support his claim. On Thursday, pro-Trump writer and talk radio host Eric Metaxas was among the roughly 1,500 attendees at Trump’s Republican National Convention speech on the White House lawn. Afterwards, Metaxas left the White House grounds with a crowd of people, entering streets where protesters had been staging demonstrations throughout the night. Footage of that moment shows anti-Trump protester Anthony Harrington biking past a group of Trump supporters, yelling ‘Fuck Trump, fuck you!’ As Harrington passed by, a man Harrington identified to The Daily Beast as Metaxas punched him in the side or back of the head.” [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

- **Footage Showed A Protestor Biking Past A Group Of Trump Supporters And Yelling “Fuck Trump, Fuck You,” As He Passed By Metaxas Punched The Protestor In The Side Or Back Of The Head.** “A Portland activist who had traveled to Washington, D.C., to protest the Republican convention says he was punched in the head by one of President Donald Trump’s most ardent evangelical Christian allies. Video of the attack appears to support his claim. On Thursday, pro-Trump writer and talk radio host Eric Metaxas was among the roughly 1,500 attendees at Trump’s Republican National Convention speech on the White House lawn. Afterwards, Metaxas left the White House grounds with a crowd of people, entering streets where protesters had been staging demonstrations throughout the night. Footage of that moment shows anti-Trump protester Anthony Harrington biking past a group of Trump supporters, yelling ‘Fuck Trump, fuck you!’ As Harrington passed by, a man Harrington identified to The Daily Beast as Metaxas punched him in the side or back of the head.” [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

August 2020: Metaxas Confirmed That He Punched The Protester. “Eric Metaxas told a Christian magazine that a protester on a bike harassed him after he left the White House last week. He would not say whether or not he hit the protester though, despite a recent viral video in which a man resembling Metaxas punched a cycling demonstrator. Instead, the radio host cast blame on the protester when asked about the incident. [...] Days later, the conservative Christian author and radio host reportedly confirmed the punch in an email to Religion Unplugged, saying, ‘It just happened.’ But a man who identified himself as the demonstrator in question — and who runs the Instagram account that posted the viral video of the encounter — disputed Metaxas’ description of events. ‘He attacked me,’ the man, who declined to disclose his name, told Religion News Service. ‘I wasn’t threatening or intimidating. I was on a rented bicycle! He clearly punched me from behind.’ Last week, a video began circulating on social media showing a man who closely resembles Metaxas striking a protester and running away backward. The video, posted to Instagram early Friday morning (Aug. 28), shows a demonstrator wearing a ‘Portland’ shirt riding a bike through a group of individuals dressed in formal attire. The group appears to be leaving President Donald Trump’s final address to the Republican National Convention, which was late Thursday night. In the video, the demonstrator shouts several profanities, including one mentioning Trump, while riding through the group — but does not appear to physically engage with anyone. Then a man who resembles Metaxas punches the demonstrator, who stumbles off his bike. The man is wearing the same outfit Metaxas was seen wearing in pictures and in video that Metaxas posted to his own Instagram account earlier in the day. Standing next to the man is a woman wearing a dress that matches one worn by his wife, Susanne, in those same Instagram pictures. In the video, a woman can be heard shouting, ‘Eric!’ as the demonstrator pulls himself off the ground while yelling at his assailant. In response, the man who resembles Metaxas swiftly backpedals. The demonstrator follows, saying, ‘You just attacked me, bro.’” [Religion News Service, [9/1/20](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Eric Metaxas Confirms He Punched Protester, Says Protester Was To Blame.”** [Religion News Service, [9/1/20](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Trump Ally Allegedly Punched Protester After White House Speech.”** [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

Metaxas Repeatedly Made Inappropriate And Borderline Offensive Comparison To Nazi Germany

Metaxas Seemed To Compare The Department Of Homeland Security’s Warnings About The Potential For Domestic Terrorism After The January 6th Insurrection To The Reichstag Fire. “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was arrested and later hanged for his dissent against the Nazi regime. Metaxas has spent his career writing books about these figures and has a tendency to describe current events in dramatic historical terms. ‘If this isn’t our ~Reichstag Fire’ I don’t know what is,’ he tweeted on January 27, commenting on the Department of Homeland Security’s warnings about the potential for domestic terrorism following the Capitol attack. In 1933, Hitler’s government used a fire at the Reichstag, which housed the German Parliament, as a pretext to consolidate power and suppress dissent. Metaxas’s tweet suggested that he thought the Biden administration was using the Capitol attack to do the same.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

- **In 1933, Hitler’s Government Used A Fire At The Reichstag, Which Housed The German Parliament, As A Pretext To Consolidate Power And Suppress Dissent.** “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was arrested and later hanged for his dissent against the Nazi regime. Metaxas has spent his career writing books about these figures and has a tendency to describe current events in dramatic historical terms. ‘If this isn’t our ~Reichstag Fire’ I don’t know what is,’ he tweeted on January 27, commenting on the Department of Homeland Security’s warnings about the potential for domestic terrorism following the Capitol attack. In 1933, Hitler’s government used a fire at the Reichstag, which housed the German Parliament, as a pretext to consolidate power and suppress dissent. Metaxas’s tweet suggested that he thought the Biden administration was using the Capitol attack to do the same.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

- **Atlantic: “Metaxas's Tweet Suggested That He Thought The Biden Administration Was Using The Capitol Attack To Do The Same.”** “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was arrested and later hanged for his dissent against the Nazi regime. Metaxas has spent his career writing books about these figures and has a tendency to describe current events in dramatic historical terms. ‘If this isn't our ~Reichstag Fire' I don't know what is,’ he tweeted on January 27, commenting on the Department of Homeland Security's warnings about the potential for domestic terrorism following the Capitol attack. In 1933, Hitler's government used a fire at the Reichstag, which housed the German Parliament, as a pretext to consolidate power and suppress dissent. Metaxas's tweet suggested that he thought the Biden administration was using the Capitol attack to do the same.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

Media Matters: Metaxas Repeatedly Made Offensive Comparisons To Nazis In His Rhetoric, Including Comparing Supporting Pride Month To Expressing Patriotism In Nazi Germany. “Metaxas chastised listeners for not being sufficiently radical in their opposition to Pride month before jumping into a Nazi Germany comparison. He stated, ‘You need to wake up or you're complicit,’ and, ‘If the Germans had woken up five minutes earlier to the wickedness of the Nazis and stood against it, it would have prevented the satanic nightmare of the death camps. But they said, not yet. We're not radical. Not yet. We don't — we don't want to — we don't want to go up against it.’ Metaxas compared employees at Bud Light to Nazis. He stated, ‘Corporations that have no values and they're like, ‘Oh, what do we need to do? Put a transgendered dude on to become the face of Bud Light? OK, we'll do that. Do I have to say heil Hitler? Sing the Horst-Wessel-Lied? What do I need to do? How pro-Nazi do I need to be? How many Jews do I need to kill or look the other way?’ They have no values.’ Metaxas compared supporting Pride month to expressing patriotism in Nazi Germany. He complained, ‘The pressure to go along with this is just absolutely horrific. And it is something that you're — it's like you're being accused of not being patriotic or something, but it's like not being accused of a patriotic German under Hitler.’” [Media Matters, [7/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Soft On Crime And Allowed Jail Overcrowding Under His Jurisdiction

Significant Findings

McGraw Was Soft On Crime And Gave Lenient Sentences To Dangerous Criminals, Many Of Whom Went On To Reoffend

- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of being an armed habitual criminal to 12 years in prison, less than half the maximum sentence; shortly after being released he was back in court on charges of armed robbery and domestic battery.
- ✓ February 2013: Bryant Johnson was arrested for possession of a firearm after a traffic stop; McGraw found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal and sentenced him to 12 years in prison, less than half the maximum sentence. The sentencing range for the charge was 6 to 30 years in prison.
- ✓ April 2022: Bryant Johnson was released from Sheridan Correctional Center.
- ✓ March 2023: Bryant Johnson was back in court charged with domestic battery/bodily harm, the case was dismissed before a jury trial took place.
- ✓ December 2023: Bryant Johnson was charged with armed robbery, aggravated robbery armed with a firearm, aggravated robbery with a firearm, and theft threat with intent of less than 100k-500k.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man to only 30 months of probation after he abandoned someone to drown despite the States Attorney's request for jail time; after being released from probation he was the defendant in eight criminal cases.
 - ✓ Kristopher Zaugg pushed Casey Sheets off a boat and left him to drown even after being informed Casey Sheets could not swim. Casey Sheets was later found deceased, and his cause of death was ruled a drowning.
 - ✓ Kristopher Zaugg was indicted on first degree murder and aggravated battery charges for the drowning death of Casey Sheets, but ultimately pled guilty to the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter as a class 3 felony.
 - ✓ Under Illinois Law, class 3 felony charges of involuntary manslaughter carried a sentence of no less than 2 years and no more than five years in prison, but Judges had the discretion to sentence probation if they saw necessary.
 - ✓ McGraw utilized his judicial discretion and sentenced Kristopher Zaugg to 30 months' probation, a \$10,000 fine, and credited him with nine months served in jail, despite the States Attorney's request for a sentence with jail time.
 - ✓ Winnebago County State's Attorney requested a Department of Corrections sentence and believed that "based on the facts and circumstances of the case" a jail sentence was "appropriate."
- ✓ 2018: After Kristopher Zaugg was released from probation, he was found guilty of driving under the influence of drugs and possession of meth.

- ✓ 2021-2022: Kristopher Zaugg was the defendant in six criminal cases and was charged with reckless conduct/bodily harm, manufacturing or delivery of oxycodone, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug possession, violation of bail, and theft among other charges.
- ✓ McGraw rejected Prosecutors' requests to hold a murder suspect in custody as he was called a "high risk for flight" and after the defendant was released he was found guilty of ten counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm.
- ✓ November 2012: Without holding a hearing, McGraw rejected prosecutors' requests to hold Antwan Maxey, a murder suspect, in custody after he was called a "high risk for flight."
- ✓ March 2017: Antwan Maxey was found guilty of ten counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm.

McGraw Sentenced Defendants Convicted Of Murder And Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence Dictated By Illinois State Statutes

- ✓ Mandatory Minimums were the shortest prison term Illinois Law recommended a Judge sentence for a given crime.
- ✓ Illinois Law allowed judges discretion to sentence below the state's mandatory minimum term of imprisonment or sentence probation or conditional discharge for certain felonies if the judge deemed it appropriate.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced two men convicted of murder as a class M felony to below the minimum recommended prison sentence even though both men were on parole at the time of the brutal attempted murder.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced Victor Petty and Jerome Pruitt to 15 years in prison, five years below the 20-year minimum recommended sentence for murder as a class M felony. In Illinois, murder as a Class M Felony had a minimum recommended sentence of 20 years and a max of life in prison.
- ✓ Victor Petty and Jerome Pruitt made at least three attempts to slice a veteran shop owner's throat and stabbed the shop owner multiple times in the back and chest.
- ✓ Both Jerome Pruitt and Victor Petty were on parole at the time of the attempted murder, Pruitt had a lengthy criminal history and had repeatedly violated the terms of his parole.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault to less than the minimum prison recommended sentence.
- ✓ The Illinois Second District Appellate Court acknowledged that the 15-year sentence handed down by McGraw was one year less than the minimum recommended 16-year sentence for aggravated criminal sexual assault.

McGraw Lowered Bail For A Man Arrested On Murder Charges And Gave Lenient Sentences To Defendants Convicted Of Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Child Endangerment, And Murder, Putting Illinoisians At Risk

- ✓ McGraw sentenced a woman found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment to only four years' probation, despite the prosecutor recommendation of a 22-year prison sentence.

- ✓ McGraw found Illinois woman Kayla Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment after she allowed her infant to starve to death.
 - ✓ Prosecutors argued Kayla Lund’s actions were “cruel and heinous behavior.” Although she never brought her infant to a doctor, Lund went to her own doctors’ appointments in the weeks before he died.
 - ✓ Rockford Register Star: “Horrific autopsy and crime scene photos” presented during the bench trial showed her infant “died skeletal and emaciated.”
- ✓ McGraw sentenced Kayla Lund to four years’ probation, despite the Prosecutor’s request for a 22-year sentence, which McGraw said was ‘unnecessary.’
 - ✓ Kayla Lund faced up to 14 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter and up to 10 years in prison for endangering the life of a child causing death.
- ✓ Another one of Kayla Lund’s children died previously and Lund was found to be medically neglectful, though she was not charged with a crime at the time.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of sexual abuse to only 90 days of periodic imprisonment – where he could be released at particular times – despite the crime being punishable by up to three years in prison.
 - ✓ 2020: A Rockford man, Michael Lambert, was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse committed in 2018.
 - ✓ McGraw sentenced Michael Lambert to 90 days of periodic imprisonment, despite criminal sexual abuse being punishable by up to three years in prison. Periodic imprisonment allowed a defendant to be released for periods of time, during which they could work, seek employment, or engage in other designated activities.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man twice convicted of murder to 10 years less than his previous sentence for his first conviction; the mother of the victim’s daughter said McGraw’s sentence was too light and said, “it’s going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter.”
- ✓ McGraw said one of his focuses as Chief Judge was to ‘reduce the jail population.’

While McGraw Was A Judge, Winnebago County Courts Consistently Struggled With “Pervasive” Delays And A Large Case Backlog, Allowing A Suspected Murderer To Go Free And Forcing A Family To Wait Over Six Years For Justice In A Murder Case

- ✓ While McGraw was Chief Judge and Presiding Criminal Judge, Winnebago County Courts faced “pervasive” delays.
- ✓ 2012-2017: McGraw served as Chief Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court, a role responsible for the overall administrative responsibilities of the court.
- ✓ Before taking on the role of Chief Justice, McGraw said he would address the case backlog in the Circuit Court and decrease the jail population.

- ✓ In one 2012 case, a suspected murderer was allowed to go free because his speedy trial rights were violated.
- ✓ In 2012 under McGraw's jurisdiction in Winnebago County, 58% of people in jail on felony charges were there longer than the speedy-trial requirement of trial within 120 days, which was grounds for accused to be released.
- ✓ A 2015 murder case took over six years to get justice, with the murderer having the longest time awaiting trial of any inmate in Winnebago County jail.

McGraw Consistently Omitted From His Biography His Time As An Assistant State's Attorney, Where He Defended An Anti-Union Employer And A High School Where A Teacher Had Engaged In Sexual Abuse Of A Student

- ✓ McGraw's various biographies said he graduated law school in 1985 and became a circuit judge in 2002, but did not account for the 17-year time period in between.
- ✓ Between 1990 and 2001, McGraw was an Assistant State's Attorney in Winnebago County, Illinois.
- ✓ 1990: McGraw represented the DeKalb County State's Attorney who allegedly fired an employee for unionizing, demonstrating a "blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist."

McGraw Was Soft On Crime And Gave Lenient Sentences To Dangerous Criminals, Many Of Whom Went On To Reoffend

McGraw Sentenced A Man Found Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal To 12 Years In Prison, Less Than Half The Maximum Sentence; Shortly After Being Released He Was Back In Court On Charges Of Armed Robbery And Domestic Battery

Bryant Johnson Was Arrested For Possession Of A Firearm And McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal And Sentenced Him To 12 Years In Prison, Less Than Half The Maximum Sentence

Bryant Johnson Was Arrested After He Was Found With A Handgun During A Traffic Stop And Due To Johnson's Previous Criminal Convictions McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal

February 2013: Bryant J. Johnson Was In Court After He Was Found With A Handgun During A Traffic Stop, McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal. "A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date." [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

Bryant Johnson Had Previously Been Convicted Of Residential Burglary And Drug Charges In 2006 And 2007. "A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago

County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Bryant Johnson To 12 Years In Prison For One Count Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal; The Minimum Sentence Johnson Faced Was 6 Years In Prison And The Maximum Was 30 Years In Prison

July 2013: McGraw Sentenced Bryant Johnson To 12 Years In The Department Of Corrections For 1 Count Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Register of Actions, sentenced [7/26/13](#)]



[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Register of Actions, sentenced [7/26/13](#)]

- **The Minimum Sentence Bryant Johnson Faced Was 6 Years And The Maximum Sentence Was 30 Years For His Conviction On Charges Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal.** “A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

NOTE: *Illinois' Second District Appellate Court affirmed the circuit court's decision and found the defendant was proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of possessing the handgun.*

April 2022: Bryant Johnson Was Released From Sheridan Correctional Center

April 2022: Bryant J. Johnson Was Released From Sheridan Correctional Center For The Offense Of “Armed Habitual Criminal.” “There are 51 inmates sentenced to jail in Winnebago County set to be released from the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections during the second quarter of 2022. The inmate being released who served the longest time was Stephen K. Martinez for armed robbery. Stephen K. Martinez spent more than 12 years incarcerated. According to The Institute for Illinois’ Fiscal Sustainability, Illinois spends about \$37,000 a year per incarcerated person. In a study by Prison Policy Initiative, Illinois’ incarceration rate was at 564 per 100,000, higher than every industrialized country, except the United States. When compared with its surrounding states, Illinois was the lowest. Kentucky and Missouri have rates over 850 per 100,000. [...] Inmates being released who were sentenced in Winnebago County [...] Bryant J. Johnson ARMED HABITUAL CRIMINAL 2022-04-17 Sheridan Correctional Center” [Rockford Sun, [2/20/22](#)]

2023: Bryant Johnson Was Back In Court On Charges Of Armed Robbery And Domestic Battery

March 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Back In Court Charged With Domestic Battery/Bodily Harm, The Case Was Dismissed Before A Jury Trial Took Place

March 2023: Bryant James Johnson Was Charged With One Count Of Domestic Battery/Bodily Harm, The Case Was Dismissed On June 7th, 2023. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Charge Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]



SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLEA	DEPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	DOMESTIC BATTERY/BODILY HARM	1	Dismissed	No Plea Entered on 06/07/2023	Dismissed/Not Entered on 06/07/2023	Complaint Filed on 04/10/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Charge Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]

June 2023: People v. Johnson Was Scheduled For A Jury Trial On June 13th, 2023, But The Case Was Dismissed On June 7th, 2023. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Hearing Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]



HEARING TYPE	JUDGE	COURTROOM	START DATE	RESULT
Pretrial Conference	Taranda H Walker	210	04/20/2023 - 09:00 AM	Continued with Defendant Not Present
Pretrial Conference	Taranda H Walker	210	05/03/2023 - 09:30 AM	Continued by Defendant
Pretrial Conference	Taranda H Walker	210	06/06/2023 - 09:00 AM	Cancelled
Pretrial Conference	Jennifer S Howard	11	06/20/2023 - 10:00 AM	Cancelled
Final Pretrial	Taranda H Walker	210	06/30/2023 - 10:00 AM	Case Not Settled as Previously Set
Settlement	Taranda H Walker	210	06/07/2023 - 09:30 AM	Case Dismissed
Case Trial	Taranda H Walker	210	06/13/2023 - 09:00 AM	Cancelled

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Hearing Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]

December 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Charged With Armed Robbery, Aggravated Robbery Armed With A Firearm, Aggravated Robbery With A Firearm, And Theft Threat With Intent Of Less Than 100k-500K

December 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Charged With 1 Count Armed Robbery, 5 Counts Of Aggravated Robbery With A Firearm, And 4 Counts Of Theft Threat With Intent Of Less Than 100K-500K. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Charge Summary, pending [12/5/23](#)]



SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLEA	DEPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	ARMED ROBBERY	1	Pending	No Plea Entered on 12/05/2023	Dismissed/Not Entered on 12/05/2023	Complaint Filed on 12/05/2023	
2	AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	5	Pending			98 of Indictment Filed on 12/05/2023	
3	AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	5	Pending			98 of Indictment Filed on 12/05/2023	
4	AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	5	Pending			98 of Indictment Filed on 12/05/2023	
5	AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	5	Pending			98 of Indictment Filed on 12/05/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Charge Summary, pending [12/5/23](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Bryant Johnson’s Case Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

NOTE: As of June 2024, The Illinois Department of Corrections listed [Bryant J. Johnson](#) as on Parole in Parole District 2.

McGraw Sentenced A Man To Only 30 Months Of Probation After He Abandoned Someone To Drown Despite The States Attorney's Request For Jail Time; After Being Released From Probation He Was The Defendant In Eight Criminal Cases

Kristopher Zaugg Pushed Casey Sheets Off A Boat And Left Him To Drown Even After Being Informed Sheets Could Not Swim, Sheets Was Later Found Dead And His Cause Of Death Was Ruled A Drowning

Kristopher Zaugg Confronted Casey Sheets While Boating On The Rock River, Kristopher Zaugg Pushed Casey Sheets Off The Boat And Left The Scene Despite Being Immediately Informed That Casey Sheets Could Not Swim. “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

- **Casey Sheets Was Later Found In The River, His Cause Of Death Was Ruled A Drowning.** “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

June 2011: Kristopher Zaugg Was Indicted On First Degree Murder And Aggravated Battery Charges For The Drowning Death Of Sheets

June 2011: A Grand Jury Indicted Kristopher Zaugg With First Degree Murder And Aggravated Battery For The Drowning Death Of Casey Sheets. “A Winnebago County grand jury has returned an indictment charging Kristopher Alan Zaugg, 27, of Rockford with first degree murder and aggravated battery stemming from an alleged confrontation on the Rock River June 4. The grand jury has charged Zaugg in the death of 20-year-old Casey Chandler Sheets, who went over the side of a pontoon boat. His body was recovered June 11 in Ogle County. Zaugg originally was charged with reckless conduct. The Winnebago County state’s attorney’s office presented the case to the grand jury Wednesday. Zaugg is in the Winnebago County Jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/16/11](#)]

When Kristopher Zaugg Pleaded Guilty To A Lesser Charge Of Involuntary Manslaughter, McGraw Utilized His Judicial Discretion And Sentenced Kristopher Zaugg To 30 Months’ Probation Despite The States Attorney’s Request For Jail Time

Kristopher Zaugg Pleaded Guilty To The Lesser Charge Of Involuntary Manslaughter And McGraw Sentenced Him To 30 Months Of Probation, A \$10,000 Fine, And Credited Him With Nine Months Served In Jail

March 2012: Kristopher Zaugg Pleaded Guilty To Involuntary Manslaughter And McGraw Sentenced Him To 30 Months Of Probation, A \$10,000 Fine, And Credited Him With Nine Months Served In Jail. “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

- **Kristopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter As A Class 3 Felony.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2011-CF-0001510, Charge Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]



[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2011-CF-0001510, Charge Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

NOTE: 30 months’ probation was the maximum term of probation McGraw could sentence for a class 3 felony.

Winnebago County State’s Attorney Requested A Department Of Corrections Sentence And Believed That “Based On The Facts And Circumstances Of The Case” A Jail Sentence Was “Appropriate”

Winnebago County State’s Attorney Requested A Department Of Corrections Sentence And Believed That “Based On The Facts And Circumstances Of The Case” A Jail Sentence Was “Appropriate.” “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

Kristopher Zaugg Could Have Been Sentenced To A Minimum Of Two Years And A Max Of Five Years In Prison For A Class 3 Felony, But Judges Had Discretion To Sentence Probation For Class 3 Felonies

In Illinois, Class 3 Felonies Carried A Prison Sentence Of No Less Than Two Years And No More Than Five Years, A Prison Sentence Could Be Substituted For Probation For A Period No Longer Than 30 Months

In Illinois, Class 3 Felonies Carried A Sentence Of No Less Than Two Years And No More Than Five Years In Prison. “(730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-40) Sec. 5-4.5-40. CLASS 3 FELONIES; SENTENCE. For a Class 3 felony: (a) TERM. The sentence of imprisonment shall be a determinate sentence of not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years. The sentence of imprisonment for an extended term Class 3 felony, as provided in Section 5-8-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-2), shall be a term not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years. (b) PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT. A sentence of periodic imprisonment shall be for a definite term of up to 18 months, except as otherwise provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-7-1 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-7-1). (c) IMPACT INCARCERATION. See Sections 5-8-1.1 and 5-8-1.2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 and 5/5-8-1.2) concerning eligibility for the impact incarceration program or the county impact incarceration program. (d) PROBATION; CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE. Except as provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-6-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-6-2), the period of probation or conditional discharge shall not exceed 30 months. The court shall specify the conditions of probation or conditional discharge as set forth in Section 5-6-3 (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3).” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- **Class 3 Felonies Were Probationable Offenses, Meaning A Prison Term Could Be Substituted For A Period Of Probation Or Conditional Discharge Not To Exceed 30 Months.** “(730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-40) Sec. 5-4.5-40. CLASS 3 FELONIES; SENTENCE. For a Class 3 felony: (a) TERM. The sentence of imprisonment shall be a determinate sentence of not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years. The sentence of imprisonment for an extended term Class 3 felony, as provided in Section 5-8-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-2), shall be a term not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years. (b) PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT. A sentence of periodic imprisonment shall be for a definite term of up to 18 months, except as otherwise provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-7-1 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-7-1). (c) IMPACT INCARCERATION. See Sections 5-8-1.1 and 5-8-1.2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 and 5/5-8-1.2) concerning eligibility for the impact incarceration program or the county impact incarceration program. (d) PROBATION; CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE. Except as provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-6-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-6-2), the period of probation or conditional discharge shall not exceed 30 months. The court shall specify the conditions of probation or conditional discharge as set forth in Section 5-6-3 (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3).” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Sentence Probation For Class 3 Felonies

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Choose Alternatives To Prison Sentencing Including A Sentence Of Probation For Some Felonies. “Illinois law allows a sentence of probation (with no time in prison) for most, but not all, felonies in Illinois. First degree murder and Class X felonies (e.g., aggravated assault with a firearm or drug possession involving large quantities of heroin or similarly dangerous drugs) are not eligible for probation; a term of imprisonment is required by state law. Illinois statutes spell out minimum and maximum prison terms and fines for each felony, but the state also encourages judges to choose alternatives to costly imprisonment, such as probation. The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has recommended against the incarceration of people convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony, particularly when the person has no prior convictions for a violent crime and has not previously been sentenced to probation. Probation requires the convicted individual to check in regularly with a probation officer and to comply with all conditions set by the court, which can be extensive. Violation of probation terms will result in sanctions, including the possibility of being sent to prison. The length of a probation sentence varies depending on the severity of the crime.” [Law Office of Jack L Zaremba, [2/19/18](#)]

2018: After Kristopher Zaugg Was Released From Probation, He Was Found Guilty Of Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs And Possession Of Meth

July 2018: Kristopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-DT-0000727, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLAID	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	00017-00001	1	ADULT UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUG	Guilty on 07/08/2018	Retreat/Judgment/Supervision on 07/08/2018	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-DT-0000727, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

July 2018: Krisopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Possession Of Meth Less Than 5 Grams. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-CF-0001557, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLAID	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	00017-00001	1	ADULT UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUG	Guilty on 07/08/2018	Retreat/Judgment/Supervision on 07/08/2018	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
2	00017-00001	1	POSSESSION OF METH LESS THAN 5 GRAMS	No Plea Entered on 07/10/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/10/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
3	00017-00001	1	POSSESSION OF METH LESS THAN 5 GRAMS	No Plea Entered on 07/10/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/10/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
4	00017-00001	1	POSSESSION OF METH LESS THAN 5 GRAMS	No Plea Entered on 07/10/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/10/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
5	00017-00001	1	POSSESSION OF METH LESS THAN 5 GRAMS	No Plea Entered on 07/10/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/10/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
6	00017-00001	1	POSSESSION OF METH LESS THAN 5 GRAMS	No Plea Entered on 07/10/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/10/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-CF-0001557, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

2021-2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was The Defendant In Six Criminal Cases And Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Manufacturing/Delivery Of Oxycodone, And Other Charges

January 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct For An Incident In December 2021

January 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLAID	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	00021-00001	1	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY \$500-\$10K	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
2	00021-00001	1	VIOLATION OF BAIL BOND CONDITIONS	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
3	00021-00001	1	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
4	00021-00001	1	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY \$500-\$10K	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
5	00021-00001	1	VIOLATION OF BAIL BOND CONDITIONS	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
6	00021-00001	1	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **The Violation Date Was Listed As December 19th, 2021 For Kristopher Zaugg’s Charges Of Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLAID	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	00021-00001	1	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY \$500-\$10K	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
2	00021-00001	1	VIOLATION OF BAIL BOND CONDITIONS	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
3	00021-00001	1	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
4	00021-00001	1	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY \$500-\$10K	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
5	00021-00001	1	VIOLATION OF BAIL BOND CONDITIONS	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	
6	00021-00001	1	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	Dismissed	Pending	Complaint filed on 12/19/2021	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2021-CF-0002477 Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

February 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Faced Two Criminal Misdemeanor Cases For Violating The Conditions Of His Bond On February 24th, 2022 And February 17th, 2022

February 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was The Defendant In Two Criminal Misdemeanor Cases For Violation Of Bond Conditions On February 24th, 2022 and February 17th, 2022. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case By Party Search: Kristopher Alan Zaugg Case, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

2021-CF-0002477 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg	Defendant	Pending	Officer, Javiera	02/25/2022
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-02-17 00:00:00
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-02-17 00:00:00
2022-CM-0000278 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Zaugg	Defendant	Pending	Assigned	02/25/2022
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-02-24 00:00:00
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-02-24 00:00:00

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case By Party Search: Kristopher Alan Zaugg Case, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CM-0000278 Regarding Violations Of Bond Conditions Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CM-0000278, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]
- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CM-0000279 Regarding Violations Of Bond Conditions Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CM-0000279, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

June 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Arrested For Violating Bond Conditions, Possession Of Meth, Heroine, And Drug Paraphernalia

June 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Arrested For Violating Bond Conditions, Possession Of Methamphetamine, Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Heroin) And Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia. “On June 10 at approximately 8:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Big Mound Road and Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Kristopher Zaugg, 38, of Rockford under arrest for a McHenry County warrant for violation of bond conditions, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance (heroin) and possession of drug paraphernalia. Zaugg was additionally issued citations for no front registration, loud exhaust and operating an uninsured vehicle. Zaugg was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. All individuals are presumed innocent.” [Rochelle News-Leader, [6/14/22](#)]

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Violation of Bond Conditions, Obstruction Of Justice/Destroying Evidence, Manufacturing Or Delivery Of Oxycodone And Drug Possession

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Violation of Bond Conditions, Obstruction Of Justice/Destroying Evidence, Possession Of A Controlled Substance, And Manufacturing Or Delivery Of Oxycodone. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

CHARGE SUMMARY - 2022-CF-002681 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Zaugg

DEFENDANT - Zaugg, Kristopher Alan

CASE STATUS - Pending - Nov 8, 2022

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	FILED	DISPOSITION	CHARGES DEVELOPMENT	LEADERS ALERTS
1	1	1	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
2	2	1	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
3	3	1	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
4	4	4	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
5	5	5	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
6	6	1	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
7	7	2	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
8	8	2	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
9	9	4	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
10	10	2	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
11	11	2	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
12	12	1	78-0/31-4(A)(1) 4-000/31-4(A)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CF-0002681 Was Pending.**
 [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Theft Greater Than 10K But Less Than 100K, Online Sale Of Stolen Property Less Than \$300, And Deception/False Statement

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Theft Greater Than 10K But Less Than 100K, Online Sale Of Stolen Property Less Than \$300, And Deception/False Statement. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

CHARGE SUMMARY - 2022-CF-002775 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Zaugg

DEFENDANT - Zaugg, Kristopher Alan

CASE STATUS - Pending - Nov 11, 2022

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	FILED	DISPOSITION	CHARGES DEVELOPMENT	LEADERS ALERTS
1	1	1	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)	No Plead Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss/Superseded by indictment on information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/17/2022	
2	2	1	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
3	3	2	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
4	4	2	78-0/30-1(C)(1) 78-0/30-1(C)(1) (CRIMINALS)			Bill of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CF-0002775 Was Pending.**
 [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

NOTE: The above criminal history for Zaugg does not include [multiple minor traffic charges](#).

McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold A Murder Suspect In Custody As He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight” And After The Defendant Was Released He Was Found Guilty Of A DUI Involving Great Bodily Harm

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Antwan Maxey, A Murder Suspect, In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight”

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Murder Suspect Antwan Maxey In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight”

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Antwan Maxey, A Murder Suspect, In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight.” “A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were

violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights. [...] Prosecutors are trying to keep him in custody, calling him a ‘high risk for flight’ in court documents. They asked Chief Judge Joseph McGraw in a nine-page court filing to keep Maxey in jail pending the appellate court ruling. McGraw rejected that idea without a hearing. If there were no longer murder charges after White dismissed the case, the circuit court did not have jurisdiction to hold Maxey, McGraw ruled.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

- **Antwan T. Maxey Had Charges Against Him Dismissed After A Court Found That His Right To A Speedy Trial Had Been Violated, But Prosecutors Had Filed New Charges.** “A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights. [...] Prosecutors are trying to keep him in custody, calling him a ‘high risk for flight’ in court documents. They asked Chief Judge Joseph McGraw in a nine-page court filing to keep Maxey in jail pending the appellate court ruling. McGraw rejected that idea without a hearing. If there were no longer murder charges after White dismissed the case, the circuit court did not have jurisdiction to hold Maxey, McGraw ruled.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

March 2013: After McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Him In Custody, Maxey Was Sentenced To Three And A Half Years In Prison On Related Charges Of Aggravated Fleeing To Elude Police

March 2013: After Murder Charges Against Antwan Maxey Were Dropped “Over A Technical Violation Of His Right To A Speedy Trial,” He Was Sentenced To Three And A Half Years In Prison For Aggravated Fleeing To Elude Police. “Calling it among the most violent, serious and tragic cases of his career, Judge Ronald White on Friday sentenced Lamont A. Cole to 165 years in prison for the murder of 25 year-old Charles Spivey and the attempted murder of four others. Cole, Antwan T. Maxey and Clifford Horton were arrested and charged in connection with the Jan. 22, 2011 incident in which they were accused of turning a typical Rockford neighborhood into what White called a ‘battlefield.’ [...] Cole went to the party with Maxey and Horton, all of them armed and all of them ready for a firefight, White said. And when the carnage was over Charles Spivey was dead, shot in the head trying to help his friends and family escape in white van. Murder charges against Maxey, who is suspected of firing the shots that killed Spivey, were dropped over a technical violation of his right to a speedy trial. He has consistently said he was not guilty of Spivey’s murder, but was sentenced this week to 3 ½ years in prison for aggravated fleeing to elude police.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was not the judge presiding over Maxey’s case on aggravated fleeing to elude police.

March 2017: Antwan Maxey Was Found Guilty Of Ten Counts Of Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm

HEADLINE: “Rockford Man Who Avoided Murder Charge Found Guilty Of DUI.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]

March 2017: Antwan Maxey Was Found Guilty Of Ten Counts Of Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm. “Antwan Maxey, a Rockford man who avoided a 2011 murder charge on a technicality, was found guilty today of 10 counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm. Maxey, 32, was found guilty by a jury in front of Judge Donna Honzel. In June 2015,

Rockford police responded to a traffic crash at Auburn and Bluefield streets and found a heavily damaged vehicle. The officers determined the vehicle was traveling east on Auburn when it ran off the south side of the road and struck a retaining wall. The vehicle then came back across the roadway, crossing all four lanes of travel, before striking a utility pole and coming to rest. Maxey, the driver, was found hanging out of the driver's side front window with his right leg stuck under the steering wheel. He was breathing, but unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Two passengers in the vehicle were seriously injured. Maxey's blood-alcohol concentration was recorded at .131. Illinois' legal intoxication limit is .08. The Class 4 felony is punishable by probation or a special sentencing of up to 12 years in prison followed by one year of parole." [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]

- **June 2015: Antwan Maxey Was Involved In A DUI, Two Passengers In His Car Were Seriously Injured And His Blood-Alcohol Concentration Was Recorded At .131, Illinois' Legal Intoxication Limit Was .08.** "Antwan Maxey, a Rockford man who avoided a 2011 murder charge on a technicality, was found guilty today of 10 counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm. Maxey, 32, was found guilty by a jury in front of Judge Donna Honzel. In June 2015, Rockford police responded to a traffic crash at Auburn and Bluefield streets and found a heavily damaged vehicle. The officers determined the vehicle was traveling east on Auburn when it ran off the south side of the road and struck a retaining wall. The vehicle then came back across the roadway, crossing all four lanes of travel, before striking a utility pole and coming to rest. Maxey, the driver, was found hanging out of the driver's side front window with his right leg stuck under the steering wheel. He was breathing, but unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Two passengers in the vehicle were seriously injured. Maxey's blood-alcohol concentration was recorded at .131. Illinois' legal intoxication limit is .08. The Class 4 felony is punishable by probation or a special sentencing of up to 12 years in prison followed by one year of parole." [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]
- **Antwan Maxey Was Sentenced To 22 Years In Prison For Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm And For Aggravated Fleeing To Elude.** "A Winnebago County judge today gave the maximum 22-year prison sentence to a former murder suspect charged with aggravated drunk driving. Antwan Maxey, 32, of Machesney Park, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm and 10 years for aggravated fleeing to elude, according to the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. He must serve 85 percent of that sentence." [Rockford Register Star, [5/12/17](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was not the judge presiding over Antwan Maxey's DUI case.

McGraw Sentenced Defendants Convicted Of Murder And Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence

Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term Illinois Law Recommended A Judge Sentence For A Given Crime

In Illinois, Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term A Judge Was Recommended To Sentence For A Given Felony, Felonies Were Sorted Into Six Classes, And Each Class Had A Range Of Sentences

In Illinois, Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term A Judge Was Legally Able To Sentence For A Given Crime. "What are felony classes and mandatory minimums? In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony's class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime." [Restore Justice, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

- **In Illinois, Felonies Were Sorted Into Six Classes Based On Severity, A Felony's Class Determined The Range Of Sentences Judges Were Legally Permitted To Dispense For An Offense.** "What are felony classes and mandatory minimums? In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony's

class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime.” [Restore Justice, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Sentence Below The States Mandatory Minimum Of Imprisonment Or Sentence Probation Or Conditional Discharge For Certain Felonies If The Judge Deemed It Appropriate

In Imposing A Sentence For An Offense With A Mandatory Minimum Of Imprisonment, For Certain Charges, A Judge May Instead Sentence An Offender To A Lesser Term Of Imprisonment, Probation, Or Conditional Discharge If They Deem It Appropriate. “Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in imposing a sentence for an offense that requires a mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment, the court may instead sentence the offender to probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment if it deems appropriate if: (1) the offense involves the use or possession of drugs, retail theft, or driving on a revoked license due to unpaid financial obligations; (2) the court finds that the defendant does not pose a risk to public safety; and (3) the interest of justice requires imposing a term of probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment. The court must state on the record its reasons for imposing probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment.” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Choose Alternatives To Prison Sentencing Including A Sentence Of Probation For Some Felonies Excluding First Degree Murder And Class X Felonies. “Illinois law allows a sentence of probation (with no time in prison) for most, but not all, felonies in Illinois. First degree murder and Class X felonies (e.g., aggravated assault with a firearm or drug possession involving large quantities of heroin or similarly dangerous drugs) are not eligible for probation; a term of imprisonment is required by state law. Illinois statutes spell out minimum and maximum prison terms and fines for each felony, but the state also encourages judges to choose alternatives to costly imprisonment, such as probation. The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has recommended against the incarceration of people convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony, particularly when the person has no prior convictions for a violent crime and has not previously been sentenced to probation. Probation requires the convicted individual to check in regularly with a probation officer and to comply with all conditions set by the court, which can be extensive. Violation of probation terms will result in sanctions, including the possibility of being sent to prison. The length of a probation sentence varies depending on the severity of the crime.” [Law Office of Jack L Zaremba, [2/19/18](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Two Men Convicted Of Murder As A Class M Felony To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence Even Though Both Men Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder

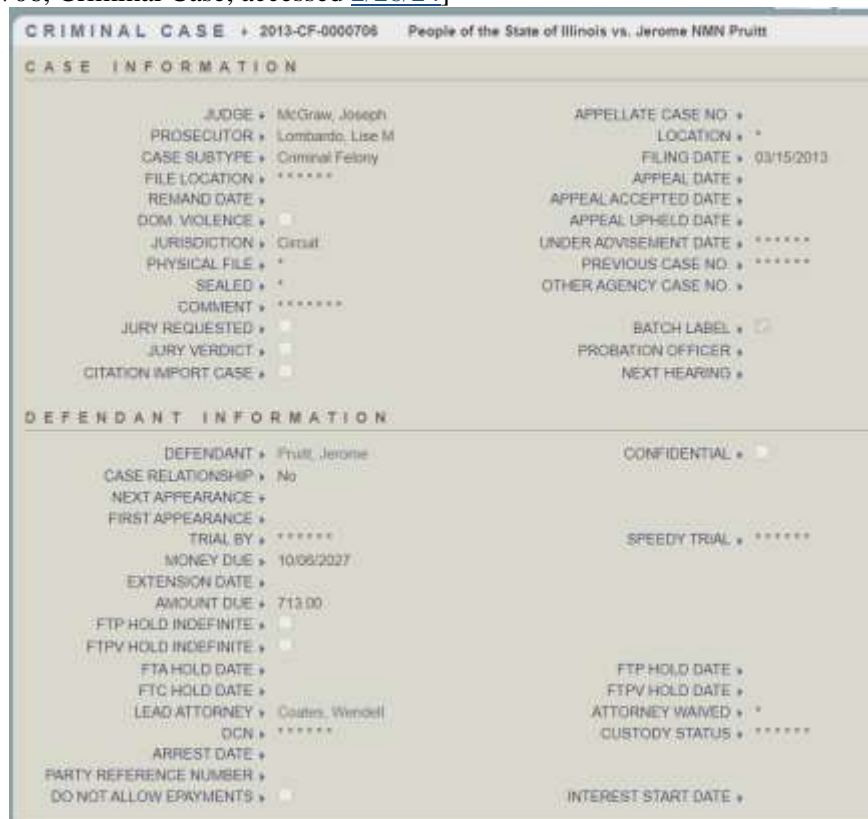
McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison, Five Years Below The Minimum Recommended 20-Year Sentence For Murder As A Class M Felony And Well Below The Life In Prison Maximum For The Charge

McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison For The Attempted First-Degree Murder Of Randy Reingold, And 10 Years In Connection With Armed Robbery To Be Served Concurrently

October 2014: McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison For The Attempted First-Degree Murder Of Randy Reingold. “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea

bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were Sentenced To 10 Years In Prison In Connection With The Attempted Armed Robbery To Be Served Concurrently With The 15-Year Sentence For Attempted Murder.** “Both Pruitt and Petty were sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with the attempted armed robbery. But that sentence will be served concurrently with the 15-year attempted murder conviction. All other charges including all those related to the Happy Shop robbery and attack were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Petty must serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence, but gets credit for 591 days already served in jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]
- **McGraw Was The Judge In Jerome Pruitt’s Case.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Criminal Case, accessed [2/26/24](#)]



CRIMINAL CASE • 2013-CF-0000706 People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome MNM Pruitt

CASE INFORMATION

JUDGE • McGraw, Joseph
 PROSECUTOR • Lombardo, Lise M
 CASE SUBTYPE • Criminal Felony
 FILE LOCATION • *****
 REMAND DATE •
 DOM VIOLENCE •
 JURISDICTION • Circuit
 PHYSICAL FILE • *
 SEALED • *
 COMMENT • *****
 JURY REQUESTED •
 JURY VERDICT •
 CITATION IMPORT CASE •

APPELLATE CASE NO. •
 LOCATION • *
 FILING DATE • 03/15/2013
 APPEAL DATE •
 APPEAL ACCEPTED DATE •
 APPEAL UPHELD DATE •
 UNDER ADVISEMENT DATE • *****
 PREVIOUS CASE NO. • *****
 OTHER AGENCY CASE NO. •
 BATCH LABEL •
 PROBATION OFFICER •
 NEXT HEARING •

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

DEFENDANT • Pruitt, Jerome
 CASE RELATIONSHIP • No
 NEXT APPEARANCE •
 FIRST APPEARANCE •
 TRIAL BY • *****
 MONEY DUE • 10/06/2027
 EXTENSION DATE •
 AMOUNT DUE • 713.00
 FTP HOLD INDEFINITE •
 FTPV HOLD INDEFINITE •
 FTA HOLD DATE •
 FTC HOLD DATE •
 LEAD ATTORNEY • Coates, Wendell
 OCN • *****
 ARREST DATE •
 PARTY REFERENCE NUMBER •
 DO NOT ALLOW EPRYMETS •

CONFIDENTIAL •
 SPEEDY TRIAL • *****
 FTP HOLD DATE •
 FTPV HOLD DATE •
 ATTORNEY WAIVED • *
 CUSTODY STATUS • *****
 INTEREST START DATE •

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Criminal Case, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted The Plea Bargain Even Though The 15 Year Sentence Was Below The 20 Year Minimum, In Illinois Murder As A Class M Felony Had A Minimum Recommended Sentence Of 20 Years And A Max Of Life In Prison

In Illinois, Murder As A Class M Felony Carried A Minimum Recommended Sentence Of 20 Years To A Maximum Of Life In Prison. “In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony’s class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime. The six classes used in Illinois, their current allowable sentencing range, and a few representative offenses are provided in Table 1. Class: First-degree murder (occasionally class ‘M’). Base sentencing range: 20 yrs – Life. Example offenses: First degree murder.” [Restore Justice, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were Found Guilty Of Murder/Intent To Kill, A Class M Felony.

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#);
Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000716, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

CHARGE SUMMARY • 2013-CF-0000706 People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome NN Pruitt CASE STATUS Closed pending clerk action - Oct 1, 2014

DEFENDANT + Pruitt, Jerome

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/03/2013	Complaint filed on 03/15/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1) A - M- MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1) A - M- MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt	Guilty on 10/01/2014	Guilty on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	

CHARGE SUMMARY • 2013-CF-0000716 People of the State of Illinois vs. Victor Dewayne Petty CASE STATUS Closed pending clerk action - Oct 27, 2014

DEFENDANT + Petty, Victor Dewayne

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 03/18/2013	Information filed on 03/15/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1) A - M- MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1) A - M- MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt	Guilty on 10/27/2014	Guilty on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#);
Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000716, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted The Terms Of The Plea Bargain In Victor Petty’s Trial. “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

McGraw Oversaw The Negotiated Plea In Jerome Pruitt’s Trial. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Calendar Hearing, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

CALENDAR HEARING • 2013-CF-000706 People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome NMN Pruitt

PARTICIPANTS • Pruitt, Jerome - Defendant
 FILTER BY • DOCKET TYPE
 HEARING TYPE • Plea
 JUDGE • McGraw, Joseph
 COURT ROOM • 209
 START DATE • 10/01/2014
 DURATION • *****Minutes
 END DATE • *****
 RESULT • Negotiated Plea
 CONTINUANCE REASON •
 CONTINUED BY •
 COMMENT • *****
 BATCH FRONT • "

*DOCKET TYPE • Judge Set
 *START TIME • 09:00 AM
 END TIME • *****

RETRIEVE

SEL	NAME	CODE	DATE RESULTED
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negotiated Plea	HRNEGP	10/03/2014 09:30 AM

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-000706, Calendar Hearing, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt Made At Least Three Attempts To Slice A Veteran Shop Owner's Throat And Stabbed The Shop Owner Multiple Times In The Back And Chest

Rockford Register Star: Jerome Pruitt “Stabbed [Randy Reingold] In The Back And Slashed At His Throat” While Petty Stood Watch And Urged Pruitt To Finish The Job. “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. [...] Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.”

[Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **Randy Reingold Survived At Least 3 Attempts To Slice His Throat And Multiple Stab Wounds To His Back And Chest; His Lung Was Punctured And His Pinky Was Nearly Severed.** “Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Broadway Shop Owner: Attackers Didn’t Mean ‘To Leave Me Alive.’”** [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

Randy Reingold: Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty “Didn’t Mean To Leave Me Alive.” “Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, Pruitt Had A Lengthy Criminal History And Had Repeatedly Violated The Terms Of His Parole

Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, “Their Role And Participation In The Crimes Exposed Weaknesses In How Parolees Are Tracked And Monitored In Illinois.” “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second and final man to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery. Reingold, 44, was brutally attacked during the armed robbery. [...] Both Pruitt and Petty were sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with the attempted armed robbery. But that sentence will be served concurrently with the 15-year attempted murder conviction. All other charges including all those related to the Happy Shop robbery and attack were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Petty must serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence, but gets credit for 591 days already served in jail. Both men were on parole at the time of the crime spree. Their role and participation in the crimes exposed weaknesses in how parolees are tracked and monitored in Illinois and in part led to the creation of a new prisoner re-entry system in Rockford and Winnebago County.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Special Investigation: How Parolee Jerome Pruitt Fell Through Cracks.”** [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

2003-2009: Jerome Pruitt Served Four Prison Sentences, Three For Drug Charges And The Fourth For Stealing A Vehicle, He Was Sentenced To 13 Years In Prison But Only Served Half Of That. “Pruitt has served four prison sentences, all between 2003 and 2009. Three were drug-related; the other was for stealing a vehicle. Each conviction was for crimes committed in Cook County. In the 10 years since his 18th birthday, Pruitt has been sentenced to 13 years in prison. He served half of that. He served half of a six-year prison sentence for his most recent conviction, in 2009, for the manufacture and delivery of cocaine. Pruitt was paroled and ordered to live at Pacific Garden and report to his parole officer, Jimmy Brown, as a condition of his release.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

- **Following His 2009 Release From Prison, Jerome Pruitt Repeatedly Violated The Terms Of His Parole And Was Arrested For Criminal Damage To Property And Fleeing Police.** “He served half of a six-year prison sentence for his most recent conviction, in 2009, for the manufacture and delivery of cocaine. Pruitt was paroled and ordered to live at Pacific Garden and report to his parole officer, Jimmy Brown, as a condition of his release. [...] Pruitt left Chicago almost immediately after his prison release, his arrest history shows. Two months later, on May 28, 2012, Rockford police observed him kicking in the back door of a house on West State Street and arrested him for criminal damage to property and fleeing police. Pruitt had been living in the house, in violation of his parole, according to the police report. Officer Michael Schissel arrived as Pruitt was heading out the back of the house with a suitcase. Pruitt ran when he saw the police; Schissel chased and caught him. Pruitt spent 12 days in the Winnebago County Jail, the amount of time it took him to negotiate a plea deal with the office of State's Attorney Joe Bruscato. [...] By Aug. 17, 2012, Pruitt was missing from the mission, and Corrections issued a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with parole reporting requirements. Rockford police found him here in October, arrested him and sent him back to corrections custody. In November, the Prisoner Review Board ruled that Pruitt had indeed violated his parole. Then the board let him go.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, Victor Petty Was On Parole From Peoria County For Theft And Obstructing Justice. “Pruitt, who is on parole from Cook County for a drug violation, was charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery in connection with the Reingold Computer Exchange robbery; and attempted armed robbery of the post office. Petty, on parole from Peoria County for theft and obstructing justice was charged with the same offenses in connection with the same stores, and with attempted murder and aggravated battery in connection with the crime at the Happy Shop.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

- **Darin Petty, Victor Petty’s Father Said He Had Been Released From Prison On January 4th, Just Three Months Before The Attack And Had Been Frequently Incarcerated Over The Prior Five To Six Years.** “Darrin Petty, 47, of Peoria, talked to his son, Victor Petty, Thursday, for the first time since Victor’s arrest. ‘I told him, ‘If you did this, you deserve to be punished. You don’t need to be on the streets.’ ‘The elder Petty also reached out to the Register Star Thursday to learn more about the conditions of the stabbing victims. ‘I would like to reach (out) to them and tell them how sorry I am for my son’s actions.’ Darrin Petty said he did not know if his son has a drug habit. ‘Over the past five to six years he’s been incarcerated so much he hasn’t had a chance to have a drug problem.’ Darrin Petty said his son was released from prison on Jan. 4. He said Victor wanted to return to Peoria, but it was the Illinois Department of Correction’s decision to parole him to Winnebago County. ‘I could not allow Victor to live with me,’ Darrin Petty said. ‘That ought to tell you something. I could not allow him to live with me, his sisters and brothers. He’s burned too many bridges.’” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

NOTE: As of March 2024, [Victor Petty](#) and [Jerome Pruitt](#) were both incarcerated in Illinois with projected parole dates in December 2025.

McGraw Sentenced A Man Convicted Of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Under The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence

McGraw Sentenced A Man Convicted Of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To 15 Years In Prison Even Though The Minimum Recommended Sentence For The Charge Was 16 Years

In An Appeal, A Defendant Argued McGraw Erred In Sentencing Him To One Year Less Than The Minimum Recommended Term for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault By Sentencing Him To 15 Years Instead Of The Minimum 16

A Defendant Argued McGraw Erred In Sentencing Him To One Year Less Than The Minimum Recommended Term for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault By Sentencing Him To 15 Years Instead Of The Minimum 16. “After a jury trial, defendant, Kevin M. Oldaker, was convicted of home invasion (720 ILCS 5/12-11(a)(1) (West 2010)); aggravated criminal sexual assault (720 ILCS 5/12-14(a)(1) (West 2010)); and armed violence (720 ILCS 5/33A-2 (West 2010)) predicated on aggravated battery (720 ILCS 5/12-4(a) (West 2010)). The trial court sentenced him to concurrent prison terms of 10 years for home invasion and armed violence and a 15-year prison term for aggravated criminal sexual assault, to be served consecutively to the other sentences. [...] Defendant’s second contention on appeal is that the trial court erred in sentencing him to one year less than the minimum term for aggravated criminal sexual assault. He notes that the aggravated-criminal-sexual-assault statute makes his offense (in which the aggravating factor was that he ‘used a dangerous weapon other than a firearm’) (720 ILCS 5/12-14(a)(1) (West 2010)) ‘a Class X felony for which 10 years shall be added to the term of imprisonment imposed by the court.’ 720 ILCS 5/12-14(d)(1) (West 2010). Therefore, because a Class X felony has a minimum prison term of 6 years (730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-25(a) (West 2010)), the trial court was required to sentence defendant to no less than 16 years in prison.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People v. Oldaker In The Circuit Court of Boone County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

2016 IL App (2d) 140341-U
No. 2-14-0341
Order filed August 9, 2016

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Boone County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 10-CF-447
KEVIN M. OLDAKER,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Requested This Sentence Modification On The Assumption That His Conviction Of Armed Violence Would Be Reversed, However The Conviction Was Upheld.**
“Defendant requests that we modify his sentences by adding one year to that for aggravated criminal sexual assault, bringing it up to the 16-year minimum, and compensating for this addition by subtracting one year from his sentence for home invasion. This would result in the same aggregate prison term as defendant now has: a total of 25 years’ imprisonment. Defendant is clearly proceeding on the assumption that his conviction of armed violence will be reversed, so that he will not be subject to the 10-year sentence for that offense. However, we have affirmed defendant’s conviction of armed violence. Therefore, to modify the other two sentences as defendant requests would result in (1) a 10-year sentence for armed violence; (2) a concurrent 9-year sentence for home invasion; and (3) a 16-year sentence, to be served consecutively to the others, for aggravated criminal sexual assault. Thus, instead of totaling 25 years’ imprisonment (10 + 15), as now, defendant’s terms would total 26 years’ imprisonment (10 + 16). Therefore, we construe defendant’s claim of error to depend on the reversal of his conviction of armed violence; not only does his argument read this way, but we shall not presume that, in the event that all of his convictions stand, defendant wants a longer total time of incarceration. Under these unique circumstances, we deem his argument consciously waived (Ill. S. Ct. R. 341(h)(7) (eff. Jan. 6, 2013)) and consider it no further.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Acknowledged That The 15 Year Sentence Handed Down By McGraw Was One Year Less Than The 16-Year Recommended Minimum For Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault

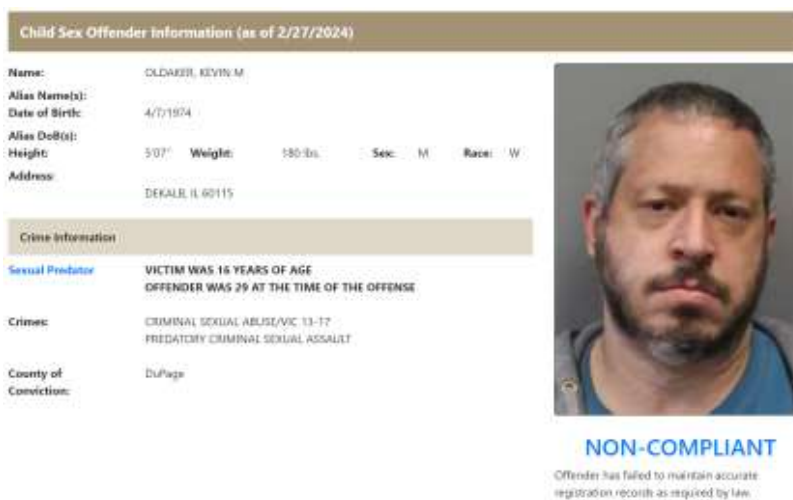
The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Acknowledged That The 15 Year Sentence Handed Down By McGraw Was One Year Less Than The 16-Year Minimum For Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.

“Defendant requests that we modify his sentences by adding one year to that for aggravated criminal sexual assault, bringing it up to the 16-year minimum, and compensating for this addition by subtracting one year from his sentence for home invasion. This would result in the same aggregate prison term as defendant now has: a total of 25 years’ imprisonment. Defendant is clearly proceeding on the assumption that his conviction of armed violence will be reversed, so that he will not be subject to the 10-year sentence for that offense. However, we have affirmed defendant’s conviction of armed violence. Therefore, to modify the other two sentences as defendant requests would result in (1) a 10-year sentence for armed violence; (2) a concurrent 9-year sentence for home invasion; and (3) a 16-year sentence, to be served consecutively to the others, for aggravated criminal sexual assault. Thus, instead of totaling 25 years’ imprisonment (10 + 15), as now, defendant’s terms would total 26 years’ imprisonment (10 + 16). Therefore, we construe defendant’s claim of error to depend on the reversal of

his conviction of armed violence; not only does his argument read this way, but we shall not presume that, in the event that all of his convictions stand, defendant wants a longer total time of incarceration. Under these unique circumstances, we deem his argument consciously waived (Ill. S. Ct. R. 341(h)(7) (eff. Jan. 6, 2013)) and consider it no further.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Oldaker*, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

June 2024: Kevin Oldaker Was A Registered Child Sex Offender And Was Listed As Non-Compliant, Meaning He Failed To Maintain Accurate Registration Records As Required By Law

As Of June 2024, Kevin Oldaker Was A Registered Child Sex Offender And Was Listed As Non-Compliant, Meaning He Failed To Maintain Accurate Registration Records As Required By Law. [Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [6/13/24](#)]



Child Sex Offender Information (as of 2/27/2024)

Name:	OLDAKER, KEVIN M						
Alias Name(s):							
Date of Birth:	4/7/1974						
Alias DoB(s):							
Height:	5'07"	Weight:	180-lbs.	Sex:	M	Race:	W
Address:	DEKALB, IL 60115						

Crime Information

Sexual Predator: VICTIM WAS 16 YEARS OF AGE
OFFENDER WAS 29 AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE

Crimes: CRIMINAL SEXUAL ABUSE/VIC 13-17
PREDATORY CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT

County of Conviction: DuPage

NON-COMPLIANT
Offender has failed to maintain accurate registration records as required by law.

[Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

McGraw Lowered Bail For A Man Arrested On Murder Charges And Gave Lenient Sentences To Defendants Convicted Of Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Child Endangerment, And Murder, Putting Illinoisians At Risk

McGraw Sentenced A Woman Found Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment To Only Four Years' Probation, Despite The Prosecutor Recommendation Of A 22-Year Prison Sentence

McGraw Found Illinois Woman Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Allowed Her Infant To Starve To Death

McGraw Found Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Allowed Her Infant To Starve To Death, McGraw Ruled Lund Did Not Intend To Kill Her Son But Was Reckless

2014: McGraw Found Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Did Not Seek Medical Attention As Her Infant Son, Jaxon, Starved To Death. “McGraw in July found Kayla Lund, 25, not guilty of first-degree murder in the Sept. 22, 2011, death of Jaxon, her infant son. McGraw ruled Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and endangerment of a child. [...] McGraw said Lund had ‘recklessly’ not sought medical attention for Jaxon as he lost weight.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **McGraw Ruled Kayla Lund Did Not Intend To Kill Her Son, But Said Lund Was Reckless And Did Not Care For The Child Like A Reasonable Person.** “McGraw also ordered Lund to perform 500 hours of

community service, fined her \$1,000 and ordered her to pay fees for probation services and DNA testing. He ordered her to undergo psychological evaluation and mental health treatment as necessary. McGraw ruled in July that prosecutors did not prove Lund intended to kill Jaxon. However, he said Lund was reckless and did not care for the infant like a reasonable person.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Prosecutors Argued Kayla Lund’s Actions Were “Cruel And Heinous Behavior,” Although She Never Brought Jaxon To A Doctor, Lund Went To Her Own Doctors Appointments In The Weeks Before He Died

The Prosecution Alleged Kayla Lund’s Actions Were “Cruel And Heinous Behavior” As Her Son Lost Weight For Several Weeks And She Did Not Seek Medical Attention. “Lund was charged with 24 counts of first degree murder for allegedly starving her 7-week-old son Jaxon Betts to death. The prosecution also alleged Lund's actions were ‘cruel and heinous behavior’ because Jaxon had been losing weight for several weeks and she didn't seek medical attention. The bench trial before Judge McGraw began July 7 and ran all last week. Paramedics were called to 608 Wheeler Ave. on Sept. 22, 2011 for an infant who wasn't breathing. Jaxon was pronounced dead after paramedics were unable to revive him. Lund took the stand last week and said Jaxon was throwing up most of his food so she fed him less formula, but increased the frequency of the feedings. She based this on information she was given from the pediatrician of her other children who experienced similar feeding problems. Prosecutors called their own medical expert in child starvation during the trial, who testified Jaxon was at a healthy weight of over 7 pounds when he was born. Jaxon weighed just over 4 pounds at the time of his death. Lund kept Jaxon clothed or away from other people in the last couple weeks before his death, prosecutors claimed.” [Beloit Daily News, [7/15/14](#)]

The Prosecution Argued That Although Kayla Lund’s Son Never Saw A Doctor, Lund Went To Her Own Doctors Appointments In The Weeks Before He Died. “In requesting a prison term of 22 years, prosecutors Marilyn Hite Ross and Pamela Wells argued the death of two of Lund’s children was an indication that the circumstances that led to Jaxon’s death could be repeated. Although Jaxon never saw a doctor, Lund went to her own doctor appointments in the weeks before he died, Hite Ross said. ‘The defendant’s needs always come before her children,’ Hite Ross said. ‘Jaxon’s needs didn’t come second, and they didn’t come third. They didn’t come at all.’ McGraw, however, said the circumstances were unlikely to occur again. And over the arguments of prosecutors, McGraw ruled that probation would not deprecate or belittle the seriousness of the verdict.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: “Horrific Autopsy And Crime Scene Photos” Presented During The Bench Trial Showed Kayla Lund’s Son “Died Skeletal And Emaciated”

Rockford Register Star: “Horrific Autopsy And Crime Scene Photos” Presented During The Bench Trial Showed Kayla Lund’s Son “Died Skeletal And Emaciated.” “Horrible autopsy and crime scene photos shown to McGraw during a bench trial in July showed Jaxon died skeletal and emaciated. McGraw found that Lund starved her son and failed to provide him with commonsense medical care. But McGraw pointed to the mixed testimony of family who witnessed feedings and testified that Lund was a loving mother. McGraw said Winnebago County prosecutors were unable to prove Lund intended to kill the baby and he found her not guilty of first-degree murder.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/14/14](#)]

September 2014: McGraw Sentenced Kayla Lund To Four Years’ Probation

September 2014: McGraw Sentenced Kayla Lund To Four Years’ Probation, She Faced Up To 14 Years In Prison For Involuntary Manslaughter And Up To 10 Years For Endangering The Life Of A Child Causing Death. “A South Beloit mom’s infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won’t spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years’ probation. [...] Lund had faced up to 14 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter and up to 10 years for endangering the life of a child causing death. Four years is the maximum number of years of probation under those charges.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: “A South Beloit Mom’s Infant Son Lived Just 49 Days Before He Died Of Starvation. But She Won’t Spend A Day In Prison After Chief Judge Joseph McGraw Sentenced Her Monday To Four Years’ Probation.” “A South Beloit mom’s infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won’t spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years’ probation. McGraw in July found Kayla Lund, 25, not guilty of first-degree murder in the Sept. 22, 2011, death of Jaxon, her infant son. McGraw ruled Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and endangerment of a child. Autopsy photos showed Jaxon died emaciated, skin hanging loose from his skeleton. McGraw said Lund had ‘recklessly’ not sought medical attention for Jaxon as he lost weight. ‘I heard some horrible evidence,’ McGraw said. ‘I saw some pretty horrible pictures.’” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

The Prosecutor On The Case Asked For A 22-Year Sentence, Which McGraw Said Was ‘Unnecessary’

The Winnebago County State’s Attorney Prosecutors Asked For A 22-Year Prison Sentence For Kayla Lund. “A South Beloit mom’s infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won’t spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years’ probation. [...] Winnebago County State’s Attorney prosecutors asked for a 22-year prison sentence. And they asked that if McGraw gave Lund probation, that he order her not to have any more children.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **McGraw Said That Imprisoning Kayla Lund Was Unnecessary.** “Winnebago County State’s Attorney prosecutors asked for a 22-year prison sentence. And they asked that if McGraw gave Lund probation, that he order her not to have any more children. McGraw said the law did not require prison time, that putting Lund behind bars was not necessary to protect the public and that ordering her not to have children would be unconstitutional. Lund got credit for serving 845 days, most of which was under house arrest. Lund was put on house arrest in 2012 after being charged with Jaxon’s death. Prior to house arrest, she spent about three weeks in Winnebago County Jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Another One Of Kayla Lund’s Children Died Previously And Lund Was Found To Be Medically Neglectful, Though She Was Not Charged With A Crime At The Time

2009: Kayla Lund’s Infant Son, Lukas, Died Of Asphyxia. “Although prosecutors pointed out that Jaxon was the second of Lund’s four children to die within two years, McGraw placed little or no weight on testimony and evidence regarding the June 9, 2009, death of her son Lukas. [...] The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner’s office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap on a thick blanket.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **Kayla Lund Was Not Charged With Any Crime In Connection To The Death, But The Department Of Child And Family Services Did Find Her To Be Medically Neglectful Of Her Son.** “Lund was never charged with any crime in connection with Lukas’ death. The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner’s office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap on a thick blanket. Although no testimony about Lukas was heard during her bench trial, a supervisor from the Department of Child and Family Services was allowed to testify at Monday’s sentencing hearing. A DCFS investigation found Lund was medically neglectful because she had not picked up an albuterol prescription for Lukas’ asthma, and she never told the boy’s father about his medical condition, she said.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: “Although Prosecutors Pointed Out That Jaxon Was The Second Of Lund’s Four Children To Die Within Two Years, McGraw Placed Little Or No Weight On Testimony And Evidence Regarding The June 9, 2009, Death Of Her Son Lukas.” “Although prosecutors pointed out that Jaxon was the second of Lund’s four children to die within two years, McGraw placed little or no weight on testimony and evidence regarding the June 9, 2009, death of her son Lukas. Lund was never charged with any crime in connection with Lukas’ death. The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner’s office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap

on a thick blanket. Although no testimony about Lukas was heard during her bench trial, a supervisor from the Department of Child and Family Services was allowed to testify at Monday’s sentencing hearing. A DCFS investigation found Lund was medically neglectful because she had not picked up an albuterol prescription for Lukas’ asthma, and she never told the boy’s father about his medical condition, she said. Lund never attended parenting classes or grief counseling offered by DCFS. Public defenders Nick Zimmerman and Edward Light argued Lund was not responsible for Lukas’ death and that the medical condition was not connected to his death.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

McGraw Sentenced A Man Found Guilty Of Sexual Abuse To Only 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment – Where He Could Be Released At Particular Times – Despite The Crime Being Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison

2020: A Rockford Man, Michael Lambert, Was Found Guilty Of Criminal Sexual Abuse Committed In 2018

November 2018: Michael Lambert, Of Rockford, Committed Criminal Sexual Abuse. “27-year-old Michael Lambert was found guilty of Criminal Sexual Abuse on Monday, for a crime committed in November 2018.” [WTVO, [8/4/20](#)]

- **According To Illinois Sex Offender Registry, Michael J Lambert Was An Adult Sex Offender, At The Time Of The Crime, The Victim Was 25 Years Of Age And Lambert Was 27.** [Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [2/26/24](#)]



[Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

August 2020: Michael Lambert Was Found Guilty In A Trial Where McGraw Was The Judge. “Michael Lambert was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse following a bench trial before Judge Joseph McGraw, according to Winnebago County State’s Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross.” [WIFR, [8/4/20](#)]

October 2020: McGraw Sentenced Michael Lambert To 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment, Despite Criminal Sexual Abuse Being Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison

McGraw Sentenced Michael Lambert To 30 Months’ Probation, But Only 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment. “Michael Lambert was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse following a bench trial before Judge Joseph McGraw, according to Winnebago County State’s Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross. He was then sentenced to 30 months’ probation and to serve 90 days periodic imprisonment in the Winnebago County Jail by Judge Joseph McGraw.” [WIFR, [10/5/20](#)]

Criminal Sexual Abuse Was A Class 4 Felony Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison. “Criminal sexual abuse is a class 4 felony with a sentencing range of up to 30 months probation or 1-3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by one year of mandatory supervised release.” [WIFR, [10/5/20](#)]

According To Illinois Law, Periodic Imprisonment Allowed A Defendant To Be Released For Periods Of Time, During Which They Could Work, Seek Employment, Or Engage In Other Designated Activities

Illinois Law Stated Periodic Imprisonment Was A Sentence “During Which The Committed Person May Be Released For Periods Of Time.” “Sentence of periodic imprisonment. (a) A sentence of periodic imprisonment is a sentence of imprisonment during which the committed person may be released for periods of time during the day or night or for periods of days, or both, or if convicted of a felony, other than first degree murder, a Class X or Class 1 felony, committed to any county, municipal, or regional correctional or detention institution or facility in this State for such periods of time as the court may direct. Unless the court orders otherwise, the particular times and conditions of release shall be determined by the Department of Corrections, the sheriff, or the Superintendent of the house of corrections, who is administering the program.” [Illinois General Assembly, 730 ILCS 5/5-7-1, accessed [1/12/24](#)]

- **During Periodic Imprisonment, A Person Could Be Released To Work, Go To School, And Attend To Family Needs.** “A sentence of periodic imprisonment may be imposed to permit the defendant to: (1) seek employment; (2) work; (3) conduct a business or other self-employed occupation including housekeeping; (4) attend to family needs; (5) attend an educational institution, including vocational education; (6) obtain medical or psychological treatment; (7) perform work duties at a county, municipal, or regional correctional or detention institution or facility; (8) continue to reside at home with or without supervision involving the use of an approved electronic monitoring device, subject to Article 8A of Chapter V; or (9) for any other purpose determined by the court.” [Illinois General Assembly, 730 ILCS 5/5-7-1, accessed [1/12/24](#)]

McGraw Sentenced A Man Twice Convicted Of Murder To 10 Years Less Than His Previous Sentence For His First Conviction; The Mother Of The Victim’s Daughter Said McGraw’s Sentence Was Too Light

After A Man Twice Found Guilty Of Murder Appealed And Received A New Trial, McGraw Shortened His Sentence From His First Conviction By 10 Years

2018: McGraw Sentenced Lorenzo Kent Jr To 45 Years In Prison For Fatally Shooting Donmarquis Jackson After Hunting Him Down At Home, The Sentence Was 10 Years Less Than The Term Of His First Sentence. “A Rockford man said only that ‘I’m not a gang member’ before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he’s already spent in jail. Rockford resident Janet Jackson, 31, with whom Donmarquis Jackson has one daughter, said while she’s grateful that Kent was convicted, the 45-year sentence was too light. ‘It’s going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter,’ Janet Jackson said, noting their daughter was 5 years old when her father was killed. ‘It’s an everyday struggle.’[...] Kent faced a term of 45 years to natural life behind bars for the murder, but state law barred him from being sentenced to more than 55 years, the term of his first sentence.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

- **Lorenzo Kent Jr Had Been Convicted Twice Of The Murder Of Jackson, State Law Barred Him From Being Sentenced To More Than 55 Years, The Term of His First Sentence.** “A Rockford man said only that ‘I’m not a gang member’ before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he’s already spent in jail. [...] Kent twice has been convicted of Jackson’s murder. Kent was convicted of first-degree murder in April 2014 and sentenced to 55 years in prison, but appealed. He received a new trial and was convicted in November 2017 during a second jury trial. Before he could be sentenced, Kent’s defense attorney, Assistant Public Defender Chrissie Lee, asked for a new trial, contending the former judge, Fernando Engelsma, committed a series of errors that entitled Kent to a new trial. Kent faced a term of 45 years

to natural life behind bars for the murder, but state law barred him from being sentenced to more than 55 years, the term of his first sentence. Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Gadow called for the 55 years, saying Kent stalked Jackson and enlisted three teenagers to try to lure him outside to be shot. 'It was a fatal shot to the back that perforated his heart and took his life,' Gadow said. Lee asked for the 45-year term, arguing that Kent had a 'chaotic and dysfunctional' childhood. Kent's father, who currently is in prison for a sex crime, was abusive to Kent and Kent's mother often, Lee said. Both parents were drug addicts and mentally ill, Lee said, and when Kent was removed from his parents, he was abused in foster care." [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

The Mother Of The Victim's Daughter Said The Sentence McGraw Handed Down Was Too Light, "It's Going To Be A Lifetime For Me And My Daughter"

Janet Jackson, Who Had A Five-Year-Old Daughter With Donmarquis Jackson, Said The Sentence McGraw Handed Down Was Too Light: "It's Going To Be A Lifetime For Me And My Daughter." "A Rockford man said only that 'I'm not a gang member' before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he's already spent in jail. Rockford resident Janet Jackson, 31, with whom Donmarquis Jackson has one daughter, said while she's grateful that Kent was convicted, the 45-year sentence was too light. 'It's going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter,' Janet Jackson said, noting their daughter was 5 years old when her father was killed. 'It's an everyday struggle.' Their daughter, now 10, asks her daily what her father was like. 'His ashes came the day she started kindergarten,' Janet Jackson said. 'That's the memories we have.' Kent twice has been convicted of Jackson's murder." [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To 'Reduce The Jail Population'

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To "Reduce The Jail Population." "The new chief judge in charge of the local court system says he too will be focused on court efficiency that can reduce the jail population. Judge Joseph McGraw begins his two-year term as chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit on Sunday. McGraw was unanimously selected by his fellow circuit judges Sept. 28 as the new chief judge. He succeeds Chief Judge Janet Holmgren, who has served in that role since May 2007. Holmgren will remain a circuit judge and likely be assigned to a court call." [Rockford Register Star, 10/13/11]

- **McGraw Inherited A Backlog Of 95,000 Unsettled Cases When He Became Chief Judge.** "Boone and Winnebago County courts began the year with a backlog of more than 95,000 unsettled cases. That's after a small dent was made in 2011 in the amount of uncompleted cases crawling through the courts. Chief Judge Joe McGraw, who became the top judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court on Jan. 1, said the task of whittling away at that backlog will be among his top priorities." [Rockford Register Star, [2/7/12](#)]

While McGraw Was A Judge, Winnebago County Courts Consistently Struggled With "Pervasive" Delays And A Large Case Backlog, Allowing A Suspected Murderer To Go Free And Forcing A Family To Wait Over Six Years For Justice In A Murder Case

While McGraw Was Chief Judge And Presiding Criminal Judge, Winnebago County Courts Faced "Pervasive" Delays

2012-2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court, A Role Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court

2012-2017: McGraw Served As The Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court, A Position Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court

2012-2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court. “But it's more than just political messaging this time with top Republicans believing that McGraw's judicial background will allow the candidate to speak with authority on issues ranging from urban crime to immigration while setting up a contrast with Sorensen, who was a television meteorologist before running for and winning office last year. McGraw served as a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Boone and Winnebago counties, for more than two decades until retiring in July, including as chief judge from 2012 to 2017. He was also the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until his retirement.” [Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Rockford Register Star Op-Ed: The Chief Judge Of The 17th Judicial Circuit Court Was Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court. “Congratulations to Judge Joe McGraw, who was selected Wednesday to serve as the chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court. The chief judge is responsible for the overall administrative responsibilities of the court, and McGraw will have plenty of challenges as he tries to make the court system more efficient. Bookings are down, but the Winnebago County Jail population is up, indicating there's a clog in the system. The average number of days an inmate spends in jail is 21, up eight days from a decade ago. There are a couple dozen inmates who have been in jail since July 2008 or earlier. Remember, most inmates are awaiting trial; they have not been convicted of a crime. One of McGraw's tasks will be to remove the obstacles that keep people in jail longer than necessary. Unless he can help unclog the system, the jail could be full in four years, a frightening thought. He has a few months to put his plan together, or build on the plans of his predecessor, Janet Holmgren. McGraw does not officially become chief judge until Jan. 1.” [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

Before Taking On The Role Of Chief Judge, McGraw Said He Would Address The Case Backlog In The Circuit Court System And Decrease The Jail Population

2012: Boone And Winnebago County Courts Began The Year With A Backlog Of More Than 95,000 Unsettled Cases, McGraw Said Working Through That Backlog Would Be Among His Top Priorities. “Boone and Winnebago County courts began the year with a backlog of more than 95,000 unsettled cases. That’s after a small dent was made in 2011 in the amount of uncompleted cases crawling through the courts. Chief Judge Joe McGraw, who became the top judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court on Jan. 1, said the task of whittling away at that backlog will be among his top priorities. New judge time has been added to Boone County courts, several judges have taken on new responsibilities, and the Winnebago and Boone County boards have each allocated money to hire more prosecutors and public defenders. Those moves will help the 17th clear cases more quickly, McGraw said, but continued evaluation of court time is needed to ensure judges can adjudicate as many cases as possible.” [Rockford Register, [2/6/12](#)]

- **McGraw: “Everything Is On The Table, Everything Is Up For Review. ... If Something Isn’t Working, We’re Not Wedded To It.”** “New judge time has been added to Boone County courts, several judges have taken on new responsibilities, and the Winnebago and Boone County boards have each allocated money to hire more prosecutors and public defenders. Those moves will help the 17th clear cases more quickly, McGraw said, but continued evaluation of court time is needed to ensure judges can adjudicate as many cases as possible. ‘We can’t create more court time, but we can use it more efficiently,’ he said. ‘Everything is on the table, everything is up for review. ... If something isn’t working, we’re not wedded to it.’ The 17th Circuit had more than 98,600 cases filed in 2011, and 82,000 were generated in Winnebago County, according to statistics the court released last month. That was nearly 10 percent fewer cases than 2010 and 19 percent fewer than 2009, largely because of a drop in the number of traffic cases, which have declined along with the number of police and deputies on the street. About 3,100 more cases were closed than filed last year in Boone and Winnebago County courts. It’s the second straight year the 17th Circuit has whittled away at its backlog. Filings outpaced the number of cases closed each year from 2002 to ’08, according to the court statistics.” [Rockford Register, [2/6/12](#)]

Rockford Register Star Opinion: According To Reporter Kevin Haas, McGraw Said He Would Review How Each Judge Was Used, In Order To Address Each Judge’s Case Load. “Holmgren, who has served two two-year terms as chief judge, last month presented the County Board a 16-page memo with statistics and initiatives to

speed up the system. Holmgren's memo was in response to a frustrated County Board that held up part of a \$250,000 request from the court system for personnel. Board members were upset at how slowly cases were moving through the system, which led to the growing jail population. The board voted unanimously Thursday to give the court system the money. Maybe that means board members think Holmgren's initiatives were on the right track. Of course, McGraw has ideas of his own. He told Register Star reporter Kevin Haas he will review how each judge is used. That's a good move because some judges are busier than others because of the kinds of cases they handle. McGraw sees opportunities for consolidation and reconfiguration that could make the system more efficient." [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

May 2012: McGraw Asked For Patience In Addressing Court System Speeds And Jail Overcrowding And Said "Things Turn Gradually. The Changes That We Have Made, I Do Believe, Will Bear Fruit." "Four Winnebago County politicians will have their pay frozen for a year while a fifth will get a raise after the November election, County Board members decided Thursday. The board also decided that officers who guard the Winnebago County Jail deserve a raise. 'These men and women are putting their lives on the line,' board member John Cabello said. 'They have to deal with people that will never give anybody respect, and they provide a level of service that is unmatched.' The pair of salary votes were two of a handful of decisions made Thursday night after the board spent about two-thirds of its two-hour, 15-minute meeting discussing ways to speed up the court system and alleviate jail crowding with leaders of the criminal justice system. Chief Judge Joe McGraw asked board members for patience. In time, he said, they will see the effects of changes that have been implemented, which included adding felony court time and personnel for the public defender, state's attorney and circuit clerk. The board has been considering hiring an outside consultant to study the court system. 'Things turn gradually. The changes that we have made, I do believe, will bear fruit,' McGraw said." [Rockford Register Star, [5/25/12](#)]

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To "Reduce The Jail Population." "The new chief judge in charge of the local court system says he too will be focused on court efficiency that can reduce the jail population. Judge Joseph McGraw begins his two-year term as chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit on Sunday. McGraw was unanimously selected by his fellow circuit judges Sept. 28 as the new chief judge. He succeeds Chief Judge Janet Holmgren, who has served in that role since May 2007. Holmgren will remain a circuit judge and likely be assigned to a court call." [Rockford Register Star, 10/13/11]

2004-2023: McGraw Served As The Presiding Judge Of The 17th Judicial District Court's Criminal Division, Which Covered Boone And Winnebago Counties

2004-May 2023: McGraw Was A 17th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Presiding Over The Criminal Division. Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017. [...] Judge Joseph G. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978) and Northern Illinois University - College of Law (J.D. - 1985). He was the Presiding Judge in Boone County from 2002 - 2003. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 2004 to present." [17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court Covered Boone And Winnebago Counties.** [State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]



[State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2010-2020: Winnebago County Courts Saw “Pervasive” Delays And Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner”

Winnebago County Courts Had Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner” And Took On Average About 4 Months Longer Than The National Standard To Move Felony Cases

2020: Rockford Register Star: Winnebago County Courts Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner.” “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. The National Center for State Courts standard is for 98% of felony cases to conclude within 180 days, but in Winnebago County the average is about four months longer.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]

- **Winnebago County Took On Average About Four Months Longer Than The National Standard To Move Felony Cases.** “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. The National Center for State Courts standard is for 98% of felony cases to conclude within 180 days, but in Winnebago County the average is about four months longer.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]
- **2010-2020: In 6 Of 10 Years, Winnebago County Saw More Cases Filed Than Closed.** “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. [...] In six of the past 10 years the county has seen more cases filed than closed, adding to a large backlog.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]

2012-2019: Winnebago County Jail Saw Chronic Understaffing And “Pervasive” Delays As Staff “Shrank Steadily”

2019: Winnebago County Jail Saw Chronic Understaffing And “Pervasive” Delays. “Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. Judges and others close to the situation say the delays are a direct result of the staffing shortages at the heart of a nearly two-year budget battle that prompted Sheriff Gary Caruana in March to sue the Winnebago County Board. The delays became more common after Caruana cut jail staff in an effort to achieve the budget restrictions enacted by the board. Today, the jail employs 147 corrections officers, the fewest in the building's 12-year history. The delays affect anyone who uses the courts, from prosecutors and defense attorneys to defendants, victims and witnesses. [...] Chief Judge Eugene Doherty called the delays ‘recurrent and pervasive.’” [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]

- **Staff At The Jail “Shrank Steadily,” Since Its Opening In 2007.** “Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. [...] When the jail opened in 2007, it employed 202 correctional officers. Staffing levels shrank steadily in the following years. The current staff level is down 20 people since 2016, when the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees filed a grievance against the sheriff and requested a federal mediator be brought in because the shrinking staffing levels were considered a violation of the health and safety provision of the guards’ collective bargaining agreement.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]

February 2012: The Winnebago County Jail Had 17% More Prisoners Than The Jail Averaged Per Day In 2010. “The Winnebago County Jail had more than 1,000 inmates Wednesday. That's nothing new lately, but it's about 17 percent more prisoners than the 856 the jail averaged per day in 2010. Chief Judge Joe McGraw told members of the Winnebago County Board Public Safety Committee on Wednesday that the use of GPS-based electronic devices to monitor the accused while out on bond would benefit the courts. He said the 17th Judicial Circuit Court has continued to meet with vendors of electronic monitoring devices as it explores how a program could be implemented in Winnebago County. The committee is in favor of using the electronic devices, its chairman Rick Pollack said. But he said it won't commit money to the initiative until members see whether the county's other jail reduction efforts are effective. The Winnebago County Board committed about \$680,000 this

year to hire four attorneys and an investigator for the public defender's office, two prosecutors and an investigator for the state's attorney's office, two probation officers, and two court clerks in an effort to speed up the court system. McGraw has also restructured some court calls in an effort to increase efficiency." [Rockford Register Star, [2/29/12](#)]

In One 2012 Case, A Suspected Murderer Was Allowed To Go Free Because His Speedy Trial Rights Were Violated

In Winnebago County, 58% Of People In Jail On Felony Charges Were There Longer Than The Speedy-Trial Requirement Of Trial Within 120 Days, Which Was Grounds For Accused To Be Released

2012: Under McGraw, 58% Of People In Jail On Felony Charges Were There Longer Than The Speedy-Trial Requirement Of Trial Within 120 Days. "It takes an average of 13 appearances in Winnebago County court before a felony case is resolved. Fifty-eight percent of people in jail on felony charges are there longer than the speedy-trial requirement of a trial within 120 days. Cash bonds more than tripled between 2007 and 2010 for the accused who want out of jail while awaiting trial." [Rockford Register Star, [12/30/12](#)]

- **Defendants Who Were Held In Jail and Invoked The Constitutional Right To A Speedy Trial Have 120 Days In Which To Get To Trial.** "Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. Judges and others close to the situation say the delays are a direct result of the staffing shortages at the heart of a nearly two-year budget battle that prompted Sheriff Gary Caruana in March to sue the Winnebago County Board. [...] Judge Joseph McGraw said both victims and defendants have rights that must be considered. Defendants who are held in jail and who invoke the constitutional right to a speedy trial have 120 days in which to go to trial. For crime victims, what's known as Marsy's Law says that they have a right 'to a timely disposition of the case' after an arrest. 'Each time we get off track, there's a consequence somewhere,' McGraw said. 'It's kind of maddening when you think of it. A door or two down my guy is waiting in a holding cell.'" [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]
- **Violating Defendants' Rights To A Speedy Trial Was Grounds For An Accused Murderer To Be Released.** "A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights." [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

A 2015 Murder Case Took More Than Six Years To Get Justice, With The Murderer Having The Longest Time Awaiting Trial Of Any Inmate In Winnebago County Jail

2015: John Carlos Boose, Of Rockford, Illinois, Beat His Wife, Regina Poe, To Death. "A Rockford man was found guilty Friday of fatally beating his wife. A Winnebago County jury convicted John Carlos Boose, 51, of first-degree murder for the Jan. 30, 2015, beating death of his 46-year-old wife, Regina Poe." [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

2021: Boose Was Found Guilty For First-Degree Murder For The Death Of His Wife. "A Rockford man was found guilty Friday of fatally beating his wife. A Winnebago County jury convicted John Carlos Boose, 51, of first-degree murder for the Jan. 30, 2015, beating death of his 46-year-old wife, Regina Poe." [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

Boose's Case Took More Than 6 Years To Reach Trial – The Longest Of Any Inmate In Winnebago County Jail. “Boose's case stretched on for more than six years before trial. No inmate inside the Winnebago County Jail had awaited trial longer than Boose, county records show.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

Regina Poe's Son: “It Shouldn't Take Five Years To Get Justice.” “By most accounts, Jan. 30 was just another in a long list of court appearances for John Boose. For Maurice Simmons, it was the first time he saw his grandmother cry. After more than 100 court appearances stretching over more than five years, Boose walked in and out of court that day no closer to standing trial on charges that he killed his wife, Regina Poe. The hearing was held on the five-year anniversary of her death. That's when the normally tough shell of Simmons' grandmother Algurtia Poe finally cracked. ‘I'm going to be 33. I've never seen my grandmother cry until that day,’ said Simmons, one of Regina's four sons. ‘Her exact words were, ‘He killed my baby. I'm ready for justice.’ [...] ‘It shouldn't take five years to get justice,’ Maurice Simmons said.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

McGraw Consistently Omitted From His Biography His Time As An Assistant State's Attorney, Where He Defended An Anti-Union Employer

McGraw's Various Biographies Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Became A Circuit Judge In 2002, But Did Not Account For The 17 Year Time Period In Between

January 2024: McGraw's Biography On His Congressional Campaign Website Said He Graduated Law School And “Went On To Spend 20 Years” As A Judge. “After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign and graduating from the Northern Illinois University College of Law, he went on to spend nearly 20 years as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, overseeing a specialized caseload for gun felonies and PATH Court—a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

- **McGraw's Biography References His Time As A “Prosecutor” But Did Not Specify A Time Period.** “Judge Joe is a husband, father, lifelong Illinoisan, and a faithful steward of the law. Joe McGraw has spent his career in law enforcement – serving as a prosecutor, private attorney, and judge.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

2023: McGraw's Biography From His Illinois Circuit Court Retirement Press Release Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Became A Judge In 2002, But Did Not Detail His Career In The 17 Years In Between. “Judge Joseph G. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978) and Northern Illinois University - College of Law (J.D. - 1985). He was the Presiding Judge in Boone County from 2002 - 2003. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 2004 to present.” [State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2014: McGraw's Biography From The Illinois State Bar Association Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Was Appointed As A Judge In 2002, But Did Not Detail His Career In The 17 Years In Between. “Chief Judge McGraw graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.A. degree in 1978. He received his juris doctor degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 1985. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge in 2002 and was elected in November of the same year.” [The Bar News, Illinois State Bar Association, [10/28/14](#)]

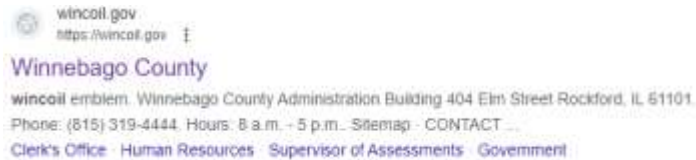
Between 1990 And 2001, McGraw Was An Assistant State's Attorney In Winnebago County, Illinois

1994: A Case Filed In Rockford, Illinois, Whereas Joseph Gerard McGraw Was An Attorney, Listed McGraw's Email As With An @wincoil.us Domain. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Doe v. Board of Education, et al, Case # 3:93-cv-20006, Case Summary, filed 1/13/93]

Defendant: Board of Education of Hoanonegah Community High School District #207 **represented by** Joseph Gerard McGraw **Phone:**(815) 319-4853
Fax: Inactive
Email: jmcgraw@wincoil.us

[Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Doe v. Board of Education, et al, Case # 3:93-cv-20006, Case Summary, filed 1/13/93]

- **“Wincoil” Was The Abbreviation For Winnebago County, Illinois.** [Wincoil.gov, accessed [1/18/24](#)]



[Wincoil.gov, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

- **A Biography On McGraw From 2011 Said He Was Previously An Assistant State’s Attorney In Winnebago County, But Did Not Specify The Exact Time Period.** “McGraw earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois and graduated cum laude from Northern Illinois University of Law. He previously was an assistant state’s attorney in Warren and Winnebago counties, a partner with the civil law practice of Turner & McGraw, a Winnebago County Board member and ran his own law firm.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/29/11](#)]

1990 – 2001: The Illinois Northern District Court Had A Record Of 20 Cases Filed Where McGraw Was An Attorney. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Joseph Gerard McGraw Cases, accessed 1/18/24]

Joseph Gerard McGraw is an attorney in 20 cases.

1:95-cv-04556	DuFour-Dowell, et al v. Cogger, et al	filed 08/08/95	closed 10/22/98
3:01-cv-50450	Aguirre v. USA, et al	filed 12/07/01	closed 09/23/03
3:90-cv-20278	Friel v. Coghlan, et al	filed 09/14/90	closed 06/07/93
3:90-cv-20365	Blumenthal, et al v. Barber Colman Holdin, et al	filed 12/26/90	closed 08/07/92
3:91-cv-20138	Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al	filed 05/08/91	closed 04/22/94
3:91-cv-20304	Coffman v. Harrison, et al	filed 10/15/91	closed 01/04/94
3:91-cv-20319	Vens, et al v. Chrysler Motors Corp	filed 10/28/91	closed 01/24/92
3:92-cv-20025	Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al	filed 01/23/92	closed 08/01/94
3:92-cv-20082	Elliott v. Spencer, et al	filed 03/09/92	closed 05/03/93
3:92-cv-20189	Lockett v. Villa, et al	filed 03/18/93	closed 10/12/94
3:92-cv-20333	Sturm, et al v. Gregory-Anderson Co, et al	filed 11/13/92	closed 01/30/96
3:93-cv-20006	Doe v. Board of Education, et al	filed 01/13/93	closed 03/15/94
3:93-cv-20043	Davis v. Ogle County Sheriff, et al	filed 03/18/93	closed 05/06/94
3:93-cv-20068	Reed v. Readell	filed 03/09/93	closed 06/03/93
3:93-cv-20094	Lockett v. Ekedahi, et al	filed 04/26/93	closed 10/13/94
3:93-cv-20106	Cain v. Sisters of Mercy, et al	filed 04/19/93	closed 09/28/93
3:93-cv-20337	Wike v. United Air Lines Inc, et al	filed 12/16/93	closed 03/15/94
3:94-cv-50011	Strathman, et al v. Game Tracker Inc, et al	filed 01/14/94	closed 10/14/94
3:94-cv-50271	Wathier, et al v. LeMay, et al	filed 08/26/94	closed 10/14/94
3:95-cv-50001	Jilderda, et al v. Up-John Co	filed 01/03/95	closed 04/03/95

[Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Joseph Gerard McGraw Cases, accessed 1/18/24]

1990: McGraw Represented The DeKalb County State’s Attorney Who Allegedly Fired An Employee For Unionizing, Demonstrating A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist”

1990: McGraw Represented Defendant Michael Coghlan In The Case Friel V. Coghlan

McGraw Represented Defendant Michael P. Coghlan In A Lawsuit Brought By Donna L. Friel. Joseph Gerard McGraw represented the defendant, Michael P Coghlan, in Donna L Friel’s lawsuit against Coghlin. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Friel v. Coghlan, et al, Case # 3:90-cv-20278, Case Summary, filed 9/14/90]

The Case Involved Michael Coghlan, The DeKalb County Illinois State’s Attorney, Firing His Employee, Friel, Allegedly For Unionizing

September 1989: DeKalb County, Illinois State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan Fired Paralegal Donna Friel. “But it appears that De Kalb County State’s Atty. Michael Coghlan may have to be dragged unwillingly from the batter’s box in his confrontation with a state labor union and the former president of one of its locals. The story starts in September 1989, when Coghlan fired Donna Friel, a paralegal and then president of a fledgling, 50-

member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local that represented mostly clerical staff under the state's attorney and in several other county offices.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Michael Coghlan Maintained That Donna Friel Was A Security Risk, While The American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Contended That Friel Was Fired For Union Activities.

“Coghlan has advanced a number of charges against Friel, the most serious of which was that she was a security risk who might compromise narcotics investigations conducted by his office. AFSCME contends that Friel was fired for her union activities and has sought her reinstatement.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **Donna Friel Was The President Of The American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Then A Fledgling 50-Member Association That Represented Mostly Clerical Staff Under The States Attorney.** “The story starts in September 1989, when Coghlan fired Donna Friel, a paralegal and then president of a fledgling, 50-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local that represented mostly clerical staff under the state`s attorney and in several other county offices. Coghlan has advanced a number of charges against Friel, the most serious of which was that she was a security risk who might compromise narcotics investigations conducted by his office. AFSCME contends that Friel was fired for her union activities and has sought her reinstatement.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Originally Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, But Three Subsequent Decisions Favored Donna Friel And Ordered For Her To Be Reinstated At Her Job

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Initially Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, But That Decision Was Overruled And Three Later Decisions Favored Donna Friel And Ordered Her To Be Reinstated

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Originally Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, Reversed That Decision And Three Subsequent Decisions Favored Donna Friel, And Ordered For Her To Be Reinstated At Her Job. “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. - First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan's conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’ - Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state's attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan's charges that Friel was a security risk. - Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Chicago Tribune: “Neither The Labor Relations Board Nor The Appellate Judges Found Any Evidence To Support Coghlan’s Charges That Friel Was A Security Risk.” “– Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state`s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan`s charges that Friel was a security risk. – Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Said Michael Coghlan Displayed A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist,” And Ordered For Donna Friel To Be Reinstated At Her Job With Back Pay

A Three Member Panel Of The Labor Relation’s Board Overruled The First Decision In Michael Coghlan’s Favor, And Ordered Donna Friel Be Reinstated With Back Pay. “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. – First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with

back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan’s conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’ [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **The Labor Relations Board Said Michael Coghlan Displayed A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist.”** “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. - First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan’s conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

An Appellate Court Panel Ordered That Donna Friel Be Reinstated, And Noted That Michael Coghlan Had Asked An Assistant State’s Attorney To Prepare An Inaccurate Memo About One Meeting Between Him And Friel”

Michael Coghlan Appealed The Labor Relations Board’s Decision To The Illinois Appellate Court, An Appellate Court Panel Sided With The Labor Board And Ordered That Donna Friel Be Reinstated. “– Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. – Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **The Appellate Panel Noted That Michael Coghlan Had Asked An Assistant State’s Attorney To Prepare An Inaccurate Memo About One Meeting Between Him And Donna Friel.”** “– Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. – Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Michael Coghlan Dismissed Union Demands For His Resignation And A Request For An Investigation By The Attorney General’s Office, Despite The Illinois Labor Relations Board Finding He Unjustly Fired Donna Friel

Michael Coghlan Dismissed Union Demands For His Resignation And A Request For An Investigation By The Attorney General’s Office, Despite The Illinois Labor Relations Board Finding He Unjustly Fired Donna Friel. “State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan dismissed union demands for his resignation Thursday along with its request for an investigation by the Attorney General’s office. The resignation stems from a ruling by the Illinois Labor Relations board that found State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan unjustly fired paralegal Donna Friel. ‘There are 100 people in the jail everyday that call for my resignation. And I take this with the same seriousness.’ Coghlan said he would appeal the decision, but declined to comment on whether he would lodge a counter suit. But union attorney Thomas Edstrom claimed Coghlan’s defense in the case ‘was totally without merit’ and illustrates why he does not deserve public office. ‘Mr. Coghlan betrayed the public trust and brought disgrace against the law enforcement community.’” [Northern Star, [11/16/90](#)]

Union Attorney Thomas Edstrom: “Mr. Coghlan Betrayed The Public Trust And Brought Disgrace Against The Law Enforcement Community.” “State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan dismissed union demands for his resignation Thursday along with its request for an investigation by the Attorney General’s office. The resignation stems from a ruling by the Illinois Labor Relations board that found State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan unjustly fired paralegal Donna Friel. ‘There are 100 people in the jail everyday that call for my resignation. And I take this with the same seriousness.’ Coghlan said he would appeal the decision, but declined to comment on whether he

would lodge a counter suit. But union attorney Thomas Edstrom claimed Coghlan's defense in the case 'was totally without merit' and illustrates why he does not deserve public office. 'Mr. Coghlan betrayed the public trust and brought disgrace against the law enforcement community.'" [Northern Star, [11/16/90](#)]

McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Abused His Discretion And Was Described As “Arbitrary” And “Unreasonable”

Significant Findings

As A Judge, McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Acquitting And Decreasing Charges Against Multiple Public Officials Accused Of Corruption And Misconduct

- ✓ The Winnebago County Coroner was charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery, and misconduct, including allegations that he stole from dead people; McGraw approved a lenient plea agreement and dismissed charges against his wife, who had been charged with stealing from taxpayers.
- ✓ Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz was arrested and charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery, and misconduct after allegedly stealing thousands from dead people and using Winnebago County credit cards for personal use.
- ✓ McGraw was the judge overseeing Bill Hintz’s case and had discretion over his plea agreement. Hintz pled guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct and all other charges were dropped.
- ✓ McGraw dismissed charges against Hintz’s wife, who was also accused of stealing from taxpayers, because she was a first-time, non-violent offender.
- ✓ The Hintzes were previously accused of stealing more than \$15,000 in government funds.
- ✓ McGraw twice acquitted a women accused of tampering with public records and obstructing justice despite evidence indicating she brought home documents that included private information and lied to police.
 - ✓ October 2011: McGraw acquitted a Department of Human Services employee from charges she tampered with public records despite evidence that the employee brought home “thousands of documents that included private information.”
 - ✓ March 2015: McGraw again acquitted the Department of Human Services employee for different charges and found that she lied to police investigating a murder but did not obstruct justice, despite a prior jury decision that found her guilty of obstruction.
- ✓ In a pair of cases McGraw was asked to recuse himself from due to conflicts of interest, but refused, McGraw acquitted a county attorney for corrupt sentencing and doing political work on county time.
 - ✓ 2011: McHenry county state attorney Louis Bianchi faced two misconduct cases – one for doing campaign work on county time, and a second for giving lighter sentences to defendants he had connections with.
 - ✓ McGraw was asked to recuse himself from Louis Bianchi’s cases due to a conflict of interest involving being paid by a state agency that was involved in aspects of Bianchi’s case, but did not.
 - ✓ McGraw initially denied Louis Bianchi’s request to have the charges thrown out, But McGraw eventually acquitted Bianchi on both charges without hearing from a single defense witness.

- ✓ The Chicago Daily Herald called McGraw's decision "stunning" and said the "procedural move in a bench trial" was "rarely [...] successful."
- ✓ After a special grand jury indicted the Chief Investigator for the State Attorney for encouraging less prison time for his nephew, McGraw threw out the charge and sided with the defense that this wasn't a crime.
- ✓ McHenry County investigator Ron Salgado was charged with misconduct for using his influence to encourage less prison time for his nephew.
- ✓ Ron Salgado was the chief investigator for State Attorney Lou Bianchi.
- ✓ After a special grand jury indicted Ron Salgado for encouraging less prison time for his nephew, McGraw threw out the charge against Salgado, agreeing that it was not a crime.
- ✓ McGraw threw out a charge against a state's attorney investigator accused of misconduct for personal use of a county car.

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw's Decisions And Found That He Abused His Judicial Discretion, Describing His Actions As "Erroneous," "Arbitrary, And Unreasonable"

- ✓ An Appellate Court reversed McGraw's "erroneous" decision to squash a search warrant of a defendant who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol during a fatal car crash.
- ✓ Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was charged with reckless homicide for his involvement in a car crash that left one woman dead, authorities alleged he was under the influence of alcohol during the fatal crash.
- ✓ Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant claiming the police department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine, McGraw granted his motion to quash the evidence...
- ✓ ... But the Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois reversed McGraw's "erroneous" decision to quash a search warrant and found the warrant was supported by probable cause.
- ✓ At the time of the fatal crash, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases, he was later convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- ✓ April 2013: An Appellate Court ruled that McGraw abused his discretion and described his actions to convict witnesses as "arbitrary and unreasonable," the court reversed his decision.
- ✓ An appellate court ruled that McGraw abused his discretion in convicting witnesses who did not show up to court because they were unable to rearrange their holiday travel.
- ✓ McGraw wanted to sentence the witnesses to jail for not providing testimony at a grand jury, but fined them \$500 each instead.
- ✓ The Appellate Court wrote that McGraw's refusal to grant a delay was "arbitrary and unreasonable" and reversed his conviction of the witnesses.
- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois found McGraw made a "clear and obvious error" by denying defendant's "simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance."

- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw “misled” the defendant into pleading guilty and said the circumstance of the case “br[ought] the judiciary into disrepute.”
- ✓ In a case regarding child abuse, McGraw offered a defendant a sentence “toward the low end” of the 6-30 year range at a pretrial bargaining meeting...
- ✓ ... But after the defendant pled guilty and gave up his right to a trial on the charges, McGraw sentenced him to 20 years in prison.
- ✓ The Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois found that McGraw “misled” the defendant into pleading guilty and that the circumstances of the case “br[ought] the judiciary into disrepute.”
- ✓ The Fourth District Appellate Court ultimately affirmed the defendant’s conviction, finding McGraw explained the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the prior misleading comments.
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw abused his discretion by imposing a \$1,200 sanction calculated using an hourly rate that had “no relation whatsoever” to the expenses incurred in a petition dismissal.

Fast And Loose With Taxpayer Money: While McGraw Was Demanding And Suing For More Funding From The Winnebago County Board And Giving His Staff Raises Without Approval, The County Budget Was In A Deficit That Led To Police Officers Being Laid Off

- ✓ September 2011: Shortly before McGraw became Chief Judge, former Chief Judge Holmgren was able to advocate for funding from the Winnebago County Board without legal action.
- ✓ 2016-2017: McGraw threatened to use his position to pursue legal action against the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund four additional officers, and then hired them before the board could vote on funding.
- ✓ 2017: McGraw threatened to use his position to punish the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund a new bailiff.
- ✓ May 2017: McGraw issued a legal order against the Winnebago County Board in response to the board denying two of his budget requests.
- ✓ June 2017: McGraw ordered the board to spend after they rejected funding for legal research materials.
- ✓ July 2017: McGraw sued the Winnebago County Board over funding.
- ✓ September 2017: A judge granted a temporary injunction in favor of McGraw, with the board granting McGraw the funding as a result.
- ✓ December 2017: McGraw filed another court order requiring the county board to restore the spending cuts.
- ✓ April 2018: The lawsuit was settled with the County Board restoring \$386,000 in spending cuts to McGraw.
- ✓ The Winnebago County Board Chair said McGraw’s “dangerous” actions violated “basic checks and balances of government” and “hijack[ed] representative government.”

- ✓ Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: “the ongoing dispute with McGraw stems from the county’s need for spending cuts.”
- ✓ The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office needed to lay off as many as 100 employees due to the budget deficits.
- ✓ Winnebago County budget cuts forced the sheriff’s department to disband a TAC Unit which “played a big role in local human trafficking investigations” and tackled drug crimes.
- ✓ During the budget deficit, McGraw gave staff pay raises without approval from the Winnebago county board.
- ✓ The Winnebago County Board had to hire a law firm at a rate of \$225 to defend itself against McGraw’s lawsuit.

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Postconviction Petitions, McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Petitions Inhibited Their Ability To Challenge Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

- ✓ Post Conviction Petitions allowed defendants to challenge their sentence based on violations of their constitutional rights.
- ✓ An Appellate Court reversed McGraw’s 2nd stage dismissal of a defendant’s post-conviction petition and found that the defendant’s 6th Amendment rights were violated as his post-conviction counsel failed to provide a reasonable level of assistance in providing evidence for his civil rights claims.
- ✓ In A Post-Conviction Petition, an African American defendant claimed he was denied equal protection during his jury trial as the entire jury pool contained no African Americans, while the population of the city where the trial took place was one-third African American.
- ✓ McGraw denied defendant’s petition at the second stage of review and found the jury pool claim was insufficient and the petition failed to show trial counsel’s decision to not challenge the jury was unreasonable.
- ✓ McGraw’s denial of defendant’s post-conviction petition at the second stage prevented the defendant’s petition and claims of constitutional rights violations from receiving an evidentiary hearing.
- ✓ On appeal from McGraw’s dismissal, defendant alleged his post conviction counsel failed to provide a reasonable level of assistance and did nothing to support jury-pool claims in the amended petition.
- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois reversed McGraw’s dismissal of defendant’s petition and found the defendant’s 6th Amendment rights were violated as postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance.
- ✓ McGraw denied a defendant’s request to file a post-conviction petition that alleged five constitutional rights violations; an appellate court reversed his decision, and the defendant was ultimately found to have been wrongfully convicted after spending 23 years in prison.
- ✓ The defendant filed a motion for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition alleging five constitutional rights violations, McGraw denied his request to file a petition.

- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court found McGraw erred by denying defendant's request to file a successive petition post-conviction petition and said there was "nothing in the record to even remotely suggest that the state complied" with its obligation to disclose evidence in its possession.
- ✓ Following the Appellate Court's decision to return the case for a new trial, prosecutors dropped charges as another man had confessed to the murder for which defendant was wrongfully convicted.
- ✓ McGraw granted the defendant a certificate of innocence after he spent 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.
- ✓ McGraw denied a defendant's post-trial motion claiming 6th Amendment violations; the Appellate court reversed McGraw's denial finding counsel was ineffective and allowed "the only evidence linking defendant to the crime" to go "uncorroborated and unchallenged."
- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois found the defendant's counsel was ineffective, and therefore his 6th Amendment Rights were violated, and reversed defendant's convictions and McGraw's petition denial, the court remanded the case for a new trial.
- ✓ An Appellate court reversed McGraw's dismissal of defendant's post-conviction petition finding the defendant's 6th Amendment rights were violated, the Appellate court remanded the petition to the trial court to proceed to the second stage and appoint defendant an attorney.
- ✓ McGraw dismissed a postconviction petition that claimed the defendant was deprived of his 6th Amendment rights, by dismissing the petition at the first stage defendant did not receive an attorney.
- ✓ The Appellate Court reversed McGraw's dismissal of defendant's petition, sent the petition back to the lower court and said defendant should be appointed counsel to assist in second stage consideration of the petition.
- ✓ An Appellate Court said McGraw should not have dismissed a defendant's postconviction petition voluntarily without a motion to dismiss filed by the state, the court vacated McGraw's dismissal and remanded the cause.
- ✓ The Appellate Court called McGraw's dismissal of the petition without a motion from the state "improper."
- ✓ By 'improperly' dismissing defendant's petition of on his own without a motion from the state, McGraw cut short defendant's postconviction petition before it could receive an evidentiary hearing.
- ✓ An Appellate Court held that McGraw "erred in summarily dismissing defendant's postconviction petition," reversed McGraw's judgement and remanded the cause.
- ✓ Defendant filed a postconviction petition alleging his guilty plea was induced by an unfulfilled promise by the state, McGraw summarily dismissed his petition at the first stage.
- ✓ By dismissing Defendant's postconviction petition at the first stage, the defendant was not given the assistance of counsel in making his claims that his rights were violated.
- ✓ The Appellate Court reversed McGraw's denial of defendant's postconviction petition and said he "erred in summarily dismissing defendant's postconviction petition" and returned the petition to the lower court for further postconviction petition proceedings.

McGraw Withheld Information From Voters: He Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure Despite Holding Numerous Positions

- ✓ McGraw claimed no positions on his 2023 personal financial disclosure, despite holding numerous positions in 2021-2023.
- ✓ McGraw reported no positions on his 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure.
- ✓ First Time Candidates were required to report positions held for the current calendar year and two calendar years prior to the Personal Financial Disclosure being filed.
- ✓ 2021-2024: McGraw was a co-chair of the steering committee of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council.
- ✓ As late as May 2023, McGraw was chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, as well as several other Illinois Supreme Court committees.
- ✓ 2022 – 2023: McGraw was a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.

McGraw Demanded An Assistant Public Defender Use All His Vacation Time Accrued After 30 Years Of Service Despite The Impact It Would Have On His Job Performance; The Public Defender Passed Away Before His Lawsuit Against McGraw Was Fully Litigated

- ✓ August 2016: Ed Light, an assistant public defender filed a lawsuit against McGraw, Winnebago County and a Winnebago county public defender alleging he and over 100 employees lost vacation time.
- ✓ Ed Light was a 30-year veteran of the public defender's office and had accrued significant time off; McGraw dictated that he use all of his vacation before the end of the year despite Ed Light's worry he could not perform his job adequately.
- ✓ October 2016: Ed Light passed away while his lawsuit against McGraw and others was being litigated and the case was dismissed in February 2017.

As A Judge, McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Acquitting And Decreasing Charges Against Multiple Public Officials Accused Of Corruption And Misconduct**The Winnebago County Coroner Was Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct, Including Allegations That He Stole From Dead People; McGraw Approved A Lenient Plea Agreement And Dismissed Charges Against His Wife, Who Had Been Charged With Stealing From Taxpayers****Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz Was Arrested And Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct After Allegedly Stealing Thousands From Dead People And Using Winnebago County Credit Cards For Personal Use**

Bill Hintz Was Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct After Allegedly Stealing Thousands From Dead People And Using Winnebago County Credit Cards For Personal Use. "Hintz was initially charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery and misconduct. Authorities alleged that he used Winnebago County credit and gas cards for his personal use and stole more than \$16,000 from dead people and their families. Hintz was first charged with 37 offenses in October 2020 and vowed to stay at his elected post. He

agreed to a leave of absence in 2021 after additional criminal allegations were filed against him. During the leave, he was prohibited from accessing any county-issued property or performing any work-related activities.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

October 2020: Bill And Michelle Hintz Were Arrested After They Allegedly Charged Winnebago County For A “New York Death Investigation Seminar,” Hintz Claimed He Attended January 31, 2022 To February 1, 2022. “On Thursday, Judge Joseph McGraw dismissed the case against Michelle Hintz, wife of former Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz, after she was accused of stealing from taxpayers. McGraw dismissed the charges on the basis that she was a first-time, non-violent offender. In October 2020, the Hintz’ were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a ‘New York Death Investigation Seminar’ Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **Bill And Melissa Hintz Spent Hundreds Of Dollars To Rent A Room, And For Car Rentals And Gas During That Alleged Trip.** “In October 2020, the Hintz’ were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a “New York Death Investigation Seminar” Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st. Several hundred dollars were spent to allegedly rent a room at a Holiday Inn Express in Buffalo, New York, and for car rentals and gas. Winnebago County State’s Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross said \$15,818 of government funds were stolen by Bill and Melissa Hintz.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

State Police Claimed Bill Hintz Stole Roughly \$2,500 From Families Of People Who Had Been Cremated At The County’s Expense And \$14,500 From The Coroner’s Evidence Vault That Belonged To Deceased Individuals. “After the 2020 charges were filed, state police received additional information that Hintz had stolen roughly \$2,500 paid by the families of people who had been cremated at the county’s expense, the release states. The latest indictment alleges Hintz required family members to pay cash in order to recover the cremated remains of their homeless loved ones but kept the money for himself. It also alleges Hintz stole about \$14,500 in cash out of the coroner’s evidence vault that belonged to deceased individuals.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/2/21](#)]

- **Bill Hintz Was A Republican.** “A Republican, Hintz was first elected coroner in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. Before he was elected coroner, he was a deputy under Sue Fiduccia, who ran the office for 21 years.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

Attorney General Kwame Raoul: Bill Hintz’s “Actions Took Advantage Of Grieving Families And Abused The Trust Of Winnebago County Residents.” “The Illinois Attorney General's Office is prosecuting each case. Attorney General Kwame Raoul declined to comment on the current status of the proceedings but said in a release last year that Hintz used the coroner's office to ‘line his pockets.’ ‘The defendant's actions took advantage of grieving families and abused the trust of Winnebago County residents,’ the release states. Bill Hintz's next hearing is at 9 a.m., May 19, in Courtroom A . He remains on paid administrative leave.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/11/22](#)]

McGraw Was The Judge Overseeing The Case

McGraw Oversaw Bill Hintz’s Case. “Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct Wednesday during a hearing in front of Judge Joe McGraw. As part of a plea agreement, all other charges against Hintz will be dropped. Hintz was sentenced to 180 days in jail with three days already being served. He will also be on probation for four years.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

Judges Had Discretion In Plea Agreement Cases. “When a defendant enters into a plea agreement, the defendant typically must stand up in court and admit they violated the law. The prosecutor makes a recommendation to the judge in accordance with the terms of the plea agreement. However, judges do retain discretion and are not required to abide by the deal that the prosecutor made.” [Forbes, [6/12/23](#)]

Bill Hintz Pleaded Guilty To One Count Of Theft Of Government Funds And One Count Of Misconduct And All Other Charges Were Dropped

Bill Hintz Pleaded Guilty To One Count Of Theft Of Government Funds And One Count Of Misconduct.

“Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct Wednesday during a hearing in front of Judge Joe McGraw.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

All Other Charges Against Bill Hintz Were Dropped And He Would Serve 180 Days In Jail. “As part of a plea agreement, all other charges against Hintz will be dropped. Hintz was sentenced to 180 days in jail with three days already being served. He will also be on probation for four years.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

McGraw Dismissed Charges Against Hintz’s Wife, Who Was Also Accused Of Stealing From Taxpayers, Because She Was A First-Time, Non-Violent Offender

McGraw Dismissed Charges Against Michelle Hintz After She Was Accused Of Stealing From Taxpayers On The Basis That She Was A First-Time, Non-Violent Offender. “On Thursday, Judge Joseph McGraw dismissed the case against Michelle Hintz, wife of former Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz, after she was accused of stealing from taxpayers. McGraw dismissed the charges on the basis that she was a first-time, non-violent offender. In October 2020, the Hintz’ were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a ‘New York Death Investigation Seminar’ Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **McGraw Dismissed The Case Against Michelle Hintz Under Winnebago County’s DIVERT Deferred-Prosecution Program Which Allowed The Conviction To Remain Off Her Record.** “The case against the wife of former Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz has been dismissed after a brief hearing Thursday in front of Judge Joe McGraw at the Winnebago County Justice Center. Prosecutors with the Illinois Attorney General's Office told McGraw that Hintz met all requirements under Winnebago County's DIVERT deferred-prosecution program, which allowed all charges to be dropped. According to a case management order filed on May 5, Hintz completed community service hours and gave a videotaped statement admitting to her involvement in the alleged offenses. The Illinois Attorney General's Office, which prosecuted the case, recognized that Hintz was jointly liable for the restitution McGraw ordered her husband to pay when he pleaded guilty Wednesday to felony theft and official misconduct. Records show that the ordered restitution of \$32,817.05 has been paid.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

The Hintzes Were Previously Accused Of Stealing Over \$15,000 In Government Funds

Bill And Michelle Hintz Were Previously Accused Of Stealing \$15,818 In Government Funds. “The Illinois Attorney General has accused Hintz of stealing \$14,500 in cash belonging to deceased individuals, taking \$2,500 from family members of the dead in exchange for county-funded cremations, and Hintz and his wife were previously accused of stealing \$15,818 in government funds. He has paid the county back, and will also lose \$130,000 in his pension. Hintz also officially resigned his position as Winnebago County Coroner. He apologized to the court, county officials, his office’s staff and citizens.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **Bill Hintz Paid The County Back, Lost \$130,000 Of His Pension, And Resigned As County Coroner.** “He has paid the county back, and will also lose \$130,000 in his pension. Hintz also officially resigned his position as Winnebago County Coroner. He apologized to the court, county officials, his office’s staff and citizens.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

McGraw Twice Acquitted a Women Accused Of Tampering With Public Records And Obstructing Justice Despite Evidence Indicating She Brought Home Documents That Included Private Information, And Lied To Police

October 2011: McGraw Acquitted A Department Of Human Services Employee From Charges She Tampered With Public Records Despite Evidence That The Employee Brought Home “Thousands Of Documents That Included Private Information”

October 2011: McGraw Acquitted A Department Of Human Services Employee From Charges That She Tampered With Public Records. “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. ‘It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

There Was Substantial Evidence That The Employee Brought Home “Thousands Of Documents That Included Private Information.” “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. ‘It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

- **The Documents Allegedly Brought Home By The DHS Employee Included Private Information Including Social Security Numbers And Medical Bills Of At Least 10 Public Aid Applicants.** “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. ‘It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

Prosecutors Said The Department Of Human Services Employee Never Returned The Sensitive Documents She Took Home, Nor Sought Permission From Supervisors To Take Work Home. “Chavez testified that she was an excellent employee and consistently one of the most productive caseworkers for the local office. She said she didn't know removing the files was prohibited. Chavez said she had in 2006 and 2007 become overwhelmed with work as caseworkers were being forced to pull double duty as clerks. She described a chaotic state office overwhelmed with case files and entire offices stuffed with paperwork stacked in boxes. Documents were routinely misplaced or lost, she said. She started bringing work home with her because she couldn't get it all done during the regular workday. But prosecutors pointed out that she never returned the documents, sought overtime pay, sought permission or informed supervisors she was taking work home. Prosecutors said she was ‘hoarding’ documents and could provide no plausible explanation for keeping them. This wasn't for work purposes, prosecutor Kate Kurtz said. Chavez sneaked files out of the office and created an insurmountable mountain of sensitive documents in her

home, Kurtz said. ‘She knew she wasn't supposed to do it, otherwise she would have returned them,’ Kurtz said.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

March 2015: McGraw Again Acquitted The DHS Employee For Different Charges And Found That She Lied To Police During A Murder Investigation But Did Not Obstruct Justice, Despite A Prior Jury Decision That Found Her Guilty Of Obstruction

March 2015: McGraw Acquitted The DHS Employee And Found That She Lied To Police During A Murder Investigation But Did Not Obstruct Justice. “Diane Chavez lied to police investigating the February 2008 killing of attorney Gregory H. Clark but did not obstruct justice, Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw has found. McGraw’s ruling, issued Monday, said Chavez misled police by saying first-degree murder defendant Richard Wanke did not live with her at 1113 Grant Ave. when he, in fact, did live there. ‘False, misleading statements to police alone are not enough’ to find her guilty, he said. Although the initial lie and subsequent misrepresentations forced police to take the time to obtain a search warrant, it didn’t hinder the police investigation and didn’t amount to obstruction of justice, McGraw said. Chavez denies lying to police. It was the second time McGraw has acquitted Chavez, 56, of charges stemming from the investigation into Clark’s Feb. 6, 2008, killing.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

- **McGraw: “False, Misleading Statements To Police Alone [Were] Not Enough” To Find The DHS Employee Guilty.** “Diane Chavez lied to police investigating the February 2008 killing of attorney Gregory H. Clark but did not obstruct justice, Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw has found. McGraw’s ruling, issued Monday, said Chavez misled police by saying first-degree murder defendant Richard Wanke did not live with her at 1113 Grant Ave. when he, in fact, did live there. ‘False, misleading statements to police alone are not enough’ to find her guilty, he said. Although the initial lie and subsequent misrepresentations forced police to take the time to obtain a search warrant, it didn’t hinder the police investigation and didn’t amount to obstruction of justice, McGraw said. Chavez denies lying to police. It was the second time McGraw has acquitted Chavez, 56, of charges stemming from the investigation into Clark’s Feb. 6, 2008, killing.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Judge: Rockford Woman's Lie Doesn't Equal Obstruction.”** [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

In 2013, A Jury Initially Found The DHS Employee Found Guilty On The Obstructing-Justice Charge, But Her Defense Attorneys Convinced McGraw To Overturn That Decision. “McGraw presided over her 2011 bench trial and found her not guilty of tampering, ruling that the state had not proven that Chavez had done anything illegal. Chavez was initially found guilty by a jury in a 2013 trial on the obstructing-justice charge. But her defense attorneys convinced McGraw to overturn that decision. McGraw said he ordered a new trial when he realized he made a mistake when he had not allowed a jury instruction clarifying that a false statement and material interference with the investigation was needed for a guilty verdict for obstructing justice.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

In A Pair Of Cases McGraw Was Asked To Recuse Himself From Due To Conflict Of Interest, McGraw Acquitted A County Attorney For Corrupt Sentencing And Doing Political Work On County Time

2011: McHenry County State Attorney Louis Bianchi Faced Two Misconduct Cases – One For Doing Campaign Work On County Time, And A Second For Giving Lighter Sentences To Defendants He Had Connections With

2011: Louis Bianchi And One Of His Associates Were Charged With “Arranging Deals To Reduce Criminal Penalties For Relatives And Campaign Donors”

2011: Louis Bianchi Faced Charges Of Improperly Influencing Three Criminal Cases For “Seeking Lighter Treatment For Defendants Who Were Associated With Him Or His Office’s Chief Investigator.” “Bianchi, 68, of Crystal Lake, awaits his second trial Aug. 1 on charges that he improperly influenced three criminal cases, seeking lighter treatment for defendants who were associated with him or his office's chief investigator, Ron Salgado, 59, of McHenry. McGraw previously dismissed an official misconduct charge against Salgado, after arguments that his attempt to secure a lighter sentence for a relative in a drug case was not a violation of equal protection rights, as alleged.” [Chicago Tribune, [7/2/11](#)]

- **Louis Bianchi And His Chief Investigator Were Charged With “Arranging Deals To Reduce Criminal Penalties For Relatives And Campaign Donors.”** “New charges have been lodged against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi. Special prosecutors have charged Bianchi and his chief investigator, Ronald Salgado, with arranging deals to reduce criminal penalties for relatives and campaign donors.” [CBS News Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Giving Special Treatment To A Prominent Doctor Accused Of Making Lewd Comments To And Harassing A Woman. “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

- **The Doctor’s Lawyer Contributed \$250 To Bianchi’s Campaign In July 2005 And July 2006.** “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]
- **The Assistant States Attorney Said Similar Misdemeanor Cases Were Often Dismissed If The Defendant Sought Counseling, But He Had Not Seen Any Cases Dismissed With Prejudice As Bianchi Had Done.** “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling. Tsilimigras also said Bianchi said if the victim wanted to pursue the case and take it to trial, his office would do that. Tsilimigras met with the victim to lay out the options and gave her time to think about whether to move forward. Tsilimigras, who thought the case was weak, also warned that if the defendant were convicted, it was unlikely he'd do any jail time because he did not have a criminal background.

Tsilimigras said he had not seen any cases dismissed with prejudice, but it didn't make a difference in the state's eyes." [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Giving Preferential Treatment To Jeremy Reid, A 19 Year Old Distant Relative Charged With Selling Cocaine Twice To An Undercover Officer At A Highschool. "Bianchi also is accused of giving preferential treatment to Jeremy Reid, a 19-year-old charged in spring 2010 with selling cocaine twice to an undercover officer at Crystal Lake Central High School. McQueen argued Bianchi should have recused himself from that case because the defendant was a distant relative of one of Bianchi's investigators. Instead, McQueen argued, Bianchi used his influence to get a sentence of four years in prison instead of five years on a reduced charge. The initial charges carried a six-year minimum sentence if convicted. Assistant State's Attorney Kirk Chrzanowski, the prosecutor assigned to Reid's case, said he was negotiating with Assistant Public Defender Christopher Harmon. Harmon wanted four years, but the state wanted five. Chrzanowski later met with Bianchi, who indicated four years was OK. Chrzanowski testified he told Harmon at an August 2010 court hearing that the deal was for four years, and Harmon's eyes widened. Chrzanowski also said Bianchi was at that hearing where Reid pleaded guilty and he saw Bianchi look toward Reid's family. The prosecution is expected to wrap up its case today in McHenry County court in Woodstock. McQueen also dropped a third misconduct charge that Bianchi intentionally delayed a theft case against Bianchi's nephew until a first-time offender program could be launched." [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

That Same Year, Louis Bianchi Was Also Accused Of Having Employees Do Campaign Work On The Taxpayer Dime

March 2011: Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Using County Resources For Campaign Purposes. "The trial involving the current McHenry County State's Attorney begins Monday, and the attorney for Louis Bianchi promises a war. [...] He was accused last year of directing employees to write campaign correspondence on taxpayer time and solicit fundraising donations." [CBS News Chicago, [3/21/11](#)]

- **The Political Activities Included Writing Campaign Correspondence And Soliciting Fundraising Donations.** "The trial involving the current McHenry County State's Attorney begins Monday, and the attorney for Louis Bianchi promises a war. As WBBM Newsradio 780's Mary Frances Bragiel reports, Bianchi and his personal secretary, Joyce Synek, are charged with using county resources for political purposes. He was accused last year of directing employees to write campaign correspondence on taxpayer time and solicit fundraising donations." [CBS News Chicago, [3/21/11](#)]

McGraw Was Asked To Recuse Himself From Louis Bianchi's Cases Due To A Conflict Of Interest Involving Being Paid By A State Agency That Was Involved In Aspects Of Bianchi's Case, But Did Not

Special Prosecutors Thomas McQueen Argued McGraw Should Recuse Himself Alleging The "Appearance Of Impropriety" Due To A Conflict Of Interest

Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen Argued That McGraw Should Recuse Himself From Louis Bianchi's Corruption Case Because "He Had Been Paid By The Same State Agency That Was Involved In Other Aspects Of Bianchi's Case." "The judge overseeing the corruption charges against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi denied a request Friday to step down from the case after a prosecutor questioned his impartiality. [...] Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of charges that he used county employees and computers for campaign work. Bianchi is awaiting a second trial before McGraw on charges that the state's attorney improperly gave breaks to acquaintances in criminal cases. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen had argued that McGraw should recuse himself because he had been paid by the same state agency that was involved in other aspects of Bianchi's case. Since the 2005 fiscal year, the Illinois state's attorneys appellate prosecutors office said, it has paid McGraw \$19,900 as an instructor at its continuing education seminars." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/11](#)]

Prosecutors Sought To Disqualify McGraw Alleging The "Appearance Of Impropriety." "Prosecutors are seeking to disqualify the judge who acquitted McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi, alleging 'the

appearance of impropriety.’ The prosecutors charged today that Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw received thousands of dollars in payments from the same state agency that, among other things, is challenging the prosecutors’ legal fees in the case. Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of all charges that he used his office employees and equipment to do campaign work. McGraw is set to preside over Bianchi’s second trial in June on charges of official misconduct involving his handling of criminal cases. In their motion, prosecutors stated that McGraw received at least \$6,250 last year from the Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office for speaking at its attorney seminars. He is expected to speak again this year at an upcoming prosecutors seminar. The appellate prosecutors office’s main function is to represent state’s attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state’s attorney has a conflict. As a state’s attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. The filing also points to various actions of the appellate prosecutors office in the Bianchi case. Because the judge has business dealings with the office, he shouldn’t be hearing the case against Bianchi, prosecutors argue. For example, the motion points out that an attorney from the appellate prosecutor’s office has been representing McHenry County in the case. The attorney is appealing a court order to pay the legal fees of the special prosecutors who are arguing the case against Bianchi. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen filed the motion ‘with great respect for this Court,’ and asked McGraw to remove himself from the case.” [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

- **Illinois Supreme Court Rules Dictate That Judges Were Prohibited From Even The Appearance Of A Conflict Of Interest.** “The appellate prosecutors office’s main function is to represent state’s attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state’s attorney has a conflict. As a state’s attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. The filing also points to various actions of the appellate prosecutors office in the Bianchi case. Because the judge has business dealings with the office, he shouldn’t be hearing the case against Bianchi, prosecutors argue. For example, the motion points out that an attorney from the appellate prosecutor’s office has been representing McHenry County in the case. The attorney is appealing a court order to pay the legal fees of the special prosecutors who are arguing the case against Bianchi. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen filed the motion ‘with great respect for this Court,’ and asked McGraw to remove himself from the case. Under Illinois Supreme Court rules, judges are prohibited from even the appearance of a conflict of interest. But Bianchi’s attorney, Terry Ekl, said the prosecutors have to show proof of bias to remove the judge from the case. ‘We call this judge-shopping, and it’s wrong,’ he said. McGraw referred all comments in the case to the McHenry County Circuit Court trial administrator, who was not available for comment.” [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

McGraw’s Alleged Conflict Of Interest Involved \$19,900 He Received As An Instructor At The Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office Which Was Affiliated With The Defendant In The Case

The Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor’s Office “Paid McGraw \$19,900 As An Instructor At Its Continuing Education Seminars” Since The 2005 Fiscal Year. “Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of charges that he used county employees and computers for campaign work. Bianchi is awaiting a second trial before McGraw on charges that the state’s attorney improperly gave breaks to acquaintances in criminal cases. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen had argued that McGraw should recuse himself because he had been paid by the same state agency that was involved in other aspects of Bianchi’s case. Since the 2005 fiscal year, the Illinois state’s attorneys appellate prosecutors office said, it has paid McGraw \$19,900 as an instructor at its continuing education seminars.” [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/11](#)]

- **Bianchi, The Defendant In The Case, Could Vote To Elect Board Members Of The Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor’s Office And McHenry County Also Paid An Annual Fee To The Office.** “In their motion, prosecutors stated that McGraw received at least \$6,250 last year from the Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office for speaking at its attorney seminars. He is expected to speak again this year at an upcoming prosecutors seminar. The appellate prosecutors office’s main function is to represent state’s attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state’s attorney has a conflict.

As a state's attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

McGraw Initially Denied Louis Bianchi's Request To Have The Charges Thrown Out

McGraw Initially Denied Louis Bianchi's Request To Have The Misconduct And Conspiracy Charges Against Him Thrown Out. "A judge has denied a push from embattled McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi to have the misconduct and conspiracy charges against him and his secretary thrown out. The pair were indicted last September on charges they used county resources for Bianchi's campaign. Bianchi's defense attorney Terry Ekl had argued that special prosecutors exceeded their authority in investigating anything other than initial claims by Bianchi's former employee Amy Dalby. Ekl contended the special prosecutors misled the grand jury and that the charges should be dismissed. But Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw disagreed in a four-page ruling Friday. 'The order of January 7, 2010, allowed the prosecutor to investigate actions and persons involved in the alleged misconduct occurring subsequent to Dalby's employment in the State's Attorney's Office,' McGraw wrote. 'This investigation allegedly disclosed additional acts of misconduct by Bianchi and included alleged illegal actions by Synek.'" [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/22/11]

- **March 2011: McGraw Refused To Drop Charges Against Louis Bianchi For A Second Time.** "A judge has denied a final motion to drop corruption charges against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi, meaning the matter is full steam ahead for trial Monday. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw rejected defense attorney Terry Ekl's argument that Special Prosecutors Thomas McQueen and Henry Tonigan misled a grand jury that eventually indicted Bianchi and his personal secretary, Joyce Synek." [Chicago Daily Herald, 3/16/11]

McGraw Eventually Acquitted Louis Bianchi On Both Charges Without Hearing From A Single Defense Witness

March 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of The Charge Of Doing Political Work On County Time "Even Before Bianchi Had Presented A Defense"

March 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi For The Charges Of Doing Political Work On County Time. "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case. Bianchi's administrative assistant, Joyce Synek, was also acquitted on charges that she lied to a grand jury and destroyed political documents on her office computer. Bianchi, a Republican serving his second term as the top prosecutor in McHenry County, still faces additional charges stemming from the same investigation but for different conduct." [CBS News Chicago, [3/23/11](#)]

- **McGraw: "The Evidence Presented Here In This Case, In This Trial, Has Not Demonstrated Any Crimes Have Been Committed."** "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case." [CBS News, [3/23/11](#)]
- **McGraw "Delivered A Directed Verdict From The Bench Even Before Bianchi Had Presented A Defense In The Case."** "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case." [CBS News Chicago, [3/23/11](#)]

August 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of The Charge Of Influencing Sentences Of Defendants He Had Associations With

August 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of Charges Of Giving Lighter Sentences To Defendants He Had Connections With. “Judge Joseph McGraw on Tuesday issued a directed verdict that found Bianchi not guilty of two misconduct charges that alleged he had given more lenient deals to criminal defendants who had personal or political ties to his office. McGraw had already dropped a third charge of official misconduct on Monday.” [Chicago Tribune, [8/3/11](#)]

- **McGraw: Louis Bianchi Handed The Cases “In The Normal, Customary Way.”** “Judge Joseph McGraw on Tuesday issued a directed verdict that found Bianchi not guilty of two misconduct charges that alleged he had given more lenient deals to criminal defendants who had personal or political ties to his office. McGraw had already dropped a third charge of official misconduct on Monday. ‘In each case, the state's attorney had the case handled in the normal, customary way,’ said McGraw, who was brought in from Winnebago to avoid a conflict of interest.” [Chicago Tribune, [8/3/11](#)]

McGraw Dismissed The Charges Without Hearing From A Single Witness

McGraw Dismissed Both Of The Louis Bianchi Charges Without Hearing From A Single Witness. “The cases against Bianchi and Synek fell apart in two bench trials before Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw. He found Bianchi and Synek not guilty on March 23 of the charges in the first indictment. McGraw in June threw out the charges against Salgado and McCleary, and on Aug. 2 found Bianchi not guilty of the remaining three charges against him. In both of Bianchi’s bench trials, McGraw dismissed the charges without Ekl having to call a single witness.” [Northwest Herald, [1/3/12](#)]

The Chicago Daily Herald Called McGraw’s Decision “Stunning” And Said The “Procedural Move In A Bench Trial” Was “Rarely [...] Successful”

The Chicago Daily Herald Called The Decision “Stunning” And Said The “Procedural Move In A Bench Trial” Was “Rarely [...] Successful.” “In a stunning decision, a Judge Wednesday declared McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi and his secretary not guilty on a combined 26 charges of conspiracy, misconduct and obstruction of justice without their defense team even having to present a single witness. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw entered his findings on the motion for a directed verdict a procedural move in a bench trial that rarely is successful.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [3/23/11](#)]

According To CBS, McGraw Said He Might Not Have Agreed With Every Decision Made By Louis Bianchi But None Rose To The Level Of A Crime

CBS: McGraw Said He Might Not Agree With Every Decision Made By Louis Bianchi But None Rose To The Level Of A Crime. “A judge rendered a directed verdict this afternoon and declared McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi not guilty on counts of professional misconduct. In his verdict, Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw said that while he might not agree with every decision made by the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, none of those decisions rose to a criminal level. This is the second trial this year alleging misconduct by Bianchi while serving as state's attorney. The first trial ended in March with a directed verdict of not guilty by McGraw.” [CBS, [8/2/11](#)]

NOTE: Bianchi filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated, a US district judge dismissed the [lawsuit twice](#). Prior to that dismissal, prosecutor Tonigan [agreed to a settlement](#) but admitted no wrongdoing.

NOTE: Bianchi also filed civil contempt of court charges against Prosecutor McQueen. In a 2014 bench trial, McGraw [found McQueen not guilty](#) of criminal contempt of court for his actions prosecuting the case.

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted The Chief Investigator For The State's Attorney For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge And Sided With The Defense That This Wasn't A Crime

McHenry County Investigator Ron Salgado Was Charged With Misconduct For Using His Influence To Encourage Less Prison Time For His Nephew

McHenry County Investigator Ron Salgado Was Accused Of Using His Influence To Encourage Less Prison Time For His Nephew. “A judge dismissed charges Friday against a McHenry County investigator accused of using his influence to improve a plea deal for a teen whom prosecutors had described as the investigator's nephew. Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was Charged With Official Misconduct In The Case. “Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was The Chief Investigator For State Attorney Lou Bianchi

Ron Salgado Was The Chief Investigator For State Attorney Lou Bianchi. “Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [CBS Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was Bianchi's Chief Investigator. “New charges have been lodged against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi. Special prosecutors have charged Bianchi and his chief investigator, Ronald Salgado, with arranging deals to reduce criminal penalties for relatives and campaign donors.” [CBS Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted Ron Salgado For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against Salgado, Agreeing That It Was Not A Crime

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted Ron Salgado For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against Salgado. “The board's Law and Justice Committee on Monday authorized county staff to pay the amount for the legal defense of Ron Salgado, who was charged during the special prosecutors' investigation of Bianchi with one count of official misconduct. [...] A special grand jury indicted Salgado in February 2011, alleging that he encouraged less prison time for his 'nephew' by having a previously negotiated five-year prison sentence reduced to four years. Salgado has denied that the defendant identified in the allegations was his nephew. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw in June threw out the charge against Salgado, concluding that 'the facts as pled do not state an offense.’” [The Northwest Herald via Newspapers.com, [2/8/12](#)]

- **Ron Salgado's Relative Was Accused Of Dealing Drugs Outside A Highschool.** “Tonigan and Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen announced misconduct charges in February against Bianchi and investigators Salgado and Michael McCleary. Bianchi is accused of cutting a year off a plea bargain in August 2010, reducing a five-year sentence to four, in favor of Salgado's relative who was accused of dealing drugs outside an unnamed Crystal Lake high school. Salgado was accused of using his influence to effect [sic] the case's outcome.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [6/3/11](#)]

McGraw Agreed With The Defense That Ron Salgado's Actions Would Not Be A Crime. "Salgado was accused of telling a prosecutor to reduce Reid's prison sentence to four years, from five. Defense attorney Phil Prossnitz, however, said such an action would not be a crime, and Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw agreed." [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

NOTE: Salgado was also a plaintiff in Bianchi's federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated. A US district judge dismissed the lawsuit twice.

McGraw Threw Out A Charge Against A State's Attorney Investigator Accused Of Misconduct For Personal Use Of A County Car

2011: McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against State's Attorney Investigator Michael McCleary Who Was Accused Of Official Misconduct For Personal Use Of A County Car. "A special grand jury indicted Salgado in February 2011, alleging that he encouraged less prison time for his 'nephew' by having a previously negotiated five-year prison sentence reduced to four years. [...] McGraw later that month also threw out the sole charge brought against fellow state's attorney investigator Michael McCleary, who was accused of official misconduct for alleged personal use of a county car over four years. McCleary's legal counsel has not yet asked the county for repayment of his fees, County Administrator Peter Austin said." [The Northwest Herald via Newspapers.com, [2/8/12](#)]

NOTE: McCleary was also a plaintiff in Bianchi's federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated, a US district judge dismissed the lawsuit twice.

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw's Decisions And Found That He Abused His Judicial Discretion, Describing His Actions As "Arbitrary And Unreasonable"

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's "Erroneous" Decision To Squash A Search Warrant Of A Defendant Who Was Allegedly Under The Influence Of Alcohol During A Fatal Car Crash

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Charged With Reckless Homicide For His Involvement In A Car Crash That Left One Woman Dead, And Authorities Alleged He Was Under The Influence Of Alcohol During The Fatal Crash

July 2018: Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Charged With Reckless Homicide For His Involvement In A Crash That Left 58-Year Old Mary Wymore Dead. "A Rockford man has been charged with reckless homicide after a crash left a woman dead in Loves Park last weekend. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, 23, was booked into the Winnebago County Jail Friday. He's being held on a \$200,000 bond. The charge stems from a crash that occurred Saturday, July 14, at the intersection of North Perryville and Mulford roads. Authorities allege that Gomez-Gonzalez was driving a vehicle that hit a car driven by 58-year-old Mary Wymore, of Machesney Park. Wymore was pronounced dead at the scene." [Rock River Times, [7/21/18](#)]

Authorities Alleged Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Under The Influence Of Alcohol During The Fatal Crash. "Gomez-Gonzalez, of Rockford, is awaiting trial in the death of 58-year-old Mary Wymore. Wymore died from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred July 20, 2018, at the intersection of Perryville and North Mulford roads. Authorities allege that then-23-year-old Gomez-Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol when he ran a red light and crashed his Cadillac Escalade into Wymore's Toyota RAV4. After a brief foot chase, Loves Park officers took Gomez-Gonzalez into custody near the scene. He was later booked and held on a \$2 million bond. Wymore died at the scene. On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine." [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Filed A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Claiming The Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of His Blood And Urine And McGraw Granted His Motion To Quash The Evidence...

But Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Filed A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Claiming The Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of His Blood And Urine. “Gomez-Gonzalez, of Rockford, is awaiting trial in the death of 58-year-old Mary Wymore. Wymore died from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred July 20, 2018, at the intersection of Perryville and North Mulford roads. Authorities allege that then-23-year-old Gomez-Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol when he ran a red light and crashed his Cadillac Escalade into Wymore’s Toyota RAV4. After a brief foot chase, Loves Park officers took Gomez-Gonzalez into custody near the scene. He was later booked and held on a \$2 million bond. Wymore died at the scene. On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine.” [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

May 2021: McGraw Granted A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Finding The Loves Park Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of The Defendant’s Blood And Urine. “On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine. McGraw granted the motion on May 7, 2021, and Gomez-Gonzalez was released from the Winnebago County Jail pending the state’s appeal. An Illinois appellate judge reversed McGraw’s decision on June 1, 2022, prompting prosecutors to file a motion to reinstate bond. The filing was set to be argued Tuesday, Aug. 16, but Gomez-Gonzalez failed to appear, court records show. According to documents, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases at the time of the fatal crash. He was eventually convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given six years in prison on the drug charge, three years for criminal damage to property, and 30 days in the county jail for DUI, sentences that were to be served concurrently. Because he received 2,236 days’ time served, Gomez-Gonzalez did not spend time in the Illinois Department of Corrections.” [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

... But The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Reversed McGraw’s “Erroneous” Decision To Quash A Search Warrant And Found The Warrant Was Supported By Probable Cause

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Reversed McGraw’s Decision In People V. Gomez-Gonzalez And Ruled That “The Trial Court Erred In Granting Defendant’s Motion To Quash Search Warrant.” “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Held: The trial court erred in granting defendant’s motion to quash search warrant as the search warrant used to seize defendant’s blood and urine was supported by probable cause. The State appeals from the trial court’s grant of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence. The trial court found that the affidavit accompanying the Loves Park Police’s Complaint for Search Warrant provided insufficient probable cause to justify a search warrant to seize defendant’s blood and urine. The State contends that the that the issuing magistrate was provided with a substantial basis for concluding that probable cause existed to justify the issuance of a search warrant. For the reasons that follow, we reverse the trial court’s ruling.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Ruled That The Trial Court’s Motion To Quash Evidence The Search Warrant And Suppress Evidence Was “Erroneous.”** “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Based on the foregoing, the trial court’s granting of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence was erroneous and is reversed. III. CONCLUSION For the foregoing reasons, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and this cause is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order. Reversed and

remanded” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]

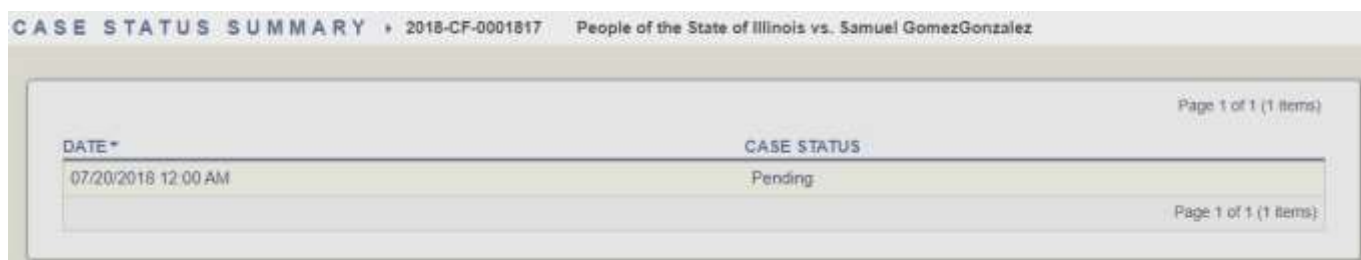
- **The Appellate Court Found The Search Warrant Used To Seize Defendant’s Blood And Urine Was Supported By Probable Cause.** “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Held: The trial court erred in granting defendant’s motion to quash search warrant as the search warrant used to seize defendant’s blood and urine was supported by probable cause. The State appeals from the trial court’s grant of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence. The trial court found that the affidavit accompanying the Loves Park Police’s Complaint for Search Warrant provided insufficient probable cause to justify a search warrant to seize defendant’s blood and urine. The State contends that the that the issuing magistrate was provided with a substantial basis for concluding that probable cause existed to justify the issuance of a search warrant. For the reasons that follow, we reverse the trial court’s ruling.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]

At The Time Of The Fatal Crash, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Facing Charges In Two Pending Criminal Cases, And Was Later Convicted Of Criminal Damage To Property, Resisting An Officer, And A DUI

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Facing Charges In Two Pending Criminal Cases At The Time Of The Deadly Car Crash, He Was Later Convicted Of Manufacturing Cannabis, Criminal Damage To Property, Resisting An Officer, And Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol. “On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine. McGraw granted the motion on May 7, 2021, and Gomez-Gonzalez was released from the Winnebago County Jail pending the state’s appeal. An Illinois appellate judge reversed McGraw’s decision on June 1, 2022, prompting prosecutors to file a motion to reinstate bond. The filing was set to be argued Tuesday, Aug. 16, but Gomez-Gonzalez failed to appear, court records show. According to documents, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases at the time of the fatal crash. He was eventually convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given six years in prison on the drug charge, three years for criminal damage to property, and 30 days in the county jail for DUI, sentences that were to be served concurrently. Because he received 2,236 days’ time served, Gomez-Gonzalez did not spend time in the Illinois Department of Corrections.” [WTVO 17 News , [9/12/22](#)]

As Of June 2024, The Status Of People V. Gomez-Gonzalez Was Listed As Pending, A Jury Trial Was Scheduled For October 28th, 2024

As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez’s Case Was Pending. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]



DATE*	CASE STATUS
07/20/2018 12:00 AM	Pending

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]

- **A Jury Trial For People V. Gomez-Gonzalez Was Scheduled For October 28th, 2024.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Hearing Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]



[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Hearing Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]

April 2013: An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion And Described His Actions To Convict Witnesses As “Arbitrary And Unreasonable,” The Court Reversed His Decision

An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion In Convicting Witnesses Who Did Not Show Up To Court Because They Were Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel

An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion In Convicting Sheila And Marissa Brown On Charges Of Contempt Of Court And Overturned The Convictions. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw abused his discretion when he ordered a mother and daughter who witnessed the officer-involved shooting death of Mark Anthony Barmore to appear before a grand jury despite Christmas vacation plans. That was the ruling of the majority in an appellate court ruling overturning McGraw’s conviction of Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, on charges of contempt of court. McGraw’s refusal to grant a delay was ‘arbitrary and unreasonable,’ the majority wrote.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

The Browns Were Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel On Less Than A Week’s Notice. “‘What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the state’s attorney and the trial court — the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers,’ the appellate court wrote in a 21-page opinion. ‘Defendant’s alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate (Bruscato’s) trial calendar.’ McGraw in March 2012 found the Browns in criminal contempt of court and fined each \$500 for disregarding his December 2009 orders to testify before the Winnebago County grand jury. They were given less than a week’s notice to testify two days before Christmas.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

McGraw Refused The Browns’ Request For A Continuance Until After Their Trip. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw found Sheila and Marissa Brown in criminal contempt of court today and fined them \$500 each for disregarding his order in December 2009 to testify to a Winnebago County grand jury. Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, then 17, were witnesses in August 2009 to the fatal shooting of Mark Anthony Barmore during an altercation with police. They were given less than a week’s notice of their scheduled grand jury testimony two days before Christmas. [...] With long-standing plans to visit family and participate in religious services in Mississippi for Christmas, the Browns asked McGraw to grant them a continuance until after the trip. McGraw said it was a tough call but ruled that the trip was not urgent and did not trump their duty and the community interest to testify as scheduled Dec. 23, 2009. He denied their request for a continuance. Sheila Brown testified that Adam

advised her that his appeal of McGraw's decision would circumvent McGraw's jurisdiction. Brown testified she was advised the appeal would allow them to go on the planned trip and repeatedly asked Adam if he was sure about it." [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

The Browns Did Not Show Up To Court After Receiving Advice From An Attorney That They Could Go On Their Planned Trip. "Sheila Brown testified that Adam advised her that his appeal of McGraw's decision would circumvent McGraw's jurisdiction. Brown testified she was advised the appeal would allow them to go on the planned trip and repeatedly asked Adam if he was sure about it. 'I didn't want to do anything wrong,' Brown said. 'If the judge wanted me here, I wanted to be here.' Adam testified that his advice was based on his research of case law and consultations with other attorneys including his father, Sam Adam Sr., who represented the Browns during Wednesday's trial." [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

McGraw Wanted To Sentence The Witnesses To Jail For Not Providing Testimony At A Grand Jury, But Fined Them \$500 Each Instead

McGraw Originally Said He Would Have Sentenced The Browns To Jail. "Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, then 17, were witnesses in August 2009 to the fatal shooting of Mark Anthony Barmore during an altercation with police. They were given less than a week's notice of their scheduled grand jury testimony two days before Christmas. 'They knew what they had to do and when they had to do it,' McGraw said as he rendered his verdict. 'Mrs. Brown and Ms. Brown knew what was required and did not obey.' McGraw said he would have sentenced the Browns to jail if Sheila Brown had not testified that they had been following the poor advice of their lawyer, Sam Adam Jr." [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

McGraw Charged The Browns \$500 Each. "Chief Judge Joseph McGraw found Sheila and Marissa Brown in criminal contempt of court Wednesday and fined each \$500 for disregarding his order in December 2009 to testify to a Winnebago County grand jury." [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

The Appellate Court Wrote That McGraw's Refusal To Grant A Delay Was "Arbitrary And Unreasonable" And Reversed His Conviction Of The Witnesses

The Appellate Court Wrote That McGraw's Refusal To Grant A Delay Was "Arbitrary And Unreasonable," And Reversed McGraw's Conviction Of The Browns. "Chief Judge Joseph McGraw abused his discretion when he ordered a mother and daughter who witnessed the officer-involved shooting death of Mark Anthony Barmore to appear before a grand jury despite Christmas vacation plans. That was the ruling of the majority in an appellate court ruling overturning McGraw's conviction of Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, on charges of contempt of court. McGraw's refusal to grant a delay was 'arbitrary and unreasonable,' the majority wrote." [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found McGraw Made A "Clear And Obvious Error" By Denying Defendant's "Simple And Reasonable Request To Reschedule A Grand Jury Appearance"

Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois: "The Trial Court Made A Clear And Obvious Error When It Arbitrarily Denied Defendants' Emergency Petition For Reasons Not Advanced By The Parties Or Supported By The Record." "We maintain that the trial court made a clear and obvious error when it arbitrarily denied defendants' emergency petition for reasons not advanced by the parties or supported by the record. Therefore, Givens permits us to review the trial court's order denying defendants' emergency petition despite the parties' failure to brief it in this specific appeal." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over The Trial Court In Re John Doe Investigation In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

2013 IL App (2d) 120425-U
No. 2-12-0425
Order filed April 24, 2013

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

<i>In re</i> JOHN DOE INVESTIGATION	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
	)	of Winnebago County.
)	
	)	No. 09-MR-1028
)	
	)	Honorable
(Sheila Brown and Marissa Brown,	)	Joseph G. McGraw,
Defendants-Appellants).	)	Judge, Presiding

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

Appellate Court: “We Express Our Concern Over The Manner In Which This Case Was Transpired. What Began As A Simple And Reasonable Request To Reschedule A Grand Jury Appearance Turned Into A Litigation Of Its Own.” “In closing, we express our concern over the manner in which this case was transpired. What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the State’s Attorney and the trial court—the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers. Defendants, mere observers to an individual’s death, faced their own potential incarceration when their alleged wrongdoing can be summarized as follows: (1) being available to appear before the grand jury on September 11, 2009, pursuant to the original subpoena, only to be told by the State that they did not need to appear; (2) after hearing nothing further from the State, purchasing airline tickets to travel on December 23, 2009, to visit family for the holidays; and (3) after being subpoenaed again, advising the State and the trial court that they would be available to appear on January 6, 2010, when the jury was already set to convene. More concisely, defendants’ alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate the State’s trial calendar.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

Appellate Court: “Defendants’ Alleged Wrongdoing Amounted To Nothing More Than Being Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel Plans, Which They Made In Good Faith And Expended A Considerable Sum, On Less Than A Week’s Notice To Accommodate The State’s Trial Calendar.” “In closing, we express our concern over the manner in which this case was transpired. What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the State’s Attorney and the trial court—the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers. Defendants, mere observers to an individual’s death, faced their own potential incarceration when their alleged wrongdoing can be summarized as follows: (1) being available to appear before the grand jury on September 11, 2009, pursuant to the original subpoena, only to be told by the State that they did not need to appear; (2) after hearing nothing further from the State, purchasing airline tickets to travel on December 23, 2009, to visit family for the holidays; and (3) after being subpoenaed again, advising the State and the trial court that they would be available to appear on January 6, 2010, when the jury was already set to convene. More concisely, defendants’ alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate the State’s trial calendar.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

- **Appellate Court: “The Trial Court Went Beyond The Record To Find A Basis To Deny Defendants’ Emergency Petition. Holding Defendants In Contempt For Violating A Trial Court Order Entered Without Sufficient Support In The Record Is A Clear Abuse Of A Court’s Inherent Contempt Power.”** “Contrary to the dissent’s conclusion, the trial court’s reasoning for denying the petition was not advanced by the parties or supported by the record. As outlined above, the State’s Attorney’s sole concern was that he and his top deputy had to be in trial on January 6, 2010, and the State’s Attorney could not ‘be two places at one time.’ Instead of denying defendants’ emergency petition for the reasons advanced by the State during the hearing, the trial court denied the petition on the basis that everyone’s interests would be served if the grand jury heard the testimony continuously, so that the testimony would not be ‘old’ or ‘stale.’ However, the trial court was not presented with any evidence, nor did it hear any argument, on how defendants’ testimony would have been ‘old’ or ‘stale’ had it been heard on January 6, 2010, as opposed to December 23, 2009. Put more simply, the trial court went beyond the record to find a basis to deny defendants’ emergency petition. Holding defendants in contempt for violating a trial court order entered without sufficient support in the record is a clear abuse of a court’s inherent contempt power. Preventing such abuse is consistent with our supreme court’s directive that, because a court’s exercise of its abuse powers is delicate, care is needed to avoid arbitrary or oppressive results. [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw “Misled” The Defendant Into Pleading Guilty And Said The Circumstance Of The Case “Br[ought] The Judiciary Into Disrepute”

In A Case Regarding Child Abuse, McGraw Offered A Defendant A Sentence “Toward The Low End” Of The 6-30 Year Range At A Pretrial Bargaining Meeting...

At A Rule 402 Conference, McGraw Said He Believed A Fair Sentence In This Case Was “Toward The Low End” Of The 6 To 30 Year Range And Was Inclined To Sentence The Defendant To Something Like 7 Or 8 Years

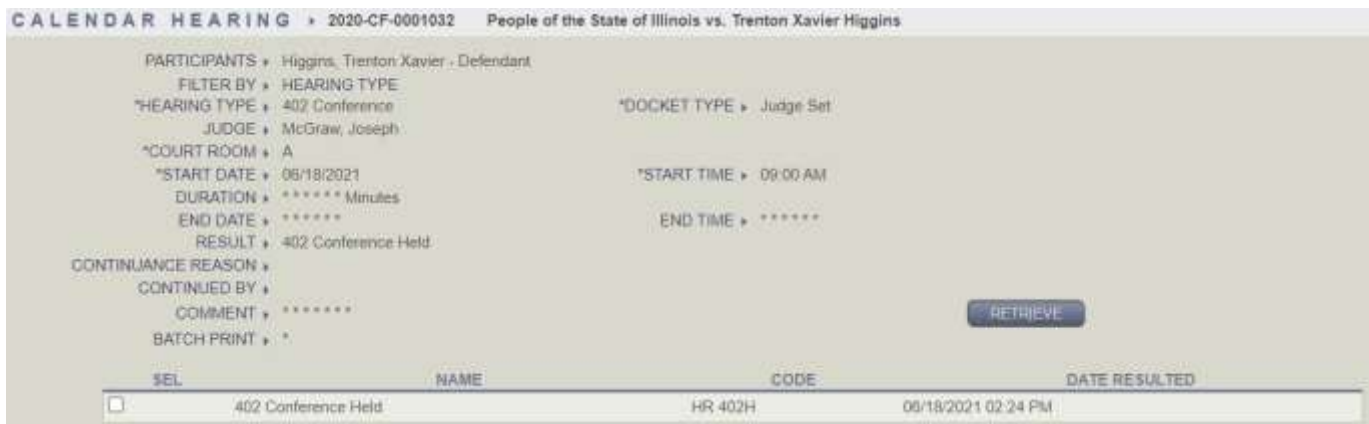
At A Rule 402 Conference, McGraw Said A Fair Sentence In This Case Was “Toward The Low End” Of The 6 To 30 Year Range And Said He Was Inclined To Sentence Defendant To Something Like 7 Or 8 Years. “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Higgins In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]



[Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **June 2021: McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over A 402 Conference In People V. Higgins.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Trenton Xavier Higgins, Case #2020-CF-0001032, Calendar Hearing, accessed [3/8/24](#)]



[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Trenton Xavier Higgins, Case #2020-CF-0001032, Calendar Hearing, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Jim Dey Op-Ed: McGraw Testified To “Giving An Opinion Like Seven Or Eight Years, Something Towards The Low End” Of The Sentence Range To The Defendant At A 402 Meeting. “The appeals court affirmed Higgins’ conviction because it said McGraw explained to Higgins the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the shortcomings of the 402. That prompted the appellate court to ask ‘what was gained’ by holding a 402 conference in which Higgins was ‘misled.’ The Higgins case created a mess in Winnebago County. In an unusual occurrence, McGraw testified to ‘giving an opinion like seven or eight years, something towards the low end’ to Higgins at the 402. That’s one reason why the appellate court advised trial judges not to participate in 402s and urged the Illinois Supreme Court to prohibit them. The 4th District has previously challenged the propriety of 402s. The court’s strong language in the Higgins case reflects its desire to try again to get the attention of seven Supreme Court justices and hundreds of Illinois trial judges.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

402 Conferences Were Informal Gatherings At Which The Judge, Prosecutor, And Defense Could Work Out An Agreement Short Of Trial, A Judge Would Recommend A Sentence Which Defendant Could Accept Or Reject

Jim Dey Op-Ed: A 402 Conference Was An Informal Gathering Where The Judge, Prosecutor And Defense Lawyer Discuss The Case To See If They Can Work Out An Agreement Short Of Trial. “Defense lawyer

James Dimeas describes a 402 conference as an informal gathering where the judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer ‘discuss the case to see if there’s a way to work out an agreement short of trial.’ It’s essentially three-way plea bargaining rather than traditional defense/prosecution talks. After review, Dimeas said the judge ‘will make a recommendation about an appropriate sentence,’ one the defendant can accept or reject. The conferences are more common in urban areas, like Cook County, but have been used with increasing regularity in Champaign County.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

- **Jim Dey Op-Ed: After A Review, The Judge Would Make A Recommendation About An Appropriate Sentence And The Defendant Can Accept Or Reject.** “Defense lawyer James Dimeas describes a 402 conference as an informal gathering where the judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer ‘discuss the case to see if there’s a way to work out an agreement short of trial.’ It’s essentially three-way plea bargaining rather than traditional defense/prosecution talks. After review, Dimeas said the judge ‘will make a recommendation about an appropriate sentence,’ one the defendant can accept or reject. The conferences are more common in urban areas, like Cook County, but have been used with increasing regularity in Champaign County.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

The Defendant, Trenton Higgins, Was Charged With Felony Offenses For Allegedly Beating A Young Boy In His Care

Jim Dey Op-Ed: Trenton Higgins Was Charged With Felony Offenses Carrying Six To 30 Years In Prison For Allegedly Beating A Young Boy In His Care. “Justices James Knecht and Amy Lannerd joined in Steigmanm’s Sept. 28 opinion in People vs. Trenton Higgins. [...] Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child’s injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child’s injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary’s general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

... But After The Defendant Pleaded Guilty And Gave Up His Right To A Trial On The Charges, McGraw Sentenced Him To 20 Years In Prison

The Defendant Gave Up His Right To A Trial On The Charges He Faced By Pleading Guilty. “So, what was gained by the trial court’s participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court’s statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant’s vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

McGraw Sentenced The Defendant To 20 Years In Prison, “Nearly Two And A Half Times What The Court Had Led The Attorneys And Defendant To Believe Would Be A Fair Sentence.” “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court

indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **Fourth District Illinois Appellate Court: “Defendant Was Required To Serve 12 More Years Than The Court Indicated Would Be Appropriate At The Rule 402 Conference.”** “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That McGraw “Misled” The Defendant Into Pleading Guilty And That The Circumstances Of The Case “Br[ought] The Judiciary Into Disrepute”

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That Statements Made By McGraw “Misled Defense Counsel And Defendant” Into Pleading Guilty

The Fourth District Illinois Appellate Court Found That Statements Made By McGraw At An “Unwise And Unnecessary” Rule 402 Conference, “Misled Defense Counsel And Defendant” Into Pleading Guilty. “So, what was gained by the trial court’s participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court’s statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. 82 One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant’s vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That The Sentence Disparity Between McGraw’s Original Statements And Imposed Sentence “Was An Injustice”

The Appellate Court Found The Sentence Disparity Between The Courts Original Statements And Imposed Sentence “Was An Injustice” And The “Circumstances Of This Case Bring The Judiciary Into Disrepute.” “So, what was gained by the trial court’s participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court’s statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant’s vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Said The Trial Court Did Not Provide Any Explanation For Why It “Abandoned Its Earlier Assessment Of A Fair And Proper Sentence And Imposed One Over Two Times Greater”

Appellate Court: “Glaringly Absent From The Record In The Present Case Is Any Explanation Why The Trial Court Abandoned Its Earlier Assessment Of A Fair And Proper Sentence And Imposed One

Over Two Times Greater.” “First, in the absence of a record, how can a court of review know what the trial court was told at the Rule 402 conference about the nature of the crime and its effect on any victims? And second, why did the prosecutor at the Rule 402 conference not provide the court with the full information about aggravating factors pertaining to the defendant’s criminal behavior that later came out at the sentencing hearing? We see no reason why a prosecutor would refrain from calling aggravating factors to the trial court’s attention. This is why we view with skepticism the usual claim that the court ‘heard new information’ to justify a sentence that is sometimes vastly greater than the sentence the court indicated at the Rule 402 conference was appropriate. Glaringly absent from the record in the present case is any explanation why the trial court abandoned its earlier assessment of a fair and proper sentence and imposed one over two times greater.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Informed The Defense Counsel He Intended To Impose A Sentence “Far In Excess” Of What Had Previously Been Discussed

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Informed The Defense Counsel He Intended To Impose A Sentence “Far In Excess” Of What Had Previously Been Discussed. “This court has previously written that trial courts should be very hesitant to reject plea agreements reached between a defendant and a prosecutor. However, when such a situation arises, the court should tell defense counsel that (1) the court is unwilling to accept the plea agreement and (2) if the defendant wishes to withdraw his guilty plea, the court would grant that motion and recuse itself from further proceedings. In our opinion, fairness requires no less. Similarly, once the trial court in the present case determined that it was going to impose a sentence that was far in excess of the sentence it had favorably discussed with the attorneys at the Rule 402 conference, the court should have sua sponte acted to correct the situation. Specifically, the court should have informed defense counsel that because the court intended to impose a sentence upon defendant far in excess of the sentence the court indicated would be appropriate during the Rule 402 conference, the court would give defense counsel an opportunity to discuss with defendant whether he might wish to withdraw his guilty plea, explaining that if defendant so moved, the court would grant the motion and then recuse itself.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Given Defense Counsel An Opportunity To Discuss With The Defendant Whether He Wanted To Withdraw His Guilty Plea.** “This court has previously written that trial courts should be very hesitant to reject plea agreements reached between a defendant and a prosecutor. However, when such a situation arises, the court should tell defense counsel that (1) the court is unwilling to accept the plea agreement and (2) if the defendant wishes to withdraw his guilty plea, the court would grant that motion and recuse itself from further proceedings. In our opinion, fairness requires no less. Similarly, once the trial court in the present case determined that it was going to impose a sentence that was far in excess of the sentence it had favorably discussed with the attorneys at the Rule 402 conference, the court should have sua sponte acted to correct the situation. Specifically, the court should have informed defense counsel that because the court intended to impose a sentence upon defendant far in excess of the sentence the court indicated would be appropriate during the Rule 402 conference, the court would give defense counsel an opportunity to discuss with defendant whether he might wish to withdraw his guilty plea, explaining that if defendant so moved, the court would grant the motion and then recuse itself.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found The 402 Hearing Failed To Meet The Required Legal Standards And Never Should Have Been Held

Jim Dey Op-Ed: The Appellate Court Found The Trial Court’s 402 Hearing Failed To Meet The Required Legal Standards And Never Should Have Been Held. “Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child’s injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child’s injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific

guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary's general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases." [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Established Specific Guidelines By Which 402 Hearings Must Be Conducted But Compliance Was Rare And Those Meetings Were Usually Held In Secret And Undocumented.** "Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child's injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child's injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary's general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases." [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

The Fourth District Appellate Court Ultimately Affirmed The Defendant's Conviction, Finding McGraw Explained The Consequences Of His Guilty Plea At His Sentencing Hearing, Negating The Prior Misleading Comments

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Properly Explained To The Defendant The Terms Of His Plea Agreement, Complying With Rule 402. "Here, defendant's claims fail because the trial court complied with Rule 402. Although the record indicates that the parties and the court had uncertainty about the terms of the plea agreement at the onset of the guilty plea proceedings, any confusion was cleared up during the guilty plea process. [...] The record shows that the trial court complied with Rule 402 by explaining to defendant the terms of his plea agreement in a thorough and detailed manner and making clear the agreement's essential characteristics: (1) that the sentences would run concurrently and not consecutively, (2) that defendant would receive between 6 and 30 years in prison based on the evidence to be presented at the sentencing hearing, and (3) that the charges against him in an unrelated felony case (case No. 19-CF-3312) would be dismissed. The court also explained to defendant it did not 'even know what the sentence would be.' Defendant agreed that he understood those terms and that no one had promised him anything in exchange for his plea. When asked if he had any questions, he simply said 'no.'" [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

Jim Dey Op-Ed: The Appellate Court Affirmed Trenton Higgin's Conviction, Finding McGraw Explained To Higgins The Consequences Of His Guilty Plea At The Sentencing Hearing, Negating Comments Made At The 402 Meeting. "The appeals court affirmed Higgins' conviction because it said McGraw explained to Higgins the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the shortcomings of the 402. That prompted the appellate court to ask 'what was gained' by holding a 402 conference in which Higgins was 'misled.' The Higgins case created a mess in Winnebago County. In an unusual occurrence, McGraw testified to 'giving an opinion like seven or eight years, something towards the low end' to Higgins at the 402. That's one reason why the appellate court advised trial judges not to participate in 402s and urged the Illinois Supreme Court to prohibit them. The 4th District has previously challenged the propriety of 402s. The court's strong language in the Higgins case reflects its desire to try again to get the attention of seven Supreme Court justices and hundreds of Illinois trial judges." [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw Abused His Discretion By Imposing A \$1,200 Sanction Calculated Using An Hourly Rate That Had "No Relation Whatsoever" To The Expenses Incurred In A Petition Dismissal

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That McGraw Abused His Discretion By Imposing A \$1,200 Sanction And The Court Vacated The Sanction And Remanded The Cause For An Appropriate One. "Here, we hold that the trial court abused its direction when it imposed the \$1,200 sanction. As noted, Rule 137

authorizes ‘an appropriate sanction, which may include *** the amount of reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, *** including a reasonable attorney fee.’ Ill. S. Ct. R. 137(a) (eff. July 1, 2013). [...] For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Walker In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That McGraw Abused His Discretion By Using An Hourly Rate That Had “No Relation Whatsoever To The Expenses That The State’s Attorney Incurred In Moving To Dismiss Defendant’s Petition.” “Here, we hold that the trial court abused its discretion when it imposed the \$1,200 sanction. As noted, Rule 137 authorizes ‘an appropriate sanction, which may include *** the amount of reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, *** including a reasonable attorney fee.’ Ill. S. Ct. R. 137(a) (eff. July 1, 2013). In this case, the court attempted to award ‘a reasonable attorney fee’ that reflected the State’s ‘expenses incurred’ because of defendant’s petition. However, the court selected an attorney fee of \$150 per hour, based only on its ‘experience in the legal community.’ As defendant points out, this estimate of the hourly rate charged by a private attorney, though ‘modest,’ had no relation whatsoever to the expenses that the State’s Attorney incurred in moving to dismiss defendant’s petition. [...] For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

- **Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois: “The Court Selected An Attorney Fee Of \$150 Per Hour, Based Only On Its ‘Experience In The Legal Community.’”** “As defendant points out, this estimate of the hourly rate charged by a private attorney, though ‘modest,’ had no relation whatsoever to the expenses that the State’s Attorney incurred in moving to dismiss defendant’s petition. 19 Contrary to defendant’s implications, we do not suggest that an attorney fee for a State’s Attorney must be based on his hourly salary or limited to the nominal fees in section 4-2002 of the Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/4-2002 (West 2012)). However, the attorney fee ‘must be informed, based on valid reasons, and follow logically from the circumstances of the case.’ *Mohica*, 2013 IL App (1st) 111695, Here, no testimony was given or evidence offered. Moreover, the trial court’s selection of \$150 per hour was unrelated to the specific circumstances of this case.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]
- **The Sanction McGraw Handed Down Was “Unrelated To The Specific Circumstances Of This Case” And “No Testimony Was Given Or Evidence Offered” To Support The Sanction.** “Contrary to defendant’s

implications, we do not suggest that an attorney fee for a State's Attorney must be based on his hourly salary or limited to the nominal fees in section 4-2002 of the Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/4-2002 (West 2012)). However, the attorney fee 'must be informed, based on valid reasons, and follow logically from the circumstances of the case.' Mohica, 2013 IL App (1st) 111695, Here, no testimony was given or evidence offered. Moreover, the trial court's selection of \$150 per hour was unrelated to the specific circumstances of this case. For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

January 2020: McGraw Imposed An Updated Sanction. [17th Circuit Court, *People v. Walker*, Case #2004-CF-0002576, ROA, [1/7/20](#)]

<input type="checkbox"/>	*DATE ▶ 01/07/2020 SEALED ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	*JUDGE ▶ McGraw, Joseph CODE ▶ HR MPFG	MICROFILM NUMBER ▶
*TEXT ▶ *Hearing Result: Cause comes on for Relief. The Petitioner's Motion to Deny the Motion to Dismiss is denied. The People's Motion/Petition to Dismiss is Heard and Granted. Sanctions imposed, Order entered. Clerk to mail copy of Order to Defendant and the Warden.			

[17th Circuit Court, *People v. Walker*, Case #2004-CF-0002576, ROA, [1/7/20](#)]

Economic Sanctions Created A Contradictory Effect “That Disproportionately Penalize[d] Citizens For Their Poverty” And Could Perpetuate “A Cycle Of Criminal Justice Involvement.” “Economic sanctions are the most common form of punishment levied by criminal justice systems in the United States. Also known as criminal justice financial obligations (hereafter “CJFOs”), these broadly include court costs, fees, fines, bail, bond, property forfeitures, and restitution associated with civil, traffic, and criminal proceedings. [...] While CJFOs are intended to punish wrongdoers, fund system activities, or deter future crime, those with more contact with the justice system – those with lower socioeconomic status and in predominately minority communities – are more likely to bear the burden of these direct and collateral costs. This creates a contradictory effect that disproportionately penalizes citizens for their poverty or the community they live in, adding to their cumulative disadvantage, perpetuating a cycle of criminal justice involvement.” [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, [8/1/18](#)]

Fast And Loose With Taxpayer Money: While McGraw Was Demanding And Suing For More Funding From The Winnebago County Board And Giving His Staff Raises Without Approval, The County Budget Was In A Deficit That Led To Police Officers Being Laid Off

September 2011: Shortly Before McGraw Became Chief Judge, Former Chief Judge Holmgren Was Able To Advocate For Funding From The Winnebago County Board Without Legal Action

September 2011: When The Former Chief Judge, Holmgren's Funding Was Held Up By The County Board, She Presented A 16-Page Memo With Statistics And Initiatives To Speed Up The System, The Board Then Voted Unanimously To Give The Court System Funding. “Holmgren, who has served two two-year terms as chief judge, last month presented the County Board a 16-page memo with statistics and initiatives to speed up the system. Holmgren's memo was in response to a frustrated County Board that held up part of a \$250,000 request from the court system for personnel. Board members were upset at how slowly cases were moving through the system, which led to the growing jail population. The board voted unanimously Thursday to give the court system the money. Maybe that means board members think Holmgren's initiatives were on the right track. Of course, McGraw has ideas of his own. He told Register Star reporter Kevin Haas he will review how each judge is used. That's a good move because some judges are busier than others because of the kinds of cases they handle. McGraw sees opportunities for consolidation and reconfiguration that could make the system more efficient.” [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

January 2012-December 2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a

Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017.” [17TH Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2016-2017: McGraw Threatened To Use His Position To Pursue Legal Action Against The Winnebago County Board After Rejecting McGraw’s Request To Fund Four Additional Officers, And Then Hired Them Before The Board Could Vote On Funding

March 2016: McGraw Sought \$124,000 To Hire Six Probation Officers

March 2016: McGraw Sought \$124,000 To Hire Six Probation Officers. “Chief Judge Joe McGraw also is seeking \$124,000 to hire six probation officers for the remainder of the fiscal year. He outlined his plan at Thursday’s meeting. McGraw said his office ‘(doesn’t) have a position on the source of the funds.’ ‘We were underfunded \$200,000 in our fiscal budget for the year,’ he said. ‘We’ve come back and asked for six probation officers to fill necessary functions in pretrial, in adult probation and juvenile probation. That’s not enough probation to do our statutory and constitutional duties.’” [Rockford Register Star, 3/4/16]

McGraw Requested Funding For Officers To Transport Juvenile Defendants After The Illinois Supreme Court Eliminated The Use Of Restraints During Juvenile Court Proceedings

October 2016: The Illinois Supreme Court Adopted A Rule To Eliminate The Use Of Restraints During Juvenile Court Proceedings. “On Oct. 6, the state high court adopted a rule and amended another to eliminate the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings, unless after a hearing the court finds: restraints are necessary to prevent the minor from injuring his or herself or others, the minor has a history of disruptive behavior or is a flight risk.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/6/16](#)]

McGraw Requested That The Winnebago County Board Approve A \$50,000 Budget Amendment To Hire Officers To Transport Juvenile Defendants And Comply With The Supreme Court Ruling. “Earlier this month, however, McGraw informed County Board members that four officers would need to be hired. Two officers to accompany a juvenile in the courtroom and two officers to transport juveniles between the Northrock Drive Juvenile Detention Center and downtown courtrooms. McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

October 2016: The Winnebago County Board Approved And Then Rescinded \$173,126 In Funding To Comply With The State Mandate Prohibiting Putting Juvenile Offenders In Restraints

The Winnebago County Board Approved And Then Rescinded \$173,126 In Funding To Comply With The State Mandate Prohibiting Putting Juvenile Offenders In Restraints. “The dispute dates back to October when the board approved and then rescinded \$173,126 sought by the judge to pay for additional probation staff to comply with a state mandate that prohibited keeping juvenile offenders in restraints in most cases. The mandate, McGraw says, requires the hiring of additional security personnel. County officials have refused to pay for the personnel and have declined requests to pay for a bailiff for a judge’s courtroom.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

February 2017: McGraw Ended Up Hiring The Officers Before The Board Could Vote On The Money To Pay Them

February 2017: McGraw Ended Up Hiring The Officers Before The Board Could Vote On The Money To Pay Them. “Board members, in turn, were ticked in February when McGraw hired four officers before the board had a chance to vote on the money to pay those officers. (The board voted down the budget amendment.) The board also rejected the judge’s request in March for money for a bailiff that he said he needs to accommodate a Supreme

Court ruling that said juveniles could no longer be routinely shackled in court.” [Rockford Register Star, Editorial, [6/7/17](#)]

February 2017: The Winnebago County Board Overwhelmingly Rejected McGraw’s Budget Request And One Republican Board Member Worried That McGraw’s Request Would Result In A Tax Hike

February 2017: The Winnebago County Board Overwhelmingly Voted To Reject McGraw’s Budget Amendment Request To Pay For Four New Juvenile Detention Center Officers With A Vote Of 17-2.

“Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw blasted — and then threatened — the Winnebago County Board tonight after it rejected his budget request for \$50,000 to help pay for four newly hired Juvenile Detention Center officers. A week after board members voted down the judge's request at a joint Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting by a vote of 9-2, the entire board rejected the request 17-2. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, was not present.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

At A Joint Finance And Public Safety Committee Meeting Of The Winnebago County Board, Republican Member Gary Jury Said McGraw’s Request Might Result In A Tax Hike. “On Oct. 6, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted a rule and amended another to eliminate the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings, unless after a hearing the court finds: restraints are necessary to prevent the minor from injuring his or herself or others, the minor has a history of disruptive behavior or is a flight risk. The no shackling ruling went into effect Nov. 1. [...] McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance. McGraw's request is the result of another ‘unfunded state mandate’ that may result in a tax hike, said County Board member Gary Jury, R-7, at a joint Finance and Public Safety committees meeting Wednesday.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

- **Gary Jury: “We Don't Have Any Money, [...] We're Broke. ... So We Are Going To Have To Raise Taxes.”** “McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance. McGraw's request is the result of another ‘unfunded state mandate’ that may result in a tax hike, said County Board member Gary Jury, R-7, at a joint Finance and Public Safety committees meeting Wednesday. ‘We don't have any money,’ Jury said. ‘We're broke. ... So we are going to have to raise taxes.’ Finance Chairman Ted Biondo, R-20, said, ‘The question isn't whether Winnebago County should do this or not. We have to do it. It's the fact that do we really need four full-time detention people in order to follow the Supreme Court order, and what do we have to cut to do it?’ McGraw did not attend the joint committee meeting Wednesday.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

February 2017: McGraw Threatened Legal Action Against The Winnebago County Board For Refusing To Approve His Budget Amendment Request, McGraw’s Legal Threat Was Unprecedented

February 2017: After The Winnebago County Board Refused To Approve His Budget Amendments McGraw “Blasted – And Then Threatened” The County Board With Legal Action

February 2017: In Response To The Winnebago County Board Refusing To Approve His Budget Request, McGraw Said “The County Is Now Forced To Consider Whether It Will Exercise Its Inherent Authority To Compel The County Board To Meet Its Constitutional And Statutory Obligations.” “Without taking questions, McGraw ended his statement by saying, ‘This kind of financial neglect cannot continue. The Court is now forced to consider whether it will exercise its inherent authority to compel the County Board to meet its constitutional and statutory obligations.’” [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

- **Rockford Register Star: McGraw “Blasted – And Then Threatened – The Winnebago County Board” After It Rejected His Budget Request.** “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw blasted — and then threatened — the Winnebago County Board tonight after it rejected his budget request for \$50,000 to

help pay for four newly hired Juvenile Detention Center officers. A week after board members voted down the judge's request at a joint Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting by a vote of 9-2, the entire board rejected the request 17-2. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, was not present." [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

McGraw's Threat Of Legal Action Was An Unprecedented Step No Other Chief Judge In The County Had Taken

McGraw Threatened Legal Action After The County Board Voted Down His Budget Amendments, Taking Legal Action Would Be An Unprecedented Action By A Chief Judge In The County. "Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw is threatening legal action against the County Board for failing to fund the hires of four new juvenile detention officers and a court bailiff. McGraw's two budget amendment requests for more money, a result of recent mandates by the Illinois Supreme Court, have each been voted down by the County Board. On Wednesday, McGraw sent County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral a 13-page letter outlining a history of continued reduction in funding to the County's court system and its impact on services to the community. [...] McGraw went on to state he is reluctantly taking a step that he can recall no other chief judge in the county ever being forced to take. He said, 'I will, on the schedule discussed below, enter an order compelling the County to satisfy its financial obligations to the criminal justice system.' The County Board has until April 28 to submit a written response in opposition. If the County Board fails to comply with McGraw's demands, a formal order will be submitted on May 1. The judge's letter and pending actions have been building for years." [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

McGraw's Request Came In The Midst Of A Deficit In Winnebago County's Budget

2017: Rockford Register Star: "The County [Winnebago] Has A \$2.5 Million Deficit In The 1 Percent Public Safety Sales Tax, And A \$1.7 Million Deficit In The General Fund." "Nine of 17 board members at tonight's County Board meeting voted against a budget amendment that would release funds to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board's 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass. [...] After the meeting, Haney expressed disappointment over the board's vote. 'One of the driving forces why some board members have concerns is budgetary,' he said. The county has a \$2.5 million deficit in the 1 percent Public Safety Sales Tax, and a \$1.7 million deficit in the general fund." [Rockford Register Star, [6/8/17](#)]

June 2017: The Winnebago County Board Again Rejected McGraw's Funding Request

June 2017: The Winnebago County Board Again Rejected McGraw's Funding Request. "Unfazed by a threat of litigation, the Winnebago County Board rejected a request for funding by 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw. Nine of 17 board members at Thursday's County Board meeting voted against a budget amendment that would release funds to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board's 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass." [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

2017: McGraw Threatened To Use His Position To Punish The Winnebago County Board After It Rejected McGraw's Request To Fund A New Bailiff

March 2017: McGraw Requested Funding For A New Bailiff

March 2017: McGraw Requested Funding For A New Bailiff. "The Winnebago County Board didn't discuss a judge's request for funding to pay for a new bailiff Thursday, but their 18-1 vote rejecting the budget amendment was heard loud and clear. 'No more unfunded state mandates,' board member Gary Jury, R-7, said before and after the vote. Chief Judge Joe McGraw was seeking \$13,700 to pay for the salary of a bailiff for the rest of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. The hiring of the bailiff would coincide with the appointment of new Associate Judge Donald Shriver." [Rockford Register Star, 3/24/17]

March 2017: The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw's Budget Request

March 2017: The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw's Budget Request For A New Bailiff. “The Winnebago County Board didn't discuss a judge's request for funding to pay for a new bailiff Thursday, but their 18-1 vote rejecting the budget amendment was heard loud and clear. ‘No more unfunded state mandates,’ board member Gary Jury, R-7, said before and after the vote.” [Rockford Register Star, 3/24/17]

- **County Board Member Gary Jury Criticized McGraw's Request Saying: “We've Cut, Cut And Cut, We Can't Spend What We Don't Have. When Do You Say, ‘No?’ [...] We Are At The Point Now Of We Raise Taxes Or We Don't Raise Taxes, And I'm Not Going To Raise Taxes.”** “Another unfunded state mandate. That's what Winnebago County Board members are saying after Chief Judge Joe McGraw's request to hire a full-time bailiff and serve in the courtroom of newly appointed Associate Judge Donald Shriver. Trial Court Administrator Tom Jakeway made the request on McGraw's behalf last week at a joint meeting of the County Board's Finance and Public Safety committees. Jakeway said the Illinois Supreme Court reviewed the county's court case load and population size and decided to add another judge to the 17th Circuit Court, which includes Winnebago and Boone counties. ‘Sure the state gives us the judge, but that's not a gift,’ County Board member Gary Jury said. While the state pays for the salary and benefits of a judge, bailiffs serving in state court are county employees. McGraw is seeking \$13,700. However, board members were quick to note that the dollar amount is only for the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30 and excludes benefits. Next year, the county will be on the hook for the full salary and benefits, which totals to about \$42,000. ‘We've cut, cut and cut,’ Jury, R-7, said. ‘We can't spend what we don't have. When do you say, ‘No?’ Somebody is going to lose their job if this is a mandate. We are at the point now of we raise taxes or we don't raise taxes, and I'm not going to raise taxes.’ After much discussion, the joint committee narrowly passed the budget amendment by a vote of 7-6. The matter is now slated to be voted on today by the full County Board.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/17](#)]

March 2017: McGraw Threatened Legal Action In Response To The County Board Rejecting His Budget Request

McGraw Threatened Legal Action In Response To The County Board Rejecting His Budget Request.

“Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw is threatening legal action against the County Board for failing to fund the hires of four new juvenile detention officers and a court bailiff.” [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

McGraw Said The Board “Has Deliberately Chosen To Abdicate Its Legal Responsibility To Support Our Court System In Carrying Out The Duties Which Are Required Of It Under Law.”

“On Wednesday, McGraw sent County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral a 13-page letter outlining a history of continued reduction in funding to the County's court system and its impact on services to the community. The judge said: ‘At the very time when citizens of this community are increasingly looking to the criminal justice system to address the problems which have so conspicuously afflicted us, the Winnebago County Board has deliberately chosen to abdicate its legal responsibility to support our court system in carrying out the duties which are required of it under law.’” [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

A Winnebago County Board Member Criticized McGraw's Threat Of Legal Action And Said Elected Official Should Not “Be Threatened With Litigation For Doing Their Jobs” Calling It “Bad Government”

Winnebago Board Member Dan Fellers Said McGraw's Legal Action Was “Simply Bad Government Between Elected Officials” And Said “No Other Group Of Elected Officials Should Be Threatened With Litigation For Doing Their Jobs.”

“The judge has since threatened legal action against the county for failing to provide him with funding. That has rankled more than one board member. ‘What we are going through here is simply bad government between elected officials,’ board member Dan Fellers, D-19, said. ‘No other group of elected officials should be threatened with litigation for doing their jobs.’ Fellers suggested laying over the matter

for more discussion, but the proposal did not receive a vote. He voted against the amendment.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/8/17](#)]

May 2017: McGraw Issued A Legal Order Against The Winnebago County Board In Response To The Board Denying Two Of His Budget Requests

May 2017: McGraw Issued A Legal Order Against The Winnebago County Board In Response To The Board Denying Two Of His Budget Requests. “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw has made good on his threat to take action against the Winnebago County Board for failing to accommodate his two budget amendment requests. He is ordering the County Board to come up with the money to fund his requests. In a scathing 13-page letter issued March 29 to County Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Susan Goral, McGraw criticized the County Board for rejecting his request to fund the hiring of four new juvenile detention officers and a court bailiff. His request for money for the hires is a result of recent mandates by the Illinois Supreme Court that prohibits, with some exceptions, the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings. In his letter, McGraw gave the board until April 28 to submit a written response. If the board failed to comply with his demands, he said, a formal order would be submitted on May 1.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/2/17](#)]

June 2017: McGraw Ordered The Board To Spend After They Rejected Funding For Legal Research Materials

Rockford Register Star: In June 2017, “Faced With Mounting Budget Issues” The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw’s Request For Funding. “The latest budget amendment was thought to be a compromise of sorts. Money was identified in the judge’s budget to pay for the officers, bailiff and the purchase of Westlaw legal research access costing \$50,000. In return, the board would restore the \$173,126 that was taken back in October. On Thursday, nine of 17 board members, faced with mounting budget issues, voted against a budget amendment that would have released funding to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board’s 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass. Access to the legal research materials is essential for lawyers and the courts to do their jobs, ‘granting access to the basic, minimum required databases for Illinois and Federal cases and statutes,’ Trial Court Administrator Tom Jakeway and Public Defender David Doll told Winnebago County board members in a letter dated April 7. McGraw declined to comment today beyond citing a letter he sent to county officials and his court order, Jakeway said in an email to the Register Star.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

June 2017: McGraw Ordered The County Board To Spend \$50,00 On Legal Research Materials After The Board Rejected A Budget Amendment To Pay For The Items. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw today ordered Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Susan Goral to spend \$50,000 of county funds on legal research materials after board members on Thursday rejected a budget amendment to pay for the items. It’s the latest episode in a rift over spending between McGraw and the County Board, triggering a potential legal battle between the circuit court and the board. The dispute dates back to October when the board approved and then rescinded \$173,126 sought by the judge to pay for additional probation staff to comply with a state mandate that prohibited keeping juvenile offenders in restraints in most cases. The mandate, McGraw says, requires the hiring of additional security personnel. County officials have refused to pay for the personnel and have declined requests to pay for a bailiff for a judge’s courtroom.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

July 2017: McGraw Sued The Winnebago County Board Over Funding

HEADLINE: “Joe McGraw Sued Winnebago County Board Over Funding.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/25/17](#)]

- **McGraw Sued The Winnebago County Board, A Move The Board Chairman Called “Concerning” And “Dangerous.”** “Judge Joe McGraw will be represented by the Illinois Attorney General’s Office in his continuing dispute with the County Board. McGraw, the 17th Judicial Circuit Court’s chief judge, has filed suit

against Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney, county Treasurer Sue Goral and the County Board. A hearing Tuesday revealed his legal representation. The lawsuit stems from a series of County Board decisions to deny McGraw's requests for funding for court services. In a prepared statement, Haney called the judge's actions 'concerning' and 'dangerous.'" [Rockford Register Star, [7/25/17](#)]

July 2017: McGraw Sued The County Board “In An Attempt To Force The Release Of Funds To Pay For The Hiring Of Four Juvenile Corrections Officers, A Bailiff And Law Books.” “The Illinois Attorney General's Office filed suit today against Winnebago County leaders on behalf of 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw. McGraw is suing the Winnebago County Board, County Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in an attempt to force the release of funds to pay for the hiring of four juvenile corrections officers, a bailiff and law books.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/1/17](#)]

McGraw Sued All 20 Members Of The County Board Under The Authority Of A State Supreme Court Rule, Which Compelled Compliance With Certain Orders Entered By A Chief Circuit Judge. “A temporary injunction granted Friday in favor of Judge Joe McGraw gives the 17th Circuit chief judge a preliminary victory in a protracted budget battle with the Winnebago County Board. The judge and County Board have been at odds since October when the previously elected board approved and then took back \$173,126 to pay for the salaries and benefits of probation employees that McGraw deemed essential. A new board and County Board chairman were elected in November and inherited a deficit in the county's 1 percent public safety sales tax fund, the court's primary funding source. The fund is over budget by \$2.5 million this fiscal year. McGraw sued all 20 members of the board, Chairman Frank Haney and county Treasurer Sue Goral under authority of a state Supreme Court rule, which compels compliance with certain orders entered by a chief circuit judge. Friday's 17th Circuit order, issued by Lee County Judge Ronald L. Jacobson, ensures the county will continue to pay for court services that McGraw deems essential. The order granting the temporary injunction is not the conclusion of the case, but it reflects Jacobson's determination that the court had demonstrated a ‘likelihood of success’ on the merits of its case.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Chair: “Suing The County Is Essentially Suing The Taxpayer For More Money — Money It Doesn't Appear To Have. At Some Point, We Need To Come To Grips With Our Financial Reality.” “However, County Board Chairman Frank Haney said the board's duty to adopt a balanced budget and allocate funds may be challenged by 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw in a lawsuit, a lawsuit previously thought to be all but dismissed. As a result, Haney is expected to recommend Thursday to the County Board that they hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, at a cost of \$225 per hour. [...] The ‘mere threat’ of a suit is causing the county to spend money, Haney said. ‘Judge McGraw is a good chief judge and was a solid County Board member in the past from what I have heard. However, you don't get to be both at the same time. Government, for all of its flaws, thankfully has a good check and balance system. ‘... Suing the county is essentially suing the taxpayer for more money — money it doesn't appear to have. At some point, we need to come to grips with our financial reality and start working together to maximize outcomes with the money we actually have versus the money we wish we had.’” [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/17](#)]

September 2017: A Judge Granted A Temporary Injunction In Favor Of McGraw, With The Board Granting McGraw The Funding As A Result

September 2017: A Judge Granted A Temporary Injunction In Favor Of McGraw, Requiring the Board To Pay Salaries For Four Additional Officers, An Additional Bailiff Position, And Legal Books. “A temporary injunction granted Friday in favor of Judge Joe McGraw gives the 17th Circuit chief judge a preliminary victory in a protracted budget battle with the Winnebago County Board. The judge and County Board have been at odds since October when the previously elected board approved and then took back \$173,126 to pay for the salaries and benefits of probation employees that McGraw deemed essential. A new board and County Board chairman were elected in November and inherited a deficit in the county's 1 percent public safety sales tax fund, the court's primary funding source. The fund is over budget by \$2.5 million this fiscal year. McGraw sued all 20 members of the board, Chairman Frank Haney and county Treasurer Sue Goral under authority of a state Supreme Court rule, which compels compliance with certain orders entered by a chief circuit judge. Friday's 17th Circuit order, issued

by Lee County Judge Ronald L. Jacobson, ensures the county will continue to pay for court services that McGraw deems essential. The order granting the temporary injunction is not the conclusion of the case, but it reflects Jacobson's determination that the court had demonstrated a 'likelihood of success' on the merits of its case. Jacobson's order requires that the county: - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all juvenile detention staff, including the hiring of four additional officers through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all probation department staff through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all court bailiff staff, including funding for an additional bailiff position through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay \$50,000 for Westlaw legal books for the judges and Public Defender's Office through the end of the fiscal year." [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Granted Funding For McGraw's Request. "McGraw, represented by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, filed suit on Aug. 1 against the County Board, Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral seeking funding to pay the salaries of four juvenile detention officers for a total of \$205,140; a bailiff, \$42,000; probation staff, \$173,126; and Westlaw legal books, \$50,000. The board granted funding for each of those items at its Sept. 28 meeting." [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/17](#)]

December 2017: McGraw Filed Another Court Order Requiring The County Board To Restore The Spending Cuts

December 2017: McGraw Filed Another Court Order Requiring The County Board To Restore Spending Cuts. "Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw ordered the County Board Wednesday to restore \$326,852 worth of spending cuts made in September that he says compromise court services and public safety. The court order filed by McGraw is the latest round of budgetary tug-of-war between the chief judge and the County Board as the county grapples with fighting crime while maintaining a balanced budget. McGraw's nine-page order demands the board restore court, probation and detention staff funding to fiscal 2017 levels, and that it continues to pay public defender staff positions funded under the 2017 budget." [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Chief Judge Joe McGraw Orders Winnebago County Board To Restore Budget Cuts."** [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

McGraw Fought The County Board Over \$300,000 In Budget Cuts, While The Sherriff's Department Faced A \$4.3 Million Dollar Budget Cut. "McGraw and the County Board have been at odds for months over the county's fiscal year 2018 budget, which went into effect Oct. 1. Confronted with a projected \$6.8 million budget shortfall, the board passed a balanced budget on Sept. 28 by slicing the budgets of several departments, including \$4.3 million from the sheriff's budget and \$300,000 from McGraw's. Sheriff Gary Caruana has laid off 64 reserve deputies, 10 correctional officers and other personnel, accounting for about \$2.5 million in reductions. McGraw, however, filed an order earlier this month demanding that the County Board restore to his budget \$326,852 worth of spending cuts made in September. He said the cuts compromise court services and public safety. He is demanding that the board restore court, probation and detention staff funding to fiscal 2017 levels as well as continue to pay public defender staff positions that were funded in the 2017 budget." [Rockford Register Star, [12/22/17](#)]

- **Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney Criticized McGraw's Administrative Order And Said "We Cannot Litigate Our Way Out Of Our Budget Shortfalls. Nobody Can."** "In a Register Star photograph taken last year at the swearing in ceremony for Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney and other newly-elected county officials, 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw peered over the shoulder of Haney as he signed paperwork inside of Veterans Memorial Hall. [...] In the weeks leading up to the new county budget, Sheriff Gary Caruana and Judge McGraw publicly voiced their concerns. After the budget was passed, concerns turned to frustration as more than 60 county reserve deputies were laid off. Last week, McGraw filed an administrative order demanding the County Board restore more than \$300,000 worth of spending cuts to his budget as well as that of the Public Defender's Office. Haney's response: 'We cannot litigate our way out of our budget shortfalls. Nobody can.' Without instituting what the chairman called a 'budget reset,' he compared the county's fiscal trajectory to that of the state's. 'I believe financially, we are in a

position that Springfield was in years ago, meaning you knew you weren't on a structurally sound path. You need to make changes now so that it does not get worse later. Well, that's what we did. Springfield was in that position some years ago. They didn't make the tough changes, and now look what a mess they have. That's not responsible.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/9/17](#)]

April 2018: The Lawsuit Was Settled With The County Board Restoring \$386,000 In Spending Cuts To McGraw

April 2018: The Lawsuit Was Settled With The County Board Restoring \$386,000 In Spending Cuts To McGraw. “Winnebago County has settled a lawsuit over budget cuts made to court offices. The county board last month approved the restoration of \$386,000 in spending cuts at the request of new county 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Eugene Doherty, effectively clearing up the main sticking point of the lawsuit filed last year. The board’s desire to balance the county budget and former Chief Judge Joe McGraw McGraw’s unwillingness to accept spending cuts to services he deemed essential led to the dispute.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/27/18](#)]

- **McGraw Initially Demanded \$787,000 In Funding Be Restored.** “McGraw had previously demanded that \$787,000 be restored to the Circuit Court, Public Defender, Juvenile Detention and Court Services. The settlement approved by both parties amounts to less than half that amount.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/27/18](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Chair Said McGraw’s “Dangerous” Actions Violated “Basic Checks And Balances Of Government” And “Hijack[ed] Representative Government”

The Winnebago County Board Chair Called McGraw’s Actions “Concerning” And “Dangerous” And Said It “Essentially Hijacks Representative Government And Silences Voters Who Get To Elect Their Board Representatives Every Four Years.” “McGraw, the 17th Judicial Circuit Court's chief judge, has filed suit against Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney, county Treasurer Sue Goral and the County Board. A hearing Tuesday revealed his legal representation. The lawsuit stems from a series of County Board decisions to deny McGraw's requests for funding for court services. In a prepared statement, Haney called the judge's actions ‘concerning’ and ‘dangerous.’ ‘Today's decision by the 17th Judicial Court to engage legal counsel over a simple budget dispute is concerning. The courts continue to press forward with their notion that they somehow should decide how county tax dollars should get allocated. This is an attempt to circumvent the 20 citizen-representatives of this community (County Board) who were elected specifically to do just that. Is this the first time a department head of a public institution wanted more taxpayer money? No! Of course not. Are any of them suing their elected board or council? No! Is litigating vs. governing common in county government across the state? No. This move is dangerous in that it essentially hijacks representative government and silences voters who get to elect their board representatives every four years. It perverts the check and balance system we all know works better than any conceivable alternative.’ Haney, Goral and the County Board are being represented by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. David Kurlinkus, the state's attorney's chief of staff, said the case will be tried without a jury and likely before a judge from outside of 17th Circuit Court. The next court date has yet to be set.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/26/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Chair: McGraw’s Actions Were Violating “Basic Checks And Balances Of Government.” “‘The County Board is elected to set the budget, not the chief judge,’ Haney said. ‘I respect the important work of the courts. The County Board has met all previous demands by the judge. But this is getting to a point where basic checks and balances of government are being violated. ‘This is government gone wild and the answer is no.’” [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: “The Ongoing Dispute With McGraw Stems From The County’s Need For Spending Cuts”

Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: “The Ongoing Dispute With McGraw Stems From The County’s Need For Spending Cuts.” “County Board Majority Leader David Boomer said the ongoing dispute with McGraw stems from the county’s need for spending cuts. The county’s proposed fiscal 2018 budget includes public safety spending cuts across several departments, including a \$4.3 million reduction for the Sheriff’s Department, a \$300,000 cut for courts and probation, a \$300,000 cut for the State’s Attorney’s office and \$250,000 less for the Public Defender’s office.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office Needed To Lay Off As Many As 100 Employees Due To The Budget Deficits

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office Needed To Lay Off As Many As 100 Employees Due To The Budget Deficits. “The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office sent letters to reserve deputies Tuesday informing them of layoffs at the end of the month. ‘We regret to inform you that your reserve deputy position with Sheriff’s Office of Winnebago County is being reduced,’ the letter from Sheriff Gary Caruana reads. ‘Budgetary constraints have dictated a reorganization within the office, and, therefore you are being placed on layoff, effective September 30, 2017.’ The sheriff employs as many as 64 reserve deputies, who are responsible for security at the Winnebago County Courthouse, the Justice Center, Juvenile Courthouse and Adult Probation. If the reserve deputies are laid off as planned, the sheriff said the metal detectors and X-ray machines at those facilities will not be staffed. ‘If I can get some patrol people in there full time to walk around and do some roving patrols, at least we’ll have something in there,’ Caruana said. The Winnebago County Board is battling with a projected \$6.8 million deficit next fiscal year and has proposed \$4.3 million in cuts to Caruana’s budget. Caruana says he can absorb \$1.5 million in cuts to his \$38 million budget, but that deeper reductions would severely affect public safety. ‘It’s a sad day,’ Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney said. ‘A lot of good people are impacted by a budget reality that’s been building over many years.’ Caruana said he will need to cut as many as 100 employees to meet the \$4.3 million mark. In addition to reserve deputies, the sheriff said the cuts will come from several departments including corrections, 911 personnel, civil processing and deputies on the street.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/19/17](#)]

- **64 Reserve Deputies, 10 Correctional Officers, And Other Personnel Were Laid Off.** “Sheriff Gary Caruana has laid off 64 reserve deputies, 10 correctional officers and other personnel, accounting for about \$2.5 million in reductions.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

NOTE: *The Winnebago County Sheriff and McGraw appeared together at a [press conference](#) to criticize the budget cuts.*

Winnebago County Budget Cuts Forced The Sheriff’s Department To Disband A TAC Unit Which “Played A Big Role In Local Human Trafficking Investigations” And Tackled Drug Crimes

HEADLINE: “Winnebago County Budget Cuts Force Sheriff’s Department To Disband TAC Unit.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

Budget Cuts To The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office Forced The Department To Close The TAC Unit, Which Was Responsible For Tackling Street Crimes Like Human Trafficking And Drugs. “The loss of \$4.3 million due to budget cuts to the Winnebago County sheriff’s office has forced the department to do away with a crucial unit responsible for tackling street crimes like human trafficking and drugs. Sheriff Gary Caruana says he plans on this being a temporary move and hopes to get the unit back together as soon as possible. There’s no word yet on when that will be. The team of eight deputies enforced street crimes working primarily in plain clothes and unmarked cars. The unit focused on streets crimes like weapons offenses, violent crimes and drug trafficking offenses. The unit also played a big role in local human trafficking investigations. [...] The county says the TAC unit was disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

- **The TAC Unit “Played A Big Role In Local Human Trafficking Investigations.”** “The loss of \$4.3 million due to budget cuts to the Winnebago County sheriff's office has forced the department to do away with a crucial unit responsible for tackling street crimes like human trafficking and drugs. Sheriff Gary Caruana says he plans on this being a temporary move and hopes to get the unit back together as soon as possible. There's no word yet on when that will be. The team of eight deputies enforced street crimes working primarily in plain clothes and unmarked cars. The unit focused on streets crimes like weapons offenses, violent crimes and drug trafficking offenses. The unit also played a big role in local human trafficking investigations. [...] The county says the TAC unit was disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

Chief Deputy Mark Karner: “We As A Community Are Much Better Off With The Service Of That Unit. Having To Reassign Those Deputies Is Not A Good Thing For Anybody.” “‘We as a community are much better off with the service of that unit. Having to reassign those deputies is not a good thing for anybody,’ said Chief Deputy Mark Karner with the Winnebago County Sheriff’s department. The county says the TAC unit was disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

During The Budget Deficit, McGraw Gave Staff Pay Raises Without Approval From The Winnebago County Board

During The “Budget Crisis,” McGraw Gave Staff Pay Raises Without Approval From The Winnebago County Board. “While Winnebago County departments absorb spending cuts of \$6.8 million amid a budget crisis, nearly 100 people working under Chief Judge Joe McGraw will get a 3 percent pay raise each year for the next four years starting Jan. 1. The employees — 78 probation and detention officers and 20 circuit court employees — are members of the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council. The contract was adopted without approval of the Winnebago County Board. [...] ‘We get no say in it or involvement in the process, but we have to pay for it with limited dollars in the midst of a budget crisis,’ Winnebago County Administrator Carla Paschal said.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Winnebago County Court Employees To Receive Pay Raises ‘In The Midst Of Budget Crisis.’”** [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

Republican Winnebago County Board Member Ted Biondo: McGraw’s Pay Raises Were The “Height Of Irresponsibility And Shows The Total Disregard Of The County’s Current Budget Crisis.” ‘The Winnebago County Board voted 17-3 Thursday in approval of a three-year labor contract with Sheriff’s Department deputies and detectives who are represented by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. [...] [...] David Kelly, R-9; Jim Webster, R-2; and Ted Biondo, R-20, voted against the agreement. [...] Reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday's joint Finance and Public Safety committee meeting, Biondo said: ‘The (former Chief Judge Joe McGraw) is threatening a lawsuit to restore his budget, removing the cuts duly made by the County Board, which are covered by state statute. In addition, the chief judge handed out 12 percent raises (3 percent each year over four years) and promotions to 100 court employees that report to him, but the salaries and benefits are paid by county taxpayers.’ ‘This is the height of irresponsibility and shows the total disregard of the county’s current budget crisis.’ ‘And if that’s not enough, the sheriff has engaged an attorney (Terry Ekl of Lisle-based Ekl, Williams and Provenzale) at taxpayers' expense to attempt to force the County Board, against that same state statute, to not only stop cutting his budget beyond the \$2.5M that’s been cut to date but to restore those cuts.’ Biondo called the actions of McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana ‘precedent setting in the state of Illinois.’ He also said the two officials are depleting the county’s general and Public Safety Sales Tax reserve funds to levels lower than that required by board policy and credit agencies.’ [Rockford Register Star, [1/25/18](#)]

- **Biondo: McGraw’s Actions Were “Precedent Setting In The State Of Illinois” And Depleted The County’s General And Public Safety Sales Tax Reserve Funds.** ‘The Winnebago County Board voted 17-3 Thursday in approval of a three-year labor contract with Sheriff’s Department deputies and detectives who are

represented by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. Reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday's joint Finance and Public Safety committee meeting, Biondo said: 'The (former Chief Judge Joe McGraw) is threatening a lawsuit to restore his budget, removing the cuts duly made by the County Board, which are covered by state statute. In addition, the chief judge handed out 12 percent raises (3 percent each year over four years) and promotions to 100 court employees that report to him, but the salaries and benefits are paid by county taxpayers.' 'This is the height of irresponsibility and shows the total disregard of the county's current budget crisis.' 'And if that's not enough, the sheriff has engaged an attorney (Terry Ekl of Lisle-based Ekl, Williams and Provenzale) at taxpayers' expense to attempt to force the County Board, against that same state statute, to not only stop cutting his budget beyond the \$2.5M that's been cut to date but to restore those cuts.' Biondo called the actions of McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana 'precedent setting in the state of Illinois.' He also said the two officials are depleting the county's general and Public Safety Sales Tax reserve funds to levels lower than that required by board policy and credit agencies.' [Rockford Register Star, [1/25/18](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Had To Hire A Law Firm At A Rate Of \$225 To Defend Itself Against McGraw's Lawsuit

The Winnebago County Board Hired A Chicago-Based Law Firm As Defense Against McGraw's Lawsuit, The Law Firm Was Hired At A Rate Of \$225 Per Hour. "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. At issue are the \$300,000 in cuts the board made to the judge's budget as well as cuts to the State's Attorney's Office (\$200,000), Public Defender's Office (\$150,000), Sheriff's Department (\$4.3 million) and other departments in order to pass a balanced fiscal year 2018 budget. The fiscal year began Oct. 1. Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit." [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]

- **State's Attorney Joe Bruscato Recused Himself And His Staff From McGraw's Lawsuit Necessitating The Hiring Of Outside Council.** "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. [...] Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit. 'We have the state's attorney, the coroner, the circuit clerk, the treasurer, the county recorder and county clerk all abide by what we did with the budget, but we have two people (McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana) who insist they can mandate their own funds, I find that ridiculous.' State's Attorney Joe Bruscato recused himself and his staff from the lawsuit necessitating the hiring of outside council. After the full board approved the hire, Haney said, 'We have to move forward as a county. I don't want to be hiring outside council. I think it's unfortunate but necessary under the current climate.' Robbins Schwartz is a law firm Haney and board member Ted Biondo, R-20, are familiar with from their days on the Rock Valley School Board." [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]
- **The Winnebago County Board Chairman Expressed Frustration Over The "Unfortunate" Necessity Of Hiring Outside Council.** "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. [...] Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit. 'We have the state's attorney, the coroner, the circuit clerk, the treasurer, the county recorder and county clerk all abide by what we did with the budget, but we have two people (McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana) who insist they can mandate their own funds, I find that ridiculous.' State's Attorney Joe Bruscato recused himself and his staff from the lawsuit necessitating the hiring of outside council. After the full board approved the hire, Haney said, 'We have to move forward as a county. I don't want to be hiring outside council. I think it's unfortunate but necessary under the current climate.' Robbins Schwartz is a law firm Haney and board member Ted

Biondo, R-20, are familiar with from their days on the Rock Valley School Board.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Postconviction Petitions, McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Petitions Inhibited Their Ability To Challenge Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

Post Conviction Petitions Allowed Defendants To Challenge Their Sentence Based On Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Common Post-Conviction Petitions Raised Issues Of Juror Misconduct, Newly Discovered Evidence Of Innocence, And Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel.** “Common post-conviction petitions. Common issues raised in post-conviction proceedings include: Juror misconduct: For example, you might argue that jurors improperly did their research on the evidence, Newly discovered evidence of innocence: Sometimes new evidence is found after the trial is over, Failure of the prosecutor to turn over evidence of innocence: This can include witness statements or physical evidence, and Ineffective assistance of counsel: This is a mistake by a lawyer, which can include failing to investigate, or failing to show important evidence to the jury.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [6/30/21](#)]

Once Filed, Post-Conviction Petitions Proceed Through Three Stages: Summary Dismissal, Motion To Dismiss And The Evidentiary Hearing Stage

Once Filed, The First Stage Of A Post-Conviction Petition Is The Summary Dismissal Stage. “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Summary Dismissal Stage: A Trial Court Would Review The Petition To Determine If It Made A Good Argument And Was Based On Correct Legal Theory And Believable Claims; If The Petition Did Not It Was Summarily Dismissed.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments

and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If The Trial Court Did Not Dismiss The Petition Initially In The Summary Dismissal Stage, The Petition Would Move On To The Motion To Dismiss Stage, The Second Stage. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Motion To Dismiss: If The Petitioner Could Not Afford An Attorney Then The Court May Appoint One, An Attorney Would Then Consult With Petitioner To Determine Whether Their Claims Had Merit, The Attorney Could Then Amend The Petition To Better Present The Petitioner’s Claims.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **At The Motion To Dismiss Phase, The State Could File A Motion To Dismiss The Petition And The Judge Could Dismiss The Petition If It Did Not Substantially Show A Violation Or Had A Procedural Error.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **If The Court Found Allegations Made In The Petition, If True, Would Indicate Relief Was Necessary Then The Petition Would Move On, If Not It Would Be Dismissed.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not

included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If The Petition Survived The First Two Stages Of Review, The Trial Court Would Hold An Evidentiary Hearing, The Third Stage. “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **The Petitioner Had A Right To An Attorney At The Evidentiary Hearing And The Court Can Receive Evidence By Affidavit, Deposition, Or Live Testimony.** “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **After The Evidentiary Hearing The Trial Court Would Enter A Final Order On The Petition, If The Court Denied The Petition It Could Be Appealed To An Appellate Court.** “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If Claims Of Constitutional Rights Violations In Post-Conviction Petition Are Affirmed By A Court, The Court Could Offer A Defendant Relief Including Requesting A New Trial Or Correcting Sentencing Errors. “Post-conviction relief in Illinois is controlled by the Post-Conviction Hearing Act. What the Act provides is to permit individuals convicted of a crime to pursue collateral remedies after a direct appeal. Relief can include requesting a new trial or correcting sentencing errors. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence or conviction based on violations of state and federal constitutional rights. This usually only includes challenges which were not raised during the direct appeal process. If the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, but wasn’t, it typically cannot be raised in a post-conviction petition.” [Barkan Research, [10/20/21v](#)]

Petitioners Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition, To File Any Additional Post-Conviction Petitions The Defendants Has To Request Permission From The Court

Petitioners May Only File One Post-Conviction Petition, If A Petitioner Wants To File A Second Or Successive Petition They Must Request Permission From The Court And Show That They Could Not Have Raised The Claim Of A Constitutional Rights Violation In Their Initial Petition. “(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that

the resulting conviction or sentence violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s 2nd Stage Dismissal Of A Postconviction Petition And Found That The Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As His Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance In Supporting Defendant’s Civil Rights Claims

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

In A Postconviction Petition, An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection During His Jury Trial As The Entire Jury Pool Contained No African Americans

An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection As The Jury Pool Had No African-Americans While The Population Of The City Where The Trial Was Held Was One-Third African-American

In A Post-Conviction Petition, An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection During His Jury Trial, As The Entire Jury Pool Contained No African Americans. “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. 4 An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us ’ ; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Jury Pool Was Not Indicative Of The Population Of Rockford, Which Was Nearly One-Third African American.** “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. 4 An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic]

O.K., it may help us’ ‘; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

In The Petition, Defendant Claimed His Trial Counsel Was Ineffective Because They Failed To Move To Dismiss The Jury Panel Even After The Defendant Voiced His Concerns

Defendant Claimed His Trial Counsel Was Ineffective Because They Failed To Move To Dismiss The Jury Panel, After Defendant Voiced His Concerns Over The Jury Pool, Counsel Claimed It Would Benefit Defendant. “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us’ ‘; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

McGraw Denied Defendant’s Petition At The 2nd Stage And Found His Jury Pool Claim Was Insufficient And The Petition Failed To Show Trial Counsel’s Decision Not To Challenge The Jury Was Unreasonable

McGraw Dismissed Defendant’s Amended Petition And Found The Jury Pool Claim Was Insufficient And That The Petition Failed To Show The Trial Counsel’s Decision Was Not A Reasonable Strategy. “On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us’ ‘; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits. The trial court appointed counsel for defendant and moved the proceedings to the second stage. Counsel filed an amended postconviction petition. [...] The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel’s decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **McGraw Also Stated The Issues Raised In The Petition Could Have Been Raised On Direct Appeal And Therefore Were Forfeited.** “The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel’s decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Ingram In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.**
[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

2016 IL App (2d) 140709-U
No. 2-14-0709
Order filed August 25, 2016

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 05-CF-1780
LOUIS C. INGRAM,	)	Honorable:
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

McGraw's Denial Of Defendant's Post-Conviction Petition At The Second Stage Prevented The Defendant's Petition And Claims Of Constitutional Rights Violations From Receiving An Evidentiary Hearing

By Dismissing Defendant's Claim At The Second Stage (Summary Dismissal), McGraw Prevented Defendant's From Receiving An Evidentiary Hearing. "Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner's contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief." [...] Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

NOTE: In this case, McGraw appointed post-conviction counsel to Defendant at the second stage of summary dismissal.

On Appeal From McGraw's Dismissal, Defendant Alleged His Post Conviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance And Did Nothing To Support Jury-Pool Claims In The Amended Petition

After McGraw Dismissed Defendant's Amended Petition, Defendant Appealed And Claimed His Postconviction Attorney Did Not Provide The Level Of Assistance Required By Law. "The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel's decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed. On appeal, defendant contends that, although his postconviction attorney filed a

certificate of compliance with Rule 651(c), the record as a whole shows that he did not provide the level of assistance that the Act and the rule require. He argues that, although the amended petition included the jury-pool claim, counsel did nothing to support it beyond obtaining defendant's affidavit. Defendant reasons that, had counsel concluded that the claim could not be made in reasonable good faith, he would not have included it—but, having concluded that the claim was reasonable, he was obligated to investigate it and to attempt to support it with evidence. Defendant asserts that counsel could have found such evidence." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

Defendant Alleged That His Postconviction Attorney Included The Jury-Pool Claim In The Amended Petition, He Did Nothing To Support The Claim Aside From Obtaining Defendant's Affidavit. "The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel's decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed. On appeal, defendant contends that, although his postconviction attorney filed a certificate of compliance with Rule 651(c), the record as a whole shows that he did not provide the level of assistance that the Act and the rule require. He argues that, although the amended petition included the jury-pool claim, counsel did nothing to support it beyond obtaining defendant's affidavit. Defendant reasons that, had counsel concluded that the claim could not be made in reasonable good faith, he would not have included it—but, having concluded that the claim was reasonable, he was obligated to investigate it and to attempt to support it with evidence. Defendant asserts that counsel could have found such evidence." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Petition And Found The Defendant's 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Denial Of Defendant's Petition And Found Defendant's 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance. "Held: Postconviction counsel failed to comply with Rule 651(c), as he submitted a jury pool-exclusion claim but did not state it sufficiently or support it with available evidence; thus, we reversed the dismissal of defendant's petition and remanded the cause for compliance with the rule. Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Also "Disagree[d] With The Trial Court" That Defendant's Claim Was Forfeited.** "We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant's claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel's ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded " [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]
- **The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants.** "Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is

not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Defendant’s Postconviction Counsel “Submitted A Patently Insufficient Claim Of A Constitutional Violation” And “Neglected To Take Easily Available Measures” To Support The Claim. “We agree with defendant that his postconviction counsel did not fulfill all of his obligations under Rule 651(c) and that the judgment must be reversed and the cause remanded. Defendant has demonstrated first that counsel submitted a patently insufficient claim of a constitutional violation: the amended petition’s allegation that defendant was denied a jury pool that represented a fair cross-section of the community did not even set out the elements of that claim and, more important, it provided minimal or no factual allegations on each element. Defendant has demonstrated second that counsel neglected to take easily available measures to support two of the elements of the claim. It would not have been difficult to attach census data or other evidence to prove that African-Americans represented a distinctive group within the pertinent community. Also, while defendant’s affidavit provided some evidence that there were no African-Americans in the venire, the more definitive statement of the prospective juror, which was not disputed, was easily available from the trial-court record.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found Counsel Could Have Easily Attached Census Data To Prove That African-Americans Represented A Distinctive Group Within Rockford, And A Statement Confirming There Were No African-Americans In The Jury Pool Was “Easily Available From The Trial-Court Record.”** “We agree with defendant that his postconviction counsel did not fulfill all of his obligations under Rule 651(c) and that the judgment must be reversed and the cause remanded. Defendant has demonstrated first that counsel submitted a patently insufficient claim of a constitutional violation: the amended petition’s allegation that defendant was denied a jury pool that represented a fair cross-section of the community did not even set out the elements of that claim and, more important, it provided minimal or no factual allegations on each element. Defendant has demonstrated second that counsel neglected to take easily available measures to support two of the elements of the claim. It would not have been difficult to attach census data or other evidence to prove that African-Americans represented a distinctive group within the pertinent community. Also, while defendant’s affidavit provided some evidence that there were no African-Americans in the venire, the more definitive statement of the prospective juror, which was not disputed, was easily available from the trial-court record.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]
- **The Appellate Court Found The Amended Postconviction Petition Submitted By Postconviction Counsel Was “Deficient Not Merely For The Absence Of Evidence (Or The Lack Of Any Explanation For That Absence) But Also For Legal Insufficiency.”** “Finally, while we agree with defendant that evidence of systematic discrimination would have been more difficult to obtain, the amended postconviction petition does not even show that counsel was aware of this element or, assuming that he was aware of it, that he made any effort to obtain such evidence. The amended petition’s claim was thus deficient not merely for the absence of evidence (or the lack of any explanation for that absence) but also for legal insufficiency. We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant’s claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel’s ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). 22 The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Remanded The Cause To The Trial Court. “Finally, while we agree with defendant that evidence of systematic discrimination would have been more difficult to obtain, the amended postconviction petition does not even show that counsel was aware of this element or, assuming that he was aware of it, that he made any effort to obtain such evidence. The amended petition’s claim was thus deficient not merely for the absence of evidence (or the lack of any explanation for that absence) but also for legal insufficiency. We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant’s

claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel's ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). 22 The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

NOTE: After the cause was remanded, Defendant was appointed counsel and filed a successive post-conviction petition. On July 17th, 2018, Defendant's post-conviction proceedings were withdrawn, there were no available court documents indicating any additional details.

McGraw Denied A Defendant's Request To File A Post-Conviction Petition That Alleged Five Constitutional Rights Violations; An Appellate Court Reversed His Decision And The Defendant Was Ultimately Found To Have Been Wrongfully Convicted After Spending 23 Years In Prison

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights, Defendants Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition And Had To Request Permission From The Court To File An Additional Successive Post-Conviction Petitions

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. "The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

Petitioners Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition Without Permission From The Court. "(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that the resulting conviction or sentence violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)" [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- **To File A Second Or Successive Petition, A Petitioner Must Request Permission From The Court And Show That They Could Not Have Raised The Claim Of A Constitutional Rights Violation In Their Initial Petition.** "(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that the resulting conviction or sentence

violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Defendant Filed A Motion For Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition Alleging Five Constitutional Rights Violations, McGraw Denied His Request To File A Petition

Defendant Filed A Motion For Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition, Which Alleged Five Constitutional Violations And Included “The Proposed Successive Petition And Voluminous Exhibits.” “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant’s request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **Defendant Alleged 1) Newly Discovered Evidence Proved Defendant Was Actually Innocent, 2) The State Violated Its Discovery Obligation At Trial, 3) Defendant’s Trial Attorneys Were Ineffective, 4) Defendant’s Attorney On Direct Appeal Was Ineffective, And 5) Defendant’s Sentence Of Life Without Parole Violated The 8th Amendment.** “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant’s request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

McGraw Denied Defendant’s Request To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition As To All Of His Claims Of Constitutional Violations. “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required

under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant's request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Horton In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

NOTE: Defendant had filed three previous post-conviction petitions, all of which were dismissed by the trial court and one of which was also dismissed on appeal to the appellate court. The motion to file a successive (4th) post-conviction petition was the first defendant filed with the benefit of counsel.

The Second District Appellate Court Found McGraw Erred By Denying Defendant's Request To File A Successive Petition Post-Conviction Petition And Said There Was "Nothing In The Record To Even Remotely Suggest That The State Complied" With Its Obligation To Disclose Evidence In Its Possession

The Appellate Court Found That McGraw Erred By Denying Defendant Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition Alleging The State Violated Its Discovery Obligations Under Brady v. Maryland. "Defendant failed to establish a colorable claim of actual innocence in his successive post-conviction petition. However, the trial court erred in denying defendant leave to file a successive post-conviction petition alleging that the State violated its discovery obligations pursuant to Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). Because the pleadings and record establish a Brady violation, we reverse defendant's convictions and we remand for a new trial. We also address evidentiary issues regarding the admissibility of statements against penal interest that will likely arise on retrial. Finally, we denied defendant's request to assign a different judge on remand." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **Brady Obligations Were The Duty Of Prosecutors To Fully Disclose To The Accused All Evidence In Their Possession.** "Brady requires that prosecutors fully disclose to the accused all exculpatory evidence in their possession. Subsequent Supreme Court decisions have elaborated the Brady obligations to include the duty to disclose (1) impeachment evidence, (2) favorable evidence in the absence of a request by the accused, and (3) evidence in the possession of persons or organizations (e.g., the police)." [Advisory Committee On Criminal Rules Of The Judicial Conference Of The United States, Report, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Appellate Court: "There Is Nothing In The Record To Even Remotely Suggest That The State Complied With Its Brady Obligations." "Although this court affirmed the defendant's conviction, it strongly condemned the conduct of the prosecution, saying '[w]ere it not for the overwhelming evidence of defendant's guilt in this case, we

would be compelled to reverse.’ Id. at 796. Unlike in Vargas, there is nothing in the record to even remotely suggest that the State complied with its Brady obligations. For all these reasons we deny the State’s petition for rehearing upon modification of the minor changes contained within this order.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found Error In The Trial Court’s Brady Court Ruling, But Found No Expression Of Prejudice Towards The Defendant And Denied Defendant’s Request For A New Judge On Remand.** “Finally, defendant requests that we order a different judge to hear this case on remand. We have carefully reviewed the record and, while we found error in the trial court’s ruling regarding the Brady claim, we find no expression of prejudice toward defendant. In the exercise of our discretion we decline defendant’s request. The trial court’s order appointing a special prosecutor from the Office of the State’s Attorney’s Appellate Prosecutor will continue to be in effect, subject to the pleasure of the Attorney General.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Established A Brady Violation And That There Was “A Reasonable Probability That The Result Of Defendant’s Trial Would Have Been Different” Had Evidence Been Disclosed. “We find that defendant has established a Brady violation, i.e., there is a reasonable probability that the result of defendant’s trial would have been different had the impeachment evidence been disclosed. We recognize that in his successive petition and his brief before this court defendant requests an opportunity to move forward with his petition in the trial court. However, we have determined de novo that the State violated Brady, which can never be harmless. *Beaman*, 229 Ill. 2d at 81 (citing *People v. Coleman*, 183 Ill. 2d 366, 393 (1988)). While ordinarily at this juncture in the case we would remand the case with directions to the trial court to allow defendant leave to file his Brady claim, a hearing is unnecessary and would be a waste of judicial time and resources. [...] Therefore, ‘[u]nder the unusual circumstances of this case, we find that defendant is entitled to a new trial.’ *Jimerson*, 166 Ill. 2d at 230-31 (a finding that a witness committed perjury in denying an inducement to testify entitled the defendant to a new trial instead of sending the case back for a third stage evidentiary hearing).” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Was Entitled To A New Trial Due To The “Unusual Circumstances Of The Case.” “We find that defendant has established a Brady violation, i.e., there is a reasonable probability that the result of defendant’s trial would have been different had the impeachment evidence been disclosed. We recognize that in his successive petition and his brief before this court defendant requests an opportunity to move forward with his petition in the trial court. However, we have determined de novo that the State violated Brady, which can never be harmless. *Beaman*, 229 Ill. 2d at 81 (citing *People v. Coleman*, 183 Ill. 2d 366, 393 (1988)). While ordinarily at this juncture in the case we would remand the case with directions to the trial court to allow defendant leave to file his Brady claim, a hearing is unnecessary and would be a waste of judicial time and resources. [...] Therefore, ‘[u]nder the unusual circumstances of this case, we find that defendant is entitled to a new trial.’ *Jimerson*, 166 Ill. 2d at 230-31 (a finding that a witness committed perjury in denying an inducement to testify entitled the defendant to a new trial instead of sending the case back for a third stage evidentiary hearing).” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

Following The Appellate Court’s Decision To Return The Case For A New Trial, Prosecutors Dropped Charges As Another Man Had Confessed To The Murder For Which Defendant Was Wrongfully Convicted

After An Appellate Court Decision Returned The Case To The Trial Court, A Special Prosecutor Dropped The Charges Against Horton After His Cousin Repeatedly Confessed To The Killing He Was Wrongfully Convicted Of. “A man who spent 23 years in prison for murder was granted a certificate of innocence Monday in Winnebago County court. John W. Horton Jr., 42, of Rockford was all smiles after emerging from Judge Joe McGraw’s courtroom. ‘It was a long road, but man, I’m blessed by the outcome,’ Horton said, standing outside the courtroom with his wife and two of his five daughters. ‘Today my daughters officially got their father back with his name.’ The certificate not only clears Horton’s name, it also allows him to seek financial compensation. Horton was charged with the Sept. 19, 1993, murder and armed robbery of Arthur Castaneda at a McDonald’s at 2715

Charles St. Horton, who was 17 at the time, has maintained his innocence. He was sentenced in 1995 to life in prison, but in October 2016 the Illinois Appellate Court ruled that he was entitled to a new trial. A special prosecutor dropped the charges Oct. 4, 2017. Horton's cousin Clifton English has repeatedly confessed to the killing but has never been charged. English is in prison for a similar murder committed at the former Bombay Bicycle Club days after Castaneda's death. McGraw, reading his ruling in court, said that English has no reason to lie." [Loevy + Lovey, [12/18/18](#)]

McGraw Granted The Defendant A Certificate Of Innocence After He Spent 23 Years In Prison For A Murder He Did Not Commit

McGraw Granted John Horton, The Defendant, A Certificate Of Innocence After He Spent 23 Years In Prison For A Murder He Was Wrongfully Convicted Of. "A man who spent 23 years in prison for murder was granted a certificate of innocence Monday in Winnebago County court. John W. Horton Jr., 42, of Rockford was all smiles after emerging from Judge Joe McGraw's courtroom. 'It was a long road, but man, I'm blessed by the outcome,' Horton said, standing outside the courtroom with his wife and two of his five daughters. 'Today my daughters officially got their father back with his name.' The certificate not only clears Horton's name, it also allows him to seek financial compensation. Horton was charged with the Sept. 19, 1993, murder and armed robbery of Arthur Castaneda at a McDonald's at 2715 Charles St. Horton, who was 17 at the time, has maintained his innocence. He was sentenced in 1995 to life in prison, but in October 2016 the Illinois Appellate Court ruled that he was entitled to a new trial. A special prosecutor dropped the charges Oct. 4, 2017. Horton's cousin Clifton English has repeatedly confessed to the killing but has never been charged. English is in prison for a similar murder committed at the former Bombay Bicycle Club days after Castaneda's death. McGraw, reading his ruling in court, said that English has no reason to lie." [Loevy + Lovey, [12/18/18](#)]

McGraw Denied A Defendant's Post-Trial Motion Claiming 6th Amendment Violations; The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Denial Finding Counsel Was Ineffective And Allowed "The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To The Crime" To Go "Uncorroborated And Unchallenged"

Following A Jury Trial, Post-Trial Motions Allowed Defendants To File For Relief And To Address Errors That May Have Occurred During The Trial

Following A Trial In A Jury Case, A Defendant Could File For Relief In A Single Post-Trial Motion Stating The Relief Requested And The Grounds In Support Of The Motion. "Relief desired after trial in a jury case must be included in a single post-trial motion. The post-trial motion must contain the points relied upon and specify the grounds in support of the post-trial motion. It must also state the relief desired. Examples of relief desired include the entry of a judgment or the granting of a new trial. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(b). The motion must be filed within 30 days of entry of the judgment or the discharge of the jury, if no verdict is reached, or within any further time the court may allow within the 30 days or any extensions. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(c). Filing on time, 'stays enforcement of the judgment' which means the judgment cannot be enforced for a period of time. This usually lasts until the hearing on the motion. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(d). Any party who does not request a new trial in his or her post-trial motion waives the right to ask for a new trial, except in cases in which the jury did not reach a verdict. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(e). A court must rule on all relief requested in post-trial motions. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(f)." [Illinois Legal Aid, [9/11/18](#)]

A Post-Trial Motion Could Be Filed To Correct An Apparent Error That Occurred During The Trial. "If you lose at trial as a result of an apparent error, you can file a post-trial motion to correct the error. You might file a motion for a new trial based on an error in the jury verdict. For example, a motion for a new trial might be appropriate if the jury finds a defendant liable but awards no damages, when the plaintiff's evidence clearly supports the damages that they have incurred. These motions can be hard to win unless the error was obvious." [Justia, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

McGraw Denied A Defendant's Post-Trial Motion Alleging 6th Amendment Violations

After A Man Was Convicted Of Residential Burglary By A Jury Trial, He Filed A Post-Trial Motion Alleging 6th Amendment Violations As Counsel Failed To Challenge DNA Evidence. “Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant’s pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel’s failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence. On December 10, 2009, the court sentenced defendant to 30 years’ imprisonment. Defendant did not file a postsentencing motion. On appeal, defendant argues that both trial and posttrial counsel provided ineffective assistance. Specifically, defendant asserts that, where the only evidence the State produced against him constituted a partial DNA ‘match,’ trial counsel provided ineffective assistance in that she did not: (1) cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present any evidence regarding the fact that the partial profile should be considered a ‘nonmatch’ and was not, in fact, unique; (2) present any expert testimony to establish that the statistical calculations relied upon by the State and its expert were flawed; and (3) understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury. As to posttrial counsel, defendant asserts that counsel provided ineffective assistance where he was appointed for the purpose of filing postsentencing motions but, instead, filed only a notice of appeal. For the following reasons, we conclude that defendant was denied the effective assistance of trial counsel. We reverse his conviction and remand for a new trial with new counsel. We do not reach the issue of whether posttrial counsel was ineffective.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- **The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants.** “Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

McGraw Denied The Defendant's Post-Trial Motion Alleging Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel. “Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant’s pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel’s failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Watson In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

<i>People v. Watson, 2012 IL App (2d) 091328</i>	
Appellate Court Caption	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. TROY S. WATSON, Defendant-Appellant.
District & No.	Second District Docket No. 2-09-1328
Filed	January 25, 2012
Held <i>(Note: This syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader.)</i>	Defendant's conviction for residential burglary was reversed and the cause was remanded for a new trial with new counsel where defendant's trial counsel was ineffective in failing to cross-examine the State's DNA expert or present evidence that the partial profile should be considered a "nonmatch," failing to present expert testimony that the statistical calculations relied on by the State were flawed, and failing to understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury, and defendant's posttrial counsel was ineffective in only filing a notice of appeal without filing any postsentencing motions.
Decision Under Review	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, No. 08-CF-1692; the Hon. Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, presiding.
Judgment	Reversed and remanded.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Defendant's 6th Amendment Rights Were Denied And Said Counsel Allowed "The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To The Crime" To Go "Uncorroborated And Unchallenged"

The Appellate Court Concluded That The Defendant Was Denied The Effective Assistance Of Trial Counsel.

"Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant's pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel's failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence. On December 10, 2009, the court sentenced defendant to 30 years' imprisonment. Defendant did not file a postsentencing motion. On appeal, defendant argues that both trial and posttrial counsel provided ineffective assistance. Specifically, defendant asserts that, where the only evidence the State produced against him constituted a partial DNA 'match,' trial counsel provided ineffective assistance in that she did not: (1) cross-examine the State's DNA expert or present any evidence regarding the fact that the partial profile should be considered a 'nonmatch' and was not, in fact, unique; (2) present any expert testimony to establish that the statistical calculations relied upon by the State and its expert were flawed; and (3) understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury. As to posttrial counsel, defendant asserts that counsel provided ineffective assistance where he was appointed for the purpose of filing postsentencing motions but, instead, filed only a notice of appeal. For the following reasons, we conclude that defendant was denied the effective assistance of trial counsel. We reverse his conviction and remand for a new trial with new counsel. We do not reach the issue of whether posttrial counsel was ineffective." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- **Appellate Court: "It Is Clear That Counsel's Challenge To This [DNA] Evidence Was Virtually Nonexistent, And Quite Possibly Counsel Simply Did Not Understand The Evidence."** "When we view in its entirety the manner in which defense counsel handled the DNA issue in this case, it is clear that counsel's challenge to this evidence was virtually nonexistent, and quite possibly counsel simply did not understand the evidence. Again (and unlike the cases upon which the State relies to argue that convictions may be upheld on partial-profile matches), the only evidence linking defendant to this crime (the seven-loci comparison) was uncorroborated and unchallenged. Counsel's cross-examination of the only witness linking defendant to the crime consisted of three questions. We do not mean to suggest that the number of questions asked rendered the performance per se unreasonable. Indeed, we acknowledge that, generally speaking, whether to call particular witnesses and the manner and extent of cross-examination are matters of

trial strategy that will not ordinarily support an ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claim. *People v. Ramey*, 152 Ill. 2d 41, 54 (1992). However, as an ineffective-assistance claim requires consideration of how a reasonably effective defense attorney would conduct himself or herself if confronted with the circumstances of the defendant's trial, the question of what constitutes sound trial strategy is necessarily fact-dependent." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- **Appellate Court: “The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To This Crime (The Seven-Loci Comparison) Was Uncorroborated And Unchallenged.”** “When we view in its entirety the manner in which defense counsel handled the DNA issue in this case, it is clear that counsel’s challenge to this evidence was virtually nonexistent, and quite possibly counsel simply did not understand the evidence. Again (and unlike the cases upon which the State relies to argue that convictions may be upheld on partial-profile matches), the only evidence linking defendant to this crime (the seven-loci comparison) was uncorroborated and unchallenged. Counsel’s cross-examination of the only witness linking defendant to the crime consisted of three questions. We do not mean to suggest that the number of questions asked rendered the performance per se unreasonable. Indeed, we acknowledge that, generally speaking, whether to call particular witnesses and the manner and extent of cross-examination are matters of trial strategy that will not ordinarily support an ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claim. *People v. Ramey*, 152 Ill. 2d 41, 54 (1992). However, as an ineffective-assistance claim requires consideration of how a reasonably effective defense attorney would conduct himself or herself if confronted with the circumstances of the defendant’s trial, the question of what constitutes sound trial strategy is necessarily fact-dependent.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

NOTE: Justice Birkett dissented and noted that defendant Watson confessed to the burglary.

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found Defendant’s Counsel Was Ineffective, Reversing Defendant’s Convictions And McGraw’s Petition Denial, The Court Remanded The Case For A New Trial

The Appellate Court Reversed Defendant’s Conviction For Residential Burglary And Remanded The Cause For A New Trial With New Counsel As Defendant’s Prior Trial Counsel Was Ineffective. “Defendant’s conviction for residential burglary was reversed and the cause was remanded for a new trial with new counsel where defendant’s trial counsel was ineffective in failing to cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present evidence that the partial profile should be considered a ‘nonmatch,’ failing to present expert testimony that the statistical calculations relied on by the State were flawed, and failing to understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury, and defendant’s posttrial counsel was ineffective in only filing a notice of appeal without filing any post sentencing motions. ” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was the judge [presiding over People v. Watson](#) in the Winnebago County Circuit Court, but Watson was ultimately convicted by a jury.

After A New Trial, McGraw Sentenced The Defendant To 17 Years In Prison

November 2016: McGraw Sentenced The Defendant, Troy Watson To 17 Years In Prison With Credit For 2974 Days Served. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, *People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson*, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]



*DATE *	11/08/2016	*JUDGE *	McGraw, Joseph	MICROFILM NUMBER *	
SEALED *		CODE *	SN JAIM		
	Sentence Modified: RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY				
	Facility: Department of Corrections				
*TEXT *	Confinement Type: DOC				
	Sentence Time: 17 years				
	Credit Time Served: 2974 days				

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, *People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson*, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- **Troy Watson Received A Negotiated Plea Under McGraw.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

*DATE ▶ 11/08/2016	*JUDGE ▶ McGraw, Joseph	MICROFILM NUMBER ▶
SEALED ▶	CODE ▶ HR NEGP	
*TEXT ▶ *Hearing Result: Cause comes on for Plea. Result: Negotiated Plea		

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Post-Conviction Petition Finding Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated, The Appellate Court Remanded The Petition To The Trial Court To Proceed To The Second Stage And Appoint Defendant An Attorney

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

McGraw Dismissed A Postconviction Petition That Claimed The Defendant Was Deprived Of His 6th Amendment Rights, By Dismissing The Petition At The First Stage Defendant Did Not Receive An Attorney

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Claiming He Was Deprived of The Effective Assistance Of Counsel – His 6th Amendment Right, McGraw Dismissed Defendant’s Petition In The First Stage

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Claiming He Was Deprived of The Effective Assistance Of Counsel, McGraw Summarily Dismissed His Petition As Frivolous And Patently Without Merit. “On October 16, 2014, the defendant filed a postconviction petition, asserting that he was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel. The trial court dismissed his petition as frivolous and patently without merit. On November 3, 2014, the trial court ordered that the defendant’s sentence for child abduction be served consecutively to the sentences he had received for criminal sexual assault. The trial court’s order had the effect of increasing the defendant’s cumulative sentence from 45 years’ imprisonment to 48 years’ imprisonment. On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court did not comply with this court’s mandate in Trotter I and that his sentence is excessive. The defendant further contends that the trial court erred in dismissing his post-conviction petition. We affirm the defendant’s sentence but remand for additional post-conviction proceedings. [...] On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel’s failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State’s plea offer of a 20-year prison term.” [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

- **Summary Dismissal Indicated The Postconviction Petition Was Dismissed In The First Stage.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough

facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Dismissal Based On Finding A Petition Was “Frivolous And Patently Without Merit” Means The Petition May Have Had A Good Argument But Was Based On Incorrect Legal Theory Or Claims That Were Not Believable.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Trotter In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants. “Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

By Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition At The First Stage, Defendant Was Not Given The Assistance Of Counsel In Making His Claims That His Rights Were Violated

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The Summary Dismissal Stage It Moves On To The Second Motion To Dismiss Stage, Where A Court May Appoint An Attorney To Amend The Petition To Better Represent Defendant’s Claims That Their Rights Were Violated. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may

appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner's contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Petition Dismissal, Sent The Petition Back To The Lower Court And Said Defendant Should Be Appointed Counsel To Assist In Second Stage Consideration Of The Petition

The Second District Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Post-Conviction Petition And Remanded For Counsel To Assist The Defendant With The Second Stage Of Postconviction

Proceedings. "Appeal No. 2-14-1207: On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel's failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State's plea offer of a 20-year prison term. [...] Here, as in Barghouti, the defendant alleged that he would have accepted the State's plea offer had his counsel accurately informed him of the maximum sentence that he could receive. The defendant's allegations were supported by his affidavit. The fact that the defendant received a significantly longer sentence (48 years) than the State offered him via the plea agreement (20 years) supports a claim that he was prejudiced by his counsel's representation. See *People v. Hale*, 2013 IL 113140, Accordingly, without addressing the merits of the defendant's petition, we reverse the trial court's judgment and remand for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant with the second stage of postconviction proceedings. [...] For the foregoing reasons, in appeal no. 2-14-1207, we reverse the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County and remand for additional proceedings pursuant to the Act." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings, These Proceedings Could Be A New Trial, Consideration Of New Evidence, Or Correction Of Judgement.**

"Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court's proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment." [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Merit To Defendant's Claims Of Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel Due To The Trial Counsel's Failure To Inform Him Of The Maximum Sentencing Range.

"Appeal No. 2-14-1207: On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel's failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State's plea offer of a 20-year prison term. [...] Here, as in Barghouti, the defendant alleged that he would have accepted the State's plea offer had his counsel accurately informed him of the maximum sentence that he could receive. The defendant's allegations were supported by his affidavit. The fact that the defendant received a significantly longer sentence (48 years) than the State offered him via the plea agreement (20 years) supports a claim that he was prejudiced by his counsel's representation. See *People v. Hale*, 2013 IL 113140, Accordingly, without addressing the merits of the defendant's petition, we reverse the trial court's judgment and remand for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant with the second stage of postconviction proceedings. [...] For the foregoing reasons, in appeal no. 2-14-1207, we reverse the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County and remand for additional proceedings pursuant to the Act." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

NOTE: The cause was returned to the trial court under McGraw for a secondary stage hearing with counsel. Court records show the petition moved on to a third stage evidentiary hearing where it was dismissed, McGraw's dismissal at the third stage was affirmed by an Appellate Court in April 2022.

An Appellate Court Said McGraw Should Not Have Dismissed A Defendant's Postconviction Petition Voluntarily Without A Motion To Dismiss Filed By The State, The Court Vacated McGraw's Dismissal And Remanded The Cause

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. "The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

A Defendant Appealed McGraw's Second Stage Dismissal Of His Post Conviction Petition Claiming McGraw Erred By Dismissing The Petition Without A Motion Or Response From The State

A Defendant Appealed McGraw's Second Stage Dismissal Of His Post Conviction Petition Claiming McGraw Erred By Dismissing The Petition Without A Motion Or Response From The State. "This appeal arises from the second-stage dismissal of defendant's petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2010)). Defendant argues that it was error to dismiss the petition before the State answered it or moved for its dismissal. Defendant also argues that his extended term sentence for possession with intent to deliver cocaine is void. We vacate the dismissal of defendant's postconviction petition and remand for further proceedings. [...] Defendant first argues that it was error for the trial court to dismiss his postconviction petition in the absence of a motion to dismiss filed by the State. [...] Once the initial 90-day period for first-stage review of the petition elapses, the Act makes no provision for disposing of a postconviction petition until the State has either answered the petition or moved to dismiss it. 725 ILCS 5/122-5, 122-6 (West 2010). Any sua sponte disposition after the initial 90-day period is improper. *People v. Greer*, 341 Ill. App. 3d 906, 910 (2003), *aff'd*, 212 Ill. 2d 192 (2004). Here the dismissal occurred well beyond the 90-day period. The State concedes that the dismissal was error and that the case must be remanded so that the State may answer the petition or move for its dismissal." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over *People V. Butler* In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

2015 IL App (2d) 130561-U
No. 2-13-0561
Order filed March 12, 2015

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff-Appellee,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
v.	)	No. 03-CF-3298
JESSE BUTLER, Defendant-Appellant.	)	Honorable Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Vacated McGraw's Order Dismissing Defendant's Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Proceedings

The Appellate Court Vacated McGraw's Order Dismissing Defendant's Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Proceedings. "For the foregoing reasons, we vacate the order dismissing defendant's postconviction petition and remand for further proceedings. We also reduce defendant's sentence for unlawful possession of cocaine with intent to deliver to 15 years' imprisonment Judgment modified; order vacated; cause remanded." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings, These Proceedings Could Be A New Trial, Consideration Of New Evidence, Or Correction Of Judgement.** "Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court's proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment." [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

NOTE: McGraw did not hand down the sentence that the appellate court modified, Defendant was [sentenced by Judge Edward Prochaska](#).

The Appellate Court Called McGraw's Dismissal Of The Petition Without A Motion From The State "Improper"

The Appellate Court Said McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Petition Without Prompting From The State Or Defendant Was "Improper." "Defendant first argues that it was error for the trial court to dismiss his postconviction petition in the absence of a motion to dismiss filed by the State. This court has recently observed as follows: 'The Act provides a three-stage process for adjudicating postconviction petitions. [Citation.] At the first stage, a trial court considers whether the postconviction petition is frivolous or patently without merit. [Citation.] If the postconviction petition survives the first-stage review, it proceeds to the second stage and is docketed 'for further consideration in accordance with Sections 122-4 through 122-6.' [Citation.] At the second stage, counsel is appointed and the pro se petition may be amended. [Citation.] In addition, the State may answer the petition or seek its dismissal. [Citation.] The proceedings advance to the third stage if the State answers the petition or the court denies the State's motion to dismiss.' People v. Thomas, 2014 IL App (2d) 121001, Once the initial 90-day period for first-stage review of the petition elapses, the Act makes no provision for disposing of a postconviction petition until the State has either answered the petition or moved to dismiss it. 725 ILCS 5/122-5, 122-6 (West 2010). Any sua sponte disposition after the initial 90-day period is improper. People v. Greer, 341 Ill. App. 3d 906, 910 (2003), aff'd, 212 Ill. 2d 192 (2004). Here the dismissal occurred well beyond the 90-day period. The State concedes that

the dismissal was error and that the case must be remanded so that the State may answer the petition or move for its dismissal.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Said McGraw “Was Not Permitted To Dismiss Sua Sponte Defendant’s Postconviction Petition At The Second Stage.” “The trial court was not permitted to dismiss sua sponte defendant’s postconviction petition at the second stage; thus, we vacated the dismissal and remanded the cause; (2) defendant’s extended-term sentence for possession with intent to deliver cocaine was void, as the offense was less serious than his offense of possession with intent to deliver heroin; thus, we reduced the sentence to the maximum nonextended term.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **Sua Sponte Indicates A Court Indicate That A Court Took Notice Of An Issue On Its Own Motion Without Prompting Or Suggestion From Either Party.** “Sua sponte: Latin for ‘of one’s own accord; voluntarily.’ Used to indicate that a court has taken notice of an issue on its own motion without prompting or suggestion from either party.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

By ‘Improperly’ Dismissing Defendant’s Petition Of On His Own Without A Motion From The State, McGraw Cut Short Defendant’s Postconviction Petition Before It Could Receive An Evidentiary Hearing

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The First Two Stages Of Review, The Trial Court Would Hold An Evidentiary Hearing. “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **The Petitioner Had A Right To An Attorney At The Evidentiary Hearing And The Court Can Receive Evidence By Affidavit, Deposition, Or Live Testimony.** “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

NOTE: After the petition was remanded to the trial court, Defendant failed to appear in Court multiple times and could not be located by his Attorney. The petition was [dismissed in his absence](#).

An Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition,” Reversed McGraw’s Judgement And Remanded The Cause

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Alleging His Guilty Plea Was Induced By An Unfulfilled Promise By The State, McGraw Summarily Dismissed His Petition At The First Stage

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Alleging His Guilty Plea Was Induced By An Unfulfilled Promise By The State. “Defendant, Leon Smith, was charged with aggravated discharge of a firearm (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(1) (West 2010)) and aggravated unlawful use of weapons (720 ILCS 5/24-1.6(a)(1), (a)(3)(A) (West 2010)), and he agreed to plead guilty to aggravated discharge of a firearm in exchange for 36 months of probation. As a term of his probation, defendant was required to meet with his probation officer. When defendant failed to do so, the State petitioned to revoke his probation. Defendant admitted to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. That sentence, among other factors, made defendant statutorily eligible for impact incarceration (see generally 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 (West 2010)). However, when defendant arrived at a facility of the Department of Corrections (DOC), he was told that his sentence disqualified him for impact incarceration. Defendant petitioned for postconviction relief. He argued primarily that his admission had been induced by his counsel’s ineffectiveness, but he additionally suggested, with a citation to *People v. Whitfield*, 217 Ill. 2d 177 (2005), that he had relied on an unfulfilled promise by the State. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, and this timely appeal followed. For the reasons that follow, we reverse and remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **The Defendant Pled Guilty In Exchange For A Sentence That Would Make Him Eligible For Impact Incarceration, But After Arriving At The Department Of Corrections He Was Incorrectly Informed He Was Not Eligible.** “At the hearing on the petition to revoke defendant’s probation, defendant agreed to admit to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. Defense counsel advised the court that ‘[defendant] is going to execute a consent to participate in the impact incarceration [program],’ that defendant ‘would ask the Court to enter that recommendation,’ and that ‘[defendant] does understand that the final determination [of admission to the program] rests with the [DOC].’ The court agreed to enter a recommendation. [...] After defendant was transferred to the DOC, he inquired about impact incarceration. More specifically, he submitted an ‘Offender Request’ wherein he asserted that he ‘took [b]oot camp with 7 years,’ but, ‘when [he] got to State ville [sic][,] they said [he] wasn’t eligible for [b]oot camp.’ Defendant asked, ‘[C]an you tell me why I was denied[?]’ In a written response, DOC personnel explained that defendant did ‘not qualify because sentance [sic].’ Thereafter, defendant petitioned pro se for postconviction relief, arguing that his admission was constitutionally invalid. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, finding it frivolous and patently without merit. This timely appeal followed. [...] Defendant entered his admission in exchange for a sentence that would, along with other factors, make him statutorily eligible for impact incarceration. Indeed, the record demonstrates that defendant’s statutory eligibility for impact incarceration was the precise benefit for which he bargained. However, though the DOC’s response to his inquiry is not exactly a model of clarity, the DOC, at least arguably, concluded erroneously that his sentence made him statutorily ineligible for impact incarceration. See 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1(b)(4) (2010) (defendant can be statutorily eligible as long as he ‘has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 8 years or less’). Thus, at least arguably, defendant was denied the benefit of his bargain.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]
- **The Illinois Impact Incarceration Program Allowed Eligible Offenders To Enter A Military Style Boot Camp, The Program Allowed Successful Participants To Return Home After 6 Months Rather Than Serve Their Full Sentence.** “The Illinois impact incarceration program, more commonly referred to as ‘boot camp’, is a program within the Illinois Department of Corrections that allows eligible offenders sentenced to prison the opportunity to significantly reduce their sentence. It is referred to as boot camp because the program is run like a military stye boot camp. Most offenders entering the program are not able to get felony probation for a variety of reasons and are, therefore, facing a prison sentence. Boot camp allows its successful participants to be home after approximately 6 months, rather than serve the actual sentence with which they initially entered the Illinois Department of Corrections. If the offender cannot successful complete the program, he/she will then be required to finish out their remaining sentence. Those who do successfully complete the program and are discharged home, still remain under the control of prison authorities because they will be on parole. If they

violate any parole conditions, they can be returned to prison to serve the balance of the original sentence.”
[HG.org, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

McGraw Summarily Denied The Defendant’s Petition At The First Stage Of The Postconviction Petition Process. “Defendant, Leon Smith, was charged with aggravated discharge of a firearm (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(1) (West 2010)) and aggravated unlawful use of weapons (720 ILCS 5/24-1.6(a)(1), (a)(3)(A) (West 2010)), and he agreed to plead guilty to aggravated discharge of a firearm in exchange for 36 months of probation. As a term of his probation, defendant was required to meet with his probation officer. When defendant failed to do so, the State petitioned to revoke his probation. Defendant admitted to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. That sentence, among other factors, made defendant statutorily eligible for impact incarceration (see generally 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 (West 2010)). However, when defendant arrived at a facility of the Department of Corrections (DOC), he was told that his sentence disqualified him for impact incarceration. Defendant petitioned for postconviction relief. He argued primarily that his admission had been induced by his counsel’s ineffectiveness, but he additionally suggested, with a citation to *People v. Whitfield*, 217 Ill. 2d 177 (2005), that he had relied on an unfulfilled promise by the State. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, and this timely appeal followed. For the reasons that follow, we reverse and remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Smith In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.**
[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

2014 IL App.(2d) 130017-U
No. 2-13-0017
Order filed August 25, 2014

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 10-CF-744
LEON SMITH,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

By Dismissing The Defendant’s Postconviction Petition At The First Stage, The Defendant Was Not Given The Assistance Of Counsel In Making His Claims That His Rights Were Violated

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The Summary Dismissal Stage It Moves On To The Second Motion To Dismiss Stage, Where A Court May Appoint An Attorney To Amend The Petition To Better Represent Defendant’s Claims That Their Rights Were Violated. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late

filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Denial Of Defendant’s Postconviction Petition And Returned The Petition To The Lower Court For Further Postconviction Petition Proceedings

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Denial Of Defendant’s Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Postconviction Petition Proceedings. “Thus, we decline defendant’s request that we immediately give him ‘the opportunity to withdraw his admission, if he so desires.’ Cf. id. at 202 (awarding the defendant relief where he had ‘established that his constitutional rights were substantially violated’). Instead, we simply reverse the first-stage dismissal of defendant’s petition and remand the cause for further proceedings under the Act. Those proceedings should determine whether the DOC indeed concluded that defendant was statutorily ineligible, and, if it did, the trial court should allow defendant to withdraw his admission to the petition to revoke probation. The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and this cause is remanded for further proceedings. Reversed and remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Smith, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings.** “Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court’s proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment.” [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition.”

The Second District Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition.” “The trial court erred in summarily dismissing defendant’s postconviction petition, as defendant stated the gist of a claim that he was denied the benefit of the bargain under which he admitted a probation violation: whereas he bargained for statutory eligibility for impact incarceration, the Department of Corrections arguably concluded erroneously that he was statutorily ineligible in light of his sentence.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Smith, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

NOTE: After the petition was remanded to the trial court, McGraw dismissed the postconviction petition in [January 2017](#). Court records indicate defendant did not appeal the dismissal.

McGraw Withheld Information From Voters: He Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure Despite Holding Numerous Positions

McGraw Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, Despite Holding Numerous Positions In 2021-2023

McGraw Reported No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure

McGraw Reported No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure. [U.S. House Clerk, Joe McGraw 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [10/13/23](#)]

First Time Candidates Were Required To Report Positions Held For The Current Calendar Year And Two Calendar Years Prior To The Personal Financial Disclosure Being Filed

First-Year Candidates Were Required To Report Positions Held For The Current Calendar Year And The Two Prior Calendar Years. “First-year candidates and new employee filers must report positions held at any time during the current calendar year up to the date of filing, plus the two prior calendar years. If you no longer hold the position, you may wish to indicate that fact parenthetically, but you still must report the position.” [House Committee on Ethics, [5/15/23](#)]

2021-2024: McGraw Was A Co-Chair Of The Steering Committee Of The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council

January 2024: The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council Listed McGraw As A Co-Chair Of Its Steering Committee. [Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council, About the IFVCC, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

- **McGraw Was Appointed To The Position In 2021.** “Judge Joseph G. McGraw and Judge Maureen Schuette have been named as the new Co-Chairs of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council Steering Committee.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [6/8/21](#)]

As Late As May 2023, McGraw Was Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality, As Well As Several Other Illinois Supreme Court Committees

May 2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement Press Release Listed Him As The Current Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality. “Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality’s Stated Mission Was To “Promote Equality And Fairness In All Aspects Of The Administration Of Justice.”** [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]
- **As Of January 17, 2024, Hon. Michael B. Hyman Was The Chairperson For The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality, So McGraw Appeared To Have Been Replaced Between May 2023 And January 2024.** [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

As Late As May 2023, McGraw Was A Member Of Several Other Illinois Supreme Court Committees

May 2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement Press Release Said He Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committees On Judicial Ethics, Access To Justice, And Judicial Performance Evaluation. ““Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

NOTE: As of March 2024, Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Access to Justice listed McGraw as a member “ex officio” by virtue of his position as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality. However, McGraw was replaced as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality sometime in 2023, so it is unknown whether he still served on the Committee on Access to Justice. [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [3/16/24](#)]

2022 – 2023: McGraw Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board

2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement State Said Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board. “Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2022: The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board Preliminary Report Listed McGraw As A Board Member. [Illinois Supreme Court, Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board 2022 Preliminary Report, [7/1/22](#)]

PRETRIAL DATA OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Marcia M. Meis Director Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	Candice Adams Circuit Court Clerk 18 th Judicial Circuit
Tod Dillard IPCSA President Morgan County Court Services Department	Jeremy Jewell, Ph.D., L.C.P., L.S. Professor, Department of Psychology Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
Jim Kaltschuk Executive Director Illinois Sheriff’s Association	Timothy Lavery, Ph.D. Associate Director, Research & Analysis Unit Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Annie McGowan Senior Research Associate The Civic Federation	Hon. Joseph McGraw Chair, Supreme Court Committee on Equality Criminal Justice Center

[Illinois Supreme Court, Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board 2022 Preliminary Report, [7/1/22](#)]

McGraw Demanded An Assistant Public Defender Use All His Vacation Time Accrued After 30 Years Of Service Despite The Impact It Would Have On His Job Performance; The Public Defender Passed Away Before His Lawsuit Against McGraw Was Resolved

August 2016: Ed Light, An Assistant Public Defender Filed A Lawsuit Against McGraw, Winnebago County And A Winnebago County Public Defender Alleging He And Over 100 Employees Lost Vacation Time Under A New Policy

A Winnebago County Assistant Public Defender Filed A Lawsuit Against McGraw, The County And A Winnebago County Public Defender Alleging He And Over 100 Employees Lost Vacation Time Under A New Policy. “A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to accrue up to two years of vacation time. Yet the county payroll department allowed them to continue accruing vacation time beyond that two-year cap. Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. The use-it-or-lose-it policy has jeopardized all of that banked vacation time, according to the lawsuit, and 105 employees — including Light — might lose the vacation time they earned. The amount of vacation time they could lose would vary based on individual circumstances.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

The County Board Adopted A ‘Use It Or Lose It’ Vacation Policy In August 2014, But The County Payroll Department Allowed County Employees To Continue Accruing Vacation Time Beyond The Two Year Cap.

“A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to accrue up to two years of vacation time. Yet the county payroll department allowed them to continue accruing vacation time beyond that two-year cap. Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. The use-it-or-lose-it policy has jeopardized all of that banked vacation time, according to the lawsuit, and 105 employees — including Light — might lose the vacation time they earned. The amount of vacation time they could lose would vary based on individual circumstances.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

Ed Light Was A 30 Year Veteran Of The Public Defender’s Office And Had Accrued Significant Time Off; McGraw Dictated That He Use All Of His Vacation Before The End Of The Year Despite Light’s Worry He Could Not Perform His Job Adequately

Assistant Public Defender Ed Light Had Worked For The Office For More Than 30 Years And Had Accrued About 45 And 1/2 Weeks Of Vacation Time. “A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to accrue up to two years of vacation time. Yet the county payroll department allowed them to continue accruing vacation time beyond that two-year cap. Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. The use-it-or-lose-it policy has jeopardized all of that banked vacation time, according to the lawsuit, and 105 employees — including Light — might lose the vacation time they earned. The amount of vacation time they could lose would vary based on individual circumstances.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

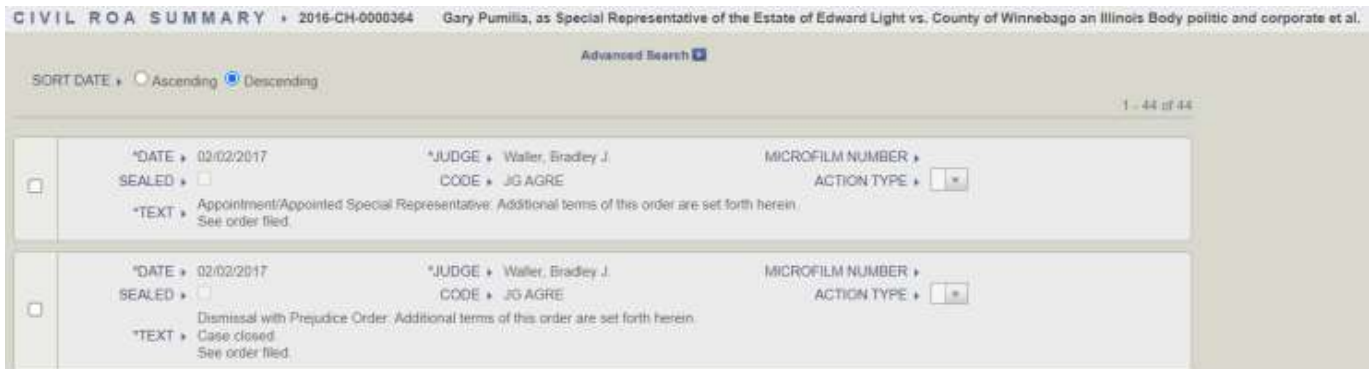
McGraw Directed Ed Light To Take 58 Days Of Vacation Before The End Of The Year, But Ed Light Said He Did Not Think He Could Take That Much Time Off And Still Perform His Job Adequately. “Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. [...] Earlier this year, McGraw developed a plan outlining how Light was to use his vacation time, ‘directing him to take 464 hours (or 58 days) of vacation before the end of the year,’ but Light said he didn’t think he could take that much time off and still perform his job adequately, according to the lawsuit. If he didn’t comply, that could affect future pay raises and performance evaluations, the lawsuit states. In the spring, his pay was reduced by 3.5 percent. Light declined to comment this week. The lawsuit maintains that state law doesn’t allow employers to impose policies or practices that make employees forfeit their vacation time.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

- **Ed Light Alleged That If He Didn’t Comply, It Could Affect His Future Pay Raises And Performance Evaluations; In The Spring Light’s Pay Was Reduced By 3.5%.** “Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. [...] Earlier this year, McGraw developed a plan outlining how Light was to use his vacation time, ‘directing him to take 464 hours (or 58 days) of vacation before the end of the year,’ but Light said he didn’t think he could take that much time off and still perform his job adequately, according to the lawsuit. If he didn’t comply, that could affect future pay raises and performance evaluations, the lawsuit states. In the spring, his pay was reduced by 3.5 percent. Light declined to comment this week. The lawsuit maintains that state law doesn’t allow employers to impose policies or practices that make employees forfeit their vacation time.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

October 2016: Ed Light Passed Away While His Lawsuit Against McGraw And Others Was Being Litigated And The Case Was Dismissed In February 2017

October 2016: Ed Light Passed Away After A More Than 30 Year Career As An Assistant Public Defender, He Had A Reputation As A “Champion For The Underdog” And “Fought Passionately For Due Process.” “During his more than 30-year career as an assistant public defender, Ed Light earned a reputation as a champion for the underdog. He argued fiercely against some of the toughest criminal charges in Winnebago County. He fought passionately for due process. He gave people who couldn't afford an attorney one of the best defenses money could buy. Light, 63, died Sunday after a short battle with cancer. ‘He was a perfect public defender. ... He fought for poor people. He was as unbiased as any human being ever,’ said fellow attorney Dan Cain. ‘He had a tough, tough job because he dealt with very, very serious criminal cases, but Eddie liked the law and he liked defending people.’ ‘Part of the nature of being a public defender is that your efforts are underappreciated, but that didn't interfere with Ed's devotion. He took every case to heart.’ ”[Rockford Register Star, [10/10/16](#)]

February 2017: Light Vs. County Of Winnebago An Illinois Body Politic And Corporate Et Al. Was Dismissed With Prejudice. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al, Case #2016-CH-0000364, Civil ROA Summary, accessed [3/4/24](#)]



CIVIL ROA SUMMARY • 2016-CH-0000364 Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	*DATE ▾ 02/02/2017 SEALED ▾ <input type="checkbox"/> *TEXT ▾ Appointment/Appointed Special Representative. Additional terms of this order are set forth herein. See order filed.	*JUDGE ▾ Waller, Bradley J. CODE ▾ JG AGRE	MICROFILM NUMBER ▾ ACTION TYPE ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	*DATE ▾ 02/02/2017 SEALED ▾ <input type="checkbox"/> *TEXT ▾ Dismissal with Prejudice Order. Additional terms of this order are set forth herein. Case closed. See order filed.	*JUDGE ▾ Waller, Bradley J. CODE ▾ JG AGRE	MICROFILM NUMBER ▾ ACTION TYPE ▾

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al, Case #2016-CH-0000364, Civil ROA Summary, accessed [3/4/24](#)]

Key Visuals

Video

Illinois Family Institute

McGraw Said He Had Been Endorsed By The Illinois Family Institute. MCGRAW: “I guess the IFI voter guide came out, and if you've looked at it, there's a stunning omission. It says that I didn't answer any of the questions. Well, when we started our campaign, we were learning how to build an airplane and fly it at the same time. As things were a little chaotic. We missed the deadline for answering those questions. We did answer them all online. And we've been assured by Illinois Family Institute that we would be endorsed by them.” [Faith Center, YouTube, 42:45-43:20, [2/11/24](#)] (VIDEO)

Trump

McGraw: “I’m Voting For Donald Trump.” MCGRAW: “I’m Joe McGraw. I’m down at the border here in Yuma, Arizona and what I’ve seen is worse than you can imagine. It’s time to get serious about solving this border problem, Joe Biden, he’s not serious, he could solve it today with the stroke of a pen. That’s why I’m voting for Donald Trump because it’s time to get serious about securing the border, protecting American Families, and putting America first again. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Twitter, 0:00, [2/20/24](#)] (VIDEO)

Audio

Anti-LGBT

McGraw Said The Navy Was More Interested In “Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem” Of Chinese Aggression. MCGRAW: “Everyday China's war-like nature is further exposed. They're more aggressive in the Pacific. They are more aggressive around the Philippines and Vietnam. They are more aggressive towards Taiwan. And we've got a navy, where uh they're more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn't have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 16:44, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw: The Democratic Party Was “Radical On Gay Rights And Transgender Rights. They Undermine The Values That Parents Try And Teach Their Kids. They Have Infiltrated The School System With Their Ideas. Uh They Are Definitely Trying To Change America.” HOST: “Are you prepared for what uh is involved today in politics? Years ago I love quoting it but dear friend Bob Michael who was minority leader in the House used to duel with Tip O’Neil the Democratic majority leader and they would argue on the floor of the House and then have lunch together and play golf together. Uh, that will never happen in today's political world unfortunately that doesn’t seem like people can reasonably discuss things without getting mad and have friendships ended over it. It is a different world today.” MCGRAW: “Well you are right. Things are exceptionally polarized and that is because of the radicalism of the Democratic party. They’re radical extremes on every issue. They are radical extremists on the border. They are radical extremists on rights for certain groups for the exclusion of others. They are radical environmentalists. They are radical on gay rights and transgender rights. They undermine the values that parents try and teach their kids. They have infiltrated the school system with their ideas. Uh they are definitely trying to change America. And that is why I felt called to do this because I was blessed to grow up in a time when it

uh I came from a blue collar home. My dad had a family business where he made horseshoes for harness racers and I worked with him at the forge everyday. He is a WWII vet, combat vet. My mom was a lawful immigrant to the US. She came from Italy. I saw that our country was changing and denying Americans the opportunity to live the American dream and our country was being remade and our heritage being stolen from us and we are being told that we are a racist country that there is nothing salvageable that we are built on evil not virtue and I am student of American history Roger. I know what the founding father believed. I know what their values were. They were committed to Judeo-Christian values and they were committed to freedom, individual freedom and individual responsibility and that is why I am running. To re-establish those values and you know sometimes you can agree to disagree with someone and still get along but there are some issues that are so based on principle that there is no room to give.” [Joe McGraw, Breakfast With Roger and Friends, 10:46, 2/8/24] (AUDIO)

Congressman Darin LaHood

January 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Said He “Has Been Helping Me Each Step Of The Way.” HOST: “So you have probably been making your way up around the district. Do you have any specific locations and dates coming up?” MCGRAW: “Well we are gonna be in Peoria Thursday and the district is um well let's just say it is irregularly shaped.” HOST: “Hahaha.” MCGRAW: “If there was a uh picture in a dictionary that defined gerrymandering, the 17th congressional district would be an illustration of that point. It goes from Rockford on the east NE of IL to Rock Island on NW and down the Mississippi to Peoria area and across to Bloomington so as I said it is part of 14 counties so yeah we will be, I will be formally endorsed Thursday evening by Congressman Darin LaHood. He is the congressman in the 16th congressional district and he is one of the good friends and people who encouraged me to run and he has been helping me each step of the way because our districts are completely interlocked.” [Regional Media Podcast, 17th Congressional District Candidate Judge Joe McGraw, 9:37, [1/24/24](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2024: McGraw Said Darin LaHood Was “A Great Role Model, Great Example, Of Someone Who Can Work With Everyone.” HOST: “To wrap things up um there is some conservative ball work Republicans that are retiring because they just cannot take the decisiveness in politics. They do wanna work across the aisle, it is just happening. One of them, Ken Buck CO, Mike Gallagher Wisconsin who works with one of our friends of the show, Roger Christian Murphy in the China select committee, they are working well together across the aisle. It just seems to be so divisive in trying to get these things done. Uh how will it affect you if elected?” MCGRAW: “You know I am a disappointed to see some of those folks leave some of them are really great legislators but Darin LaHood who entered I should say spoke to be about running early on as a great role model, great example, of someone who can work with everyone and uh the China select committee is an example where you have to do that.” [Greg and Dan Interviews, Republican Candidate for the IL 17th Congressional District Preps for Primary Election, 8:24, [3/5/24](#)] (AUDIO)

Great Replacement Theory

2024: McGraw Used Talking Points That Aligned With The Great Replacement Theory And Said “You Can See The Consequences Of This Huge Influx Of Immigration And Draw Your Own Conclusions As To Whether That’s By Design Or Despite This.” QUESTION: “The question that I wrestle with more and more, [indecipherable] why are they doing this? Why is the liberal [indecipherable] out there just [indecipherable]?” MCGRAW: “Well you know, I talk to a lot of people and there are a lot of theories on that, but one thing you can see for sure is its changing our country and so whether that’s being done consciously like we want to change our country, we want to change the demographics of our country, we want to change the culture of our country, or if for some reason we didn’t have that insight and for some reason it happened in spite of a lack of insight. These are facts, ok. I’m sure you’ve heard about census wide count of those who are here illegally and thereby gaining more congressional representation. Illinois lost a congressman last time, lost a congressional seat because you know everyone was leaving Illinois. [...] You can see the consequences of this huge influx of immigration and draw your own conclusions as to whether that’s by design or despite this.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall. 28:24, 30:22, 4/27/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Said Illegal Immigrants Were “Being Cultivated As Future Democratic Voters, Teaching Them To Be On The Dole. They Are Also Getting Free Healthcare, Free Housing. The List Goes On And On And On.”

MCGRAW: “And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?” AUDIENCE: “And veterans taken out of homes to.” MCGRAW: “And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 20:01, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Racially Charged Statements

McGraw Referred To George Floyd As “Richard Floyd” And Then Said “That Is His Brother” And Joked That He Was Talking About “The Floyd Not Pink Floyd.” MCGRAW: “My opponent had a press release a while back where he talked about in the Quad Cities they need a clinic where kids 10 to 12 can get puberty blockers. He said that will cause the district to thrive. His words not mine. I don't know about you but I am not seeing it that way. So.” CARUANA: “He also said the f police.” MCGRAW: “Pardon me?” CARUANA: “He also said f the police.” MCGRAW: “Oh yeah. Caruana reminds me that uh during the, sheriff Caruana reminds me that during the Floyd, Richard Floyd riots on a private Facebook page.” AUDIENCE: “George Floyd.” MCGRAW: “Huh?” AUDIENCE: “George Floyd. George Floyd. George Floyd.” MCGRAW: “George Floyd. What did I say?” AUDIENCE: “Richard.” MCGRAW: “Okay that is his brother,” [*laugh from the crowd*]. Anyway the Floyd not Pink Floyd, but the Floyd [*claps and laughs from the crowd*]. AUDIENCE: “That is another brother.” MCGRAW: “That is another brother,” [*laughs from crowd*]. “Aren't we all the brothers? Can't we all get along,” [*crowd laughs*]. “So anyway he is on a FB page that says F the police. This is your current congressman in the 17th congressional district. He's never denied it. He is in favor of every soft on crime policy federally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 18:05, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw: “That's All We Need, More Chinese Influence On Our Economy Here And More Chinese People Here, Whether It's Buying Farmland Or Building Factories. And You Gotta Ask Yourself Who Is Behind The Wheel Here? Who Is Behind The Wheel? They're Doing Things That Are Good For China And In America Illegals In IL.” MCGRAW: “My opponent had a press release a while back where he talked about in the Quad Cities they need a clinic where kids 10 to 12 can get puberty blockers. He said that will cause the district to thrive. [...] He's in favor of every extreme environmental move that hampers farmers that hampers business. He and Biden are lockstep in all the trade policies that have sent jobs overseas, making our communities weaker. He's all in on electric cars, even if the public is not all in. That is like a fair trade deal for China because they provide the batteries and the cars and everything else. So that's all we need, more Chinese influence on our economy here and more Chinese people here, whether it's buying farmland or building factories. And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? [*audience says nothing*]. Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?” [Audience:] “And veterans taken out of homes to.” MCGRAW: “And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only

respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 18:05, 19:24, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Images

Congressman Darin LaHood

March 2024: McGraw Posed For A Photo With Congressman Darin LaHood. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]

May 2024: McGraw Posed For A Photo With LaHood And John Ratcliffe. [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [5/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [5/10/24](#)]

Law Enforcement Roundtable

January 2024: McGraw Held A Law Enforcement Roundtable. [Rockford Register Star, [1/31/24](#)]



[Rockford Register Star, [1/31/24](#)]

Motorcycle

McGraw Posed On His Motorcycle. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

Senator John Kennedy

February 2024: McGraw Posed For A Photo With Senator John Kennedy. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/16/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/16/24](#)]

Senator Pete Ricketts

December 2023: McGraw Posed For A Photo With Senator Pete Ricketts At The Illinois GOP Holiday Party.



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/3/24](#)]

Southern Border

McGraw Spoke At The U.S. Mexico Border In Yuma Arizona.



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/9/23](#)]

McGraw Spoke At The U.S. Mexico Border In Yuma Arizona.



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/9/23](#)]

Speaker Mike Johnson

June 2024: McGraw Appeared At A Press Conference With Johnson And Congressman Darin LaHood. [25 News Now, [6/1/24](#)]



[25 News Now, [6/1/24](#)]

Headlines

Endorsements

Anti-Abortion

HEADLINE: “Stefanik Backs Federal Ban On Most Abortions After 15 Weeks.” [7 News WWNYTV, [9/15/22](#)]

HEADLINE: “Rape Victims Should Be Forced to Have Rapist’s Baby, GOP Gov. Openly States.” [Rolling Stone, [5/15/22](#)]

HEADLINE: “Nebraska GOP Governor Says He Will Call A Special Session To Pass Total Abortion Ban If Roe Is Overturned.” [CNN, [5/15/22](#)]

Anti-LGBT

HEADLINE: “Illinois State Senator Sparks Controversy with Violent Remarks on Gender-Neutral Restrooms.” [BNN Breaking, [9/23/23](#)]

Unethical

HEADLINE: “Police Reports Reveal Details Of Night Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Domestic Battery.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

HEADLINE: “Panel Recommends Attorney Lose License For At Least 1 Year.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

Funding Lawsuit

HEADLINE: “Joe McGraw Sued Winnebago County Board Over Funding.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/25/17](#)]

Soft-On-Crime

HEADLINE: “Suspect In Tammy Tracey Murder Released After Judge Lowers Bond.” [WREX, [4/1/22](#)]

Personal & Professional Biography

This section provides background information on McGraw’s personal life.

Education

1982-1985: McGraw Attended Northern Illinois University College Of Law And Graduated Cum Laude

1982-1985: According To His LinkedIn, McGraw Attended Northern Illinois College Of Law And Graduated Cum Laude

1982-1985: According To His LinkedIn, McGraw Attended Northern Illinois College Of Law And Graduated Cum Laude. According to his LinkedIn, McGraw attended Northern Illinois University College of Law from 1982 to 1985 and graduated Cum Laude. [Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [3/20/24](#)]



[Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [3/20/24](#)]

- McGraw Attended Law School At The Northern Illinois University College Of Law.** “When it comes to fighting crime, no one is better at the job than Judge Joe. After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign and graduating from the Northern Illinois University College of Law, he went on to spend nearly 20 years as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, overseeing a specialized caseload for gun felonies and PATH Court—a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [3/20/24](#)]

1982: Before Attending Law School, McGraw Said He Worked In A Foundry In Chicago

McGraw Worked In A Foundry In Chicago Before Going To Law School At Northern Illinois University. “McGraw, who was named the chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges last month, grew up in Manteno, the son of Joseph William and Mary Theresa Bertino McGraw. ‘I wouldn't say I was really focused on a career in law,’ he explained. ‘My dad and his brothers ran a horseshoe manufacturing business, and I saw myself by the furnace. In fact, I worked in a foundry in Chicago before I went to law school at Northern Illinois University.’ The horseshoe business was busy, with McGraws' selling to harness racing tracks across the country. But longtime Mac coach Rich Zinnani and former teacher the Rev. Joseph Gallagher helped reshape McGraw's future. ‘Rich was just an assistant coach then, but he saw something in me,’ McGraw said. ‘I wound up playing linebacker and defensive end, and he helped me get a scholarship to Illinois Benetictine College. After two years there I went to the University of Illinois. ‘But I wasn't a particularly disciplined student, until Father Gallagher drew out the best in me and challenged all of us to go beyond our expectations.’” [Illinois Daily Journal, [9/4/14](#)]

1978: McGraw Received A B.A. From The University Of Illinois In Champaign

1978: McGraw Received A BA From The University Of Illinois. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw [...] Biography: University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978); Northern Illinois University College of Law (J.D. 1985); Circuit

Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit, State of Illinois (appointed January 2002, elected November 2002).” [17th Judicial Circuit Court, Judges, accessed [3/20/24](#)]

- **McGraw Attended Undergraduate School At The University of Illinois In Champaign.** “When it comes to fighting crime, no one is better at the job than Judge Joe. After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign and graduating from the Northern Illinois University College of Law, he went on to spend nearly 20 years as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, overseeing a specialized caseload for gun felonies and PATH Court—a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [3/20/24](#)]

1973-1975: McGraw Attended Illinois Benedictine College For Two Years Before Going To The University Of Illinois

McGraw Attended Illinois Benedictine College For Two Years Before Going To The University Of Illinois. “McGraw, who was named the chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges last month, grew up in Manteno, the son of Joseph William and Mary Theresa Bertino McGraw. ‘I wouldn't say I was really focused on a career in law,’ he explained. ‘My dad and his brothers ran a horseshoe manufacturing business, and I saw myself by the furnace. In fact, I worked in a foundry in Chicago before I went to law school at Northern Illinois University.’ The horseshoe business was busy, with McGraws selling to harness racing tracks across the country. But longtime Mac coach Rich Zinnani and former teacher the Rev. Joseph Gallagher helped reshape McGraw's future. ‘Rich was just an assistant coach then, but he saw something in me,’ McGraw said. ‘I wound up playing linebacker and defensive end, and he helped me get a scholarship to Illinois Benedictine College. After two years there I went to the University of Illinois. ‘But I wasn't a particularly disciplined student, until Father Gallagher drew out the best in me and challenged all of us to go beyond our expectations.’” [Illinois Daily Journal, [9/4/14](#)]

- **McGraw Said He Wasn't A “Particularly Disciplined Student” But A Teacher Saw The Best In Him And Helped Him To Get A Scholarship To Illinois Benedictine College.** “McGraw, who was named the chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges last month, grew up in Manteno, the son of Joseph William and Mary Theresa Bertino McGraw. ‘I wouldn't say I was really focused on a career in law,’ he explained. ‘My dad and his brothers ran a horseshoe manufacturing business, and I saw myself by the furnace. In fact, I worked in a foundry in Chicago before I went to law school at Northern Illinois University.’ The horseshoe business was busy, with McGraws' selling to harness racing tracks across the country. But longtime Mac coach Rich Zinnani and former teacher the Rev. Joseph Gallagher helped reshape McGraw's future. ‘Rich was just an assistant coach then, but he saw something in me,’ McGraw said. ‘I wound up playing linebacker and defensive end, and he helped me get a scholarship to Illinois Benedictine College. After two years there I went to the University of Illinois. ‘But I wasn't a particularly disciplined student, until Father Gallagher drew out the best in me and challenged all of us to go beyond our expectations.’” [Illinois Daily Journal, [9/4/14](#)]

1973: McGraw Graduated From Bishop McNamara High School

1973: McGraw Graduated From Bishop McNamara High School. ‘A resident of Rockford, Chief Judge McGraw was born and raised in Kankakee, and graduated from Bishop McNamara High School in 1973, two years after Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride graduated from the same Catholic high school. Justice Kilbride represents the Third Judicial District, which includes Kankakee. ‘He's an excellent choice to lead the chief judges of Illinois,’ Justice Kilbride said. ‘Judge McGraw is a natural leader through efficiency and innovations in the 17th circuit, including leading the transition in implementing the Court's project on cameras in the courtroom. ‘I'm sure he will bring the same initiative and leadership to the Conference of Chief Judges.’” [Illinois State Bar Association, [10/28/14](#)]

- **Bishop McNamara Highschool Was A Private Catholic School Located In Kankakee, Illinois.** ‘Bishop McNamara High School is an above average, private, Catholic school located in KANKAKEE, IL. It has 315 students in grades 9-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 17 to 1. Tuition is \$8,195 for the highest grade offered.

After graduation, 65% of students from this school go on to attend a 4-year college.' [Niche, accessed [3/20/24](#)]

Career

The following provides a brief overview of McGraw's professional career:

Political

- 2002-July 2023: Circuit Judge, 17th Circuit Court
- 2012-2017: Chief Judge, 17th Circuit Court

Campaigns

- 2020: General Election, 17th Circuit Court (Retain McGraw) (Won)
- 2014: General Election, 17th Circuit Court (Retain McGraw) (Won)
- 2008: General Election, 17th Circuit Court (Retain McGraw) (Won)
- 2002: General Election, 17th Circuit Court (Morrison Vacancy) (Won)
- 2002: General Primary, 17th Circuit Court (Morrison Vacancy) (Won)

Professional

- 2002-2023: Circuit Judge, 17th Circuit Court
- 2012-2017: Chief Judge, 17th Judicial Court
- 2004-2023: Presiding Judge, Criminal Division, 17th Judicial Circuit
- 2002-2003: Presiding Judge, Boone County
- 1995-2002: Law Office of Joseph G McGraw Ltd.
- 1986-1989: Assistant State's Attorney, Winnebago County
- 1985: Assistant State's Attorney, Warren County
- Turner & McGraw, Partner

Associated Entities

The following provides a brief overview of McGraw's associated entities:

Businesses

- The Law Office Of Joseph G. McGraw Ltd

Non-Profit/Committees

- Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council
- Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality
- Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board

Voter Registration & History

As Of April 2024, McGraw Was Registered To Vote In Illinois' 16th Congressional District

As Of April 2024, Joseph G McGraw Was Registered To Vote In Rockford Illinois. According to Rockford County Voter Records, McGraw was registered to vote in Illinois' 16th Congressional District. [Rockford County Board of Elections, Database Search: Joseph G McGraw, filed 4/9/24]

February 10th, 1988: McGraw Registered To Vote On February 19th Of 1988. According to Rockford County Voter Records, McGraw was registered to vote in Illinois' 16th Congressional District. [Rockford County Board of Elections, Database Search: Joseph G McGraw, filed 4/9/24]

McGraw Said He Voted For Donald Trump In The 2020 Election

McGraw Said He Voted For Donald Trump In The 2020 Election. “McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had ‘no reason to doubt’ that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president's legal troubles, McGraw said ‘we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

History

Personal Finance

In 2023, McGraw had an estimated net worth of between \$531,005 And \$1,115,000.

According to McGraw’s 2023 federal personal financial disclosures, his annual unearned income from January – October 2023 was between \$2 and \$400. McGraw also earned \$273,471.03 in earned income from the State of Illinois from salary, pension and a teaching salary. McGraw’s assets totaled between \$531,005 and \$1,115,000. McGraw listed no liabilities.

NOTE: Due to data entry discrepancies (McGraw listed the value of one asset of American funds as worth over \$50,000,000 while his 2023 disclosure previously listed that asset as worth \$250,001-\$500,000) in McGraw’s 2024 Personal Financial Disclosure, his 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure was used as the basis for calculating the totals above.

NOTE: For detailed descriptions of McGraw’s personal financial disclosures by year and for information on McGraw’s Illinois statements of economic interest, see Appendix I – Personal Financial Disclosures.

McGraw’s Federal Personal Financial Disclosure Summary

NOTE: For detailed descriptions of McGraw’s personal financial disclosures by year and for information on McGraw’s Illinois statements of economic interest, see Appendix I – Personal Financial Disclosures.

McGraw PFD Toplines							
Year	Earned Income	Asset Value		Unearned Income		Liabilities	
		MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
2023							
Can.	\$273,471.03	\$531,005	\$1,115,000	\$2	\$400	N/A	N/A
2024							
Can.	\$58,032.44	\$50,316,004*	\$50,665,000*	\$2	\$400	N/A	N/A

[Joe McGraw 2023 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#); Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

**NOTE: McGraw’s 2024 disclosure appeared to mistakenly list the value of one asset of American funds as worth over \$50,000,000, this was likely an error as his 2023 disclosure previously listed that asset as worth \$250,001-\$500,000.*

Net Worth

2023: McGraw Had An Estimated Net Worth Between \$531,005 And \$1,115,000

2023: McGraw Had An Estimated Net Worth Between \$531,005 And \$1,115,000. [Joe McGraw 2023 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

NOTE: Due to data entry discrepancies (McGraw listed the value of one asset of American funds as worth over \$50,000,000 while his 2023 disclosure previously listed that asset as worth \$250,001-\$500,000) in McGraw’s 2024 Personal Financial Disclosure, his 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure was used as the basis for calculating his net worth.

Taxpayer Funded Salaries

2024: McGraw Reported \$111,609.00 In Earned Salary Income From The State Of Illinois In The Preceding Year

2024: McGraw Reported \$111,609.00 In Earned Salary Income From The State Of Illinois In The Preceding Year. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

2023: McGraw Reported \$220,942.12 In Earned Income From The State Of Illinois In The Preceding Year. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

- **2023: McGraw Reported \$214,692.12 In Salary From The State Of Illinois In The Preceding Year.** [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]
- **2023: McGraw Reported \$6,250.00 In Teaching Salary From The State Of Illinois In The Preceding Year.** [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

2023 - Present: McGraw Would Likely Receive Around \$146,000 Per Year In Taxpayer Funded Pension

Retired Illinois Judges Earned A Pension Of Around \$146,000 Annually. “Retired Illinois judges have an average pension of around \$146,000 annually.” [Telegraph, [8/31/21](#)]

2024: McGraw Reported \$84,601.42 In Earned Income From A Pension From The State Of Illinois. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

January 2024 – May 2024: McGraw Reported \$58,032.44 In Earned Income From A Pension From The State Of Illinois. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

January 2023 – October 2023: McGraw Reported \$47,128.03 In Earned Income From A Pension From The State Of Illinois. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

NOTE: McGraw retired in July 2023, the processing time was around [six to eight weeks](#) following a judge’s last day of service. This indicated McGraw likely didn’t receive his first annuity payment until the end of August 2024.

2002-2023: McGraw Earned 3.8 Million In Salary As A Judge In The 17th Circuit Court Of Illinois

When McGraw first was appointed to the 17th Circuit Court of Illinois, he earned \$124,800.07 as a Judicial salary.

In 2022, McGraw earned a Judicial salary of \$219,181.20, an increase of \$94,381.13.

Over his 21 years in the 17th Circuit Court, McGraw had earned a total of \$3,884,367.57 in taxpayer-funded salary.

Year	Judicial Salary
2002	\$124,800.07
2003	\$136,545.96
2004	\$156,348.04
2005	\$151,009.61
2006	\$154,969.12
2007	\$160,125.65
2008	\$165,934.21

2009	\$171,533.31
2010	\$176,191.30
2011	\$179,654.50
2012	\$181,479.90
2013	\$183,265.20
2014	\$185,511.80
2015	\$188,576.30
2016	\$192,109.30
2017	\$195,698.50
2018	\$199,890.80
2019	\$204,457.10
2020	\$209,536.80
2021	\$214,187.60
2022	\$219,181.20
2023	\$133,361.30
TOTAL	\$3,884,367.57

[Illinois Office of the Comptroller, Joseph G. McGraw Earnings Report, filed 4/16/24]

NOTE: McGraw retired in July 2023, so his 2023 income only accounted for his employment during the first half of the year. Pay stubs and detailed pay records saved to drive.

Political Career

This section provides an overview of McGraw's political career, from 1995 to 2023.

Committees, Councils And Positions

2015-2023: Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality

2015: McGraw Was Appointed Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court's Committee On Equality. "The Supreme Court's charge to the Committee on Equality emphasizes the importance of promoting equality and fairness at all levels of the judicial system, while earning a high level of trust and public confidence in the judicial process. The Court specifically asked the Committee to report on the presence, severity and effects of any lingering bias on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, cultural or socioeconomic status, or any other trait. The Committee is also asked to make concrete recommendations to eliminate such biases if they are found. In its initial year, the Committee is asked to focus on identifying ways for individuals to find affordable legal representation, to gather information from other organizations that are concerned with inequality or bias in the courts, and to use that information to propose improvements in judicial training programs and court operations. Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit will chair the Committee. In addition to serving as chair of the Conference of Chief Judges, Chief Judge McGraw is a regular instructor of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program, an active member of the Supreme Court Special Committees on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and Judicial Ethics and a former faculty member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Capital Litigation. 'I am honored to be selected by the Court to be part of this timely and very important committee that will identify any inequalities or biases that might exist in Illinois courts' Chief Judge McGraw said. 'I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the other members on the committee and in a collaborative way, tackle any issues of inequality and bias in the court system.'" [Illinois State Bar Association, [7/2/15](#)]

- **McGraw Said He Was Honored To Be Appointed And Looked Forward To Working To "Identify Any Inequalities Or Biases That Might Exist In Illinois Courts."** "The Supreme Court's charge to the Committee on Equality emphasizes the importance of promoting equality and fairness at all levels of the judicial system, while earning a high level of trust and public confidence in the judicial process. The Court specifically asked the Committee to report on the presence, severity and effects of any lingering bias on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, cultural or socioeconomic status, or any other trait. The Committee is also asked to make concrete recommendations to eliminate such biases if they are found. In its initial year, the Committee is asked to focus on identifying ways for individuals to find affordable legal representation, to gather information from other organizations that are concerned with inequality or bias in the courts, and to use that information to propose improvements in judicial training programs and court operations. Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit will chair the Committee. In addition to serving as chair of the Conference of Chief Judges, Chief Judge McGraw is a regular instructor of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program, an active member of the Supreme Court Special Committees on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and Judicial Ethics and a former faculty member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Capital Litigation. 'I am honored to be selected by the Court to be part of this timely and very important committee that will identify any inequalities or biases that might exist in Illinois courts' Chief Judge McGraw said. 'I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the other members on the committee and in a collaborative way, tackle any issues of inequality and bias in the court system.'" [Illinois State Bar Association, [7/2/15](#)]

The Committee On Equality Was Formed By The Illinois Supreme Court And Was Made Up Of 15 Judges And Attorneys Appointed By The Court. "The Illinois Supreme Court has announced the formation of a Committee on Equality, charged with promoting equality and fairness in all aspects of the administration of justice in Illinois Courts. The Committee on Equality will consist of 15 judges and attorneys appointed by the Supreme

Court. The membership of the Committee will reflect the diversity of the State of Illinois itself, based on age, race, gender, and background, as well as including members from urban, suburban, and rural parts of the state.” [Illinois State Bar Association, [7/2/15](#)]

The Committee On Equality Was Charged With “Promoting Equality And Fairness In All Aspects Of The Administration Of Justice In Illinois Courts.” “The Illinois Supreme Court has announced the formation of a Committee on Equality, charged with promoting equality and fairness in all aspects of the administration of justice in Illinois Courts. The Committee on Equality will consist of 15 judges and attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court. The membership of the Committee will reflect the diversity of the State of Illinois itself, based on age, race, gender, and background, as well as including members from urban, suburban, and rural parts of the state.” [Illinois State Bar Association, [7/2/15](#)]

May 2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement Press Release Listed Him As The Current Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality. “Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality’s Stated Mission Was To “Promote Equality And Fairness In All Aspects Of The Administration Of Justice.”** [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

As Of January 17, 2024, Hon. Michael B. Hyman Was The Chairperson For The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality, So McGraw Appeared To Have Been Replaced Between May 2023 And January 2024. [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

NOTE: As of March 2024, Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Access to Justice listed McGraw as a member “ex officio” by virtue of his position as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality. However, McGraw was replaced as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality sometime in 2023, so it is unknown whether he still served on the Committee on Access to Justice. [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [3/16/24](#)]

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

McGraw Op-Ed: McGraw Was Appointed To The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. “Last month, I was in Yuma, Arizona, to visit our southern border. As a husband, father, and judge — I was horrified by what I saw. And you should be too. I spent my career in law enforcement — serving as a prosecutor, private attorney and judge. I’ve dealt with some of the most violent criminals in Illinois. During my time on the bench, I was appointed to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as well as oversaw PATH Court — a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors. I spent my career fighting for safe streets, safe communities and safe families. It has always been my mission to make Illinois a safe and prosperous place to call home. What I saw at the border was an absolute disrespect and disregard for the rule of law. Our government is failing us.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

McGraw Served As Vice Chairman And Chairman Of The Illinois Conference Of Chief Judges, As Well As The Chairman Of The Conference Of Chief Judges’ Committee On Extended Media Coverage

October 2014: McGraw Was Named Chairman Of The Conference Of Chief Judges. “Judge McGraw will take over leadership from current Conference Chairman Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb of the 11th Judicial Circuit, who is retiring from judicial service on December 31, 2014. Judge McGraw has served as the Conference's vice-

chairman since April 2014 and has served as a member of the Conference since January 2012. The 17th Circuit consists of Boone and Winnebago counties in northern Illinois. A duly elected chief judge from each judicial circuit serves as a member of the Conference of Chief Judges.” [Illinois State Bar Association, The Bar News, [10/28/14](#)]

2015: McGraw Started As The Chairman Of The Conference Of Chief Judges. “The Illinois Supreme Court announced Tuesday that Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit has been named the new Chairman of the Conference of Chief Judges, effective January 1, 2015.” [Illinois State Bar Association, [10/28/14](#)]

April 25, 2014: McGraw Was Selected As The Vice Chairman Of The Illinois Conference Of Chief Judges. “Judge McGraw will take over leadership from current Conference Chairman Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb of the 11th Judicial Circuit, who is retiring from judicial service on December 31, 2014. Judge McGraw has served as the Conference’s vice-chairman since April 2014 and has served as a member of the Conference since January 2012. The 17th Circuit consists of Boone and Winnebago counties in northern Illinois. A duly elected chief judge from each judicial circuit serves as a member of the Conference of Chief Judges.” [Illinois State Bar Association, The Bar News, [10/28/14](#)]

Legal Monitor Worldwide: McGraw Served As Chairman Of The Conference Of Chief Judges’ Committee On Extended Media Coverage, Which Advised “The Supreme Court On Its Continuing Pilot Project For Cameras In Illinois Trial Courtrooms.” “Judge McGraw currently serves as chairman of the Conference of Chief Judges’ Committee on Extended Media Coverage; he was also a presenter on the Supreme Court’s Extended Media Coverage project at the 2014 Educational Conference. Chief Judge McGraw has diligently worked in his circuit in implementing a pilot project that allows cameras and microphones in Illinois trial courtrooms.” [Illinois State Bar Association, The Bar News, [10/28/14](#)]

McGraw Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Special Committee On Minimum Continuing Legal Education

McGraw Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Special Committee On Minimum Continuing Legal Education And Judicial Ethics. “I am honored to have been chosen by my fellow chief judges from around the state as chairman of the Conference of Chief Judges,” Chief Judge McGraw said. ‘I hope to continue the work of the Judicial Conference, with the Supreme Court, in advancing equal access to justice for all, and excellence and innovation in the circuit courts throughout the state.’ Chief Judge McGraw is a regular instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program, an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and Judicial Ethics, and a former faculty member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Capital Litigation.” [Legal Monitor Worldwide, [10/29/14](#)]

McGraw Held Several Instructor Positions

McGraw Was A Former Faculty Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Capital Litigation

McGraw Was A Former Faculty Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Capital Litigation. “I am honored to have been chosen by my fellow chief judges from around the state as chairman of the Conference of Chief Judges,” Chief Judge McGraw said. ‘I hope to continue the work of the Judicial Conference, with the Supreme Court, in advancing equal access to justice for all, and excellence and innovation in the circuit courts throughout the state.’ Chief Judge McGraw is a regular instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program, an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and Judicial Ethics, and a former faculty member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Capital Litigation.” [Legal Monitor Worldwide, [10/29/14](#)]

McGraw Was An Adjunct Instructor At Rockford And Judson Universities

McGraw Was An Adjunct Instructor At Rockford And Judson Universities. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was An Instructor For The Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program

McGraw Was An Instructor For The Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

The Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor’s Office “Paid McGraw \$19,900 As An Instructor At Its Continuing Education Seminars” Since The 2005 Fiscal Year. “Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of charges that he used county employees and computers for campaign work. Bianchi is awaiting a second trial before McGraw on charges that the state's attorney improperly gave breaks to acquaintances in criminal cases. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen had argued that McGraw should recuse himself because he had been paid by the same state agency that was involved in other aspects of Bianchi's case. Since the 2005 fiscal year, the Illinois state's attorneys appellate prosecutors office said, it has paid McGraw \$19,900 as an instructor at its continuing education seminars.” [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/11](#)]

NOTE: See Thematic 3 for more information on allegations that McGraw’s work for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program constituted a conflict of interest in the Bianchi case.

Judicial Timeline

McGraw Was A Prosecutor And Private Attorney Prior To Becoming A Circuit Court Judge

McGraw Was A Prosecutor And Private Attorney Prior To Becoming A Circuit Judge. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

January 1st, 2012-December 31st, 2017: McGraw Was Chief Judge Of The 17th Judicial Circuit Court

2012-2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017.” [17TH Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

January 1st, 2012-December 31st, 2017: McGraw Was Chief Judge. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities. ‘I can no longer sit by and watch our country and our state go in the wrong direction,’ he said in Wednesday's release.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

2002- July 2023: McGraw Served As Presiding Judge Of The 17th Judicial Circuit Court's Criminal Division From 2004 To July 2023

2002- July 2023: McGraw Was A 17th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Presiding Over The Criminal Division

2002- July 2023: McGraw Was A 17th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Presiding Over The Criminal Division. Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017. [...] Judge Joseph G. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978) and Northern Illinois University - College of Law (J.D. - 1985). He was the Presiding Judge in Boone County from 2002 - 2003. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 2004 to present.” [17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court Covered Boone And Winnebago Counties.** [State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]



[State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2002: McGraw Was Initially Appointed As A Circuit Court Judge, And Was Then Later Elected

January 2002: McGraw Was Appointed As Circuit Judge. “McGraw lives in the Illinois' 17th Congressional District, a seat currently held by Democrat Eric Sorensen. McGraw, a Republican, was appointed to the bench as a circuit judge in January 2002. He was elected to the position in November 2002. He served as chief judge from 2012 to 2017 and retired in July.” [Rockford Register Star Online, [9/28/23](#)]

November 2002: McGraw Was Elected As Circuit Judge. “McGraw lives in the Illinois' 17th Congressional District, a seat currently held by Democrat Eric Sorensen. McGraw, a Republican, was appointed to the bench as a circuit judge in January 2002. He was elected to the position in November 2002. He served as chief judge from 2012 to 2017 and retired in July.” [Rockford Register Star Online, [9/28/23](#)]

McGraw Presided Over The Criminal Division And A Specialized Gun Offense Felony Caseload

McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over The Criminal Division From 2004 Until He Retired. McGraw served as a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Boone and Winnebago counties for more than two decades until he retired in July. He also served as chief judge from 2012 to 2017 and was the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until he retired. In a phone interview with the Quad-City Times/Dispatch-Argus, McGraw said he decided to run based on things he saw as prosecutor and then a judge and how they impacted communities and the nation. [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

Daily Gazette: McGraw Presided Over “A Specialized Gun Offense Felony Caseload In Winnebago County.” “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Oversaw A Multidisciplinary Court Response To Human Trafficking

McGraw Oversaw A Multidisciplinary Court Response To Human Trafficking. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Said As A Judge, He Considered The Immigration Status Of Defendants To Decide If They Were A Flight Risk

McGraw Said As A Judge He Considered The Immigration Status Of Defendants To Decide If They Were A Flight Risk. MCGRAW: “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can’t call ICE and say hey I got this guy here and are you looking for and so forth, is he here legally or not. That was stopped by the Democratic administration in IL and that further hamstrings your sheriffs and further hamstrings your law enforcement officers throughout the state because when they pull someone over they have no idea who they have got there. And when that person comes before the judge, the judge has deprived of some essential information that he or she needs in order to evaluate the risk potential. So when you call that with no cash bail in IL it is like you made a situation very dangerous for people who are slipping through without anyone really knowing who they have in front of them. That is an example of state defying the federal government and the federal government not enforcing the law in IL and other places as well. We have become a nation of law breakers because of their federal policies and so everyone has become you know very very concerned about this huge influx of people we don’t know who they are or where they are going. We don’t know what they are here to do and if they commit a crime against an American now you can’t even find out if they are here illegally. So uh two issues, vote for Joe McGraw to go to Congress because I will make sure the laws are enforced and vote for Li and others here in IL who will get IL to repeal, recall, undo some of their policies like the so called trust act and uh make sure we are following federal law when it comes to immigration.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 31:27, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw Said When He Was On The Bench And A Defendant Appeared Before Him He Would Have Their Background Information And Would Know If They Were In The US Illegally.** MCGRAW: “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can’t call ICE and say hey I got this

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2012: McGraw Spearheaded A Program To Allow The Media To Photograph Trial Court Proceeding, Under McGraw's Leadership Winnebago County Allowed More Trials To Be Photographed And Recorded Than Any Other County In The State

2012: As Chief Justice Of The 17th Circuit Court, McGraw Implemented A Pilot Program That Allowed News Cameras In Trial Courtrooms In Boone And Winnebago Counties

April 2012: McGraw Submitted An Application And Letters Of Support To The Illinois Supreme Court Seeking Permission To Participate In A Pilot Program That Would Authorize The Media To Photograph Trial Court Proceedings. "If having cameras in Illinois courtrooms is inevitable, Chief Justice Joe McGraw said, area judges, attorneys and local media would be well-served to be a part of the process that develops the new

statewide policies. McGraw, who heads the 17th Judicial Circuit, which includes Boone and Winnebago counties, submitted an application and letters of support Friday to the Illinois Supreme Court seeking permission to participate in a pilot program that authorizes the media to photograph trial court proceedings. Reached today, McGraw identified two benefits to participating in the program. ‘It enhances the public’s confidence when they can see it firsthand,’ he said. ‘It will increase their confidence in the impartiality and the work ethic of everyone involved. ‘By our participation in the program, it also will hopefully allow us to have an impact in the policy formation going statewide. We can either be part of the policy formation process or live under the policies formulated from other pilot sites.’ The Illinois Supreme Court announced in January that it would start allowing cameras and recorders in state courts on an experimental basis with the aim of eventually lifting the ban on media’s photographic access at trials.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/10/12](#)]

May 2012: As Chief Justice Of The 17th Circuit Court, McGraw Announced A Pilot Program That Allowed News Cameras In Trial Courtrooms In Boone And Winnebago Counties. “Supreme Court approves cameras for courts in two Northern Illinois counties Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court and Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit formally announced Monday that news cameras will be allowed in trial courtrooms in Boone and Winnebago counties under a pilot program approved by the Supreme Court earlier this year. Chief Justice Kilbride made an initial announcement Saturday evening during his keynote address before the Illinois News Broadcasters Association's spring convention held in Macomb. With the Supreme Court's Order filed April 30, the 17th Circuit joins Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle and Stephenson counties in the 15th Judicial Circuit, Madison County in the Third Judicial Circuit, Kankakee County in the 21st Judicial Circuit and Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside counties in the 14th Judicial Circuit where extended media coverage was approved earlier by the Supreme Court. The Order is effective immediately.” [Aledo Times Record, [5/2/12](#)]

- **McGraw: “By Allowing Extended Media Coverage In Our Jurisdiction, The High Court May Be Afforded With Additional And Varied Program Assessment Information.”** “Chief Judge McGraw said he and the judges in the 17th circuit are committed to the success of the program that would bring an additional opportunity to assess the pilot project from another perspective. ‘Boone and Winnebago counties are comprised of a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas,’ Chief Judge McGraw said. ‘By allowing extended media coverage in our jurisdiction, the High Court may be afforded with additional and varied program assessment information. ‘Our court staff has developed a positive working relationship with various media representatives, and we welcome the collaboration of the news media to develop local protocols and implement a successful program.’ Winnebago County State's Attorney Joseph P. Bruscato also supports the pilot project, Chief Judge McGraw said. The Supreme Court order approving the 17th Circuit requires that a judge presiding over a proceeding in which cameras or audio are allowed must file a report with the chief judge of the circuit, the Chief Justice and Justice Thomas. Chief Justice Kilbride announced on January 24 the Supreme Court’s approval of an experimental program to allow news media cameras and audio in trial courtrooms. The Supreme Court has allowed cameras to broadcast its own oral arguments, and those of the Illinois Appellate Court, since 1983. At that time, however, the court specifically rejected allowing news cameras during trial proceedings, and the issue made little headway until Chief Justice Kilbride and his fellow justices took another look.” [Aledo Times Record, [5/2/12](#)]

Under McGraw, Winnebago County Allowed More Trials To Be Photographed And Recorded Than Any Other County In The State

2016 Rockford Register Star Editorial Board: Under McGraw, Winnebago County Allowed More Trials, 169, To Be Photographed And Recorded Than Any Other County In The State. “It was ridiculous that it took so long for Illinois to allow cameras in the courtroom. The courts belong to the public, and cameras are a way to grant greater access to people, especially those who can’t come to court in person. Illinois started a pilot program four years ago that allowed cameras in court, and on Monday the Illinois Supreme Court said the program had gone so well that it will be made permanent. Chief Justice Thomas Kilbride’s leadership made that possible. Illinois became the 36th state to allow cameras in court in 2012. Illinois learned from the experiences of other states, which led to a seamless transition, according to Chief Judge Joe McGraw, who heads the 17th Judicial Circuit that

includes Boone and Winnebago counties. Winnebago County jumped at the opportunity to expand court access for the public and has allowed more trials — 169 — to be photographed and recorded than any other county in the state, McGraw said. ‘Not only has it made the court more accessible, it’s also led to greater accountability and more transparency,’ McGraw said today. One of the reasons so many trials were granted camera privileges was that with three local television stations there was plenty of interest in courtroom proceedings, McGraw said. In addition, he said, the program has worked because of great collaboration among news organizations and ground rules that were clear ‘right down to the kind of camera to be used.’ Illinois’ program has specific criteria and the presiding judge has the final say. Opponents were concerned about the potential for showboating if people played to the cameras. That hasn’t happened, McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, Editorial Board Op-Ed, [2/24/16](#)]

July 5th, 2023: McGraw Retired As A Circuit Judge

July 5th, 2023: McGraw Retired As A Circuit Judge. “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities. ‘I can no longer sit by and watch our country and our state go in the wrong direction,’ he said in Wednesday’s release.” [Shaw Local, [10/11/23](#)]

Political Career Prior To Serving As A Judge

McGraw Served As A County Board Member Before Becoming A Judge

McGraw Said He “Was On The Winnebago County Board For Two Terms When [He] Was Practicing Law In Rockford.” QUESTION: “Other than being a judge obviously, have you ever run for public office before and if not why now?” MCGRAW: “Yeah I’ve run for, I was on the Winnebago County Board for two terms when I was practicing law in Rockford and ran for judge in 2002 and those experiences were good experiences and now the time, I’ve concluded one career as a judge, I don’t need another job or another title I can just dedicate myself exclusively to serving the people in the district as a representative in the way the founding fathers intended.” [Joe McGraw, WGIL Galesburg’s Evening News, 2:21, 3/18/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Served As A County Board Member Before Becoming A Judge. “One service the fund provides money for is drug testing, which McGraw is ramping up. ‘We’re going to spend \$180,000 out of the probation fund on drug testing using an improved test that recognizes 11 substances.’ The judge also wants to test probationers frequently, because ‘if we want to lick crime we have to deal with root causes of recidivism, and a big one is drug abuse.’ Other things for which the fund is needed is replacement of obsolete computers and for vehicle purchase and maintenance. McGraw, who used to be a County Board member before becoming a judge, said he understands the board’s concerns about spending and said he’s willing to work on budget problems. For his part, Haney hopes to have a process in place for the next budget year in which all departments collaborate to develop a practical budget that will reflect yearlong spending needs without surprising budget amendment requests throughout the year. As things are now, budgets are often just a ‘serving suggestion.’ Haney also wants an orderly hiring process that allows hiring employees mainly to replace vacant positions already in the budget. ‘This is what other counties do very effectively,’ Haney said. Money is tight, he added. The county’s public safety sales tax fund ‘is \$2.5 million in the hole.’ The general fund deficit is projected to be ‘well over \$1 million.’” [Rockford Register Star, 5/9/17]

McGraw Said John Terranova Was A “Former County Board Colleague.” “Enjoyed the annual bond dinner at the Verdi Club with Sheriff Caruana, former county board colleague, John Terranova and many others today in Rockford!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]

- **John Terranova Was A Member Of The Winnebago County Board For 16 Years.** “John Terranova is the director of the Helping Kids and Families Fund, a local nonprofit that raises and distributes funds throughout the community to help children from single-parent households and provide support and assistance to single moms and dads. [...] John’s name may sound familiar — he served on the Winnebago County Board for nearly 16 years, two of those as chairman.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/13/24](#)]

1995: Joe McGraw Was The Spokesman For Conservative Citizens For America PAC

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Alan Keyes Spoke At One Of Conservative Citizens For America PAC's First Major Fundraisers In Rockford Illinois. "Conservative Citizens for America PAC was formed by a group of 'local businessmen, housewives, school board members, and teachers' in northern Illinois who felt 'mainstream conservatives' were being ignored by both parties, spokesman Joe McGraw said. In one of its first major fundraisers last month, presidential hopeful Alan Keyes spoke to about 400 people who paid \$50 a head to attend a meeting in Rockford, Ill. The group will support local, state, and federal candidates, McGraw said, who believe in smaller government. 'Frequently, conservative values get some lip service during primaries and not much during the general elections,' McGraw said. 'We're here to change that.' He did not know how much the group has raised but said it has a mailing list of more than 3,000 people." [Roll Call, 9/11/95]

Ethics

Significant Findings

McGraw's Views:

- ✓ McGraw: "As a Judge, I've lived by a strict code of ethics my entire life."
- ✓ 2024: McGraw said he would ban politicians from becoming lobbyists.
- ✓ 2024: McGraw said, "we need to ban members of Congress from trading individual stocks."
- ✓ 2024: McGraw signed the term limits on Congress pledge.

As A Judge, McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Acquitting And Decreasing Charges Against Multiple Public Officials Accused Of Corruption And Misconduct

- ✓ The Winnebago County Coroner was charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery, and misconduct, including allegations that he stole from dead people; McGraw approved a lenient plea agreement and dismissed charges against his wife, who had been charged with stealing from taxpayers.
- ✓ Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz was arrested and charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery, and misconduct after allegedly stealing thousands from dead people and using Winnebago County credit cards for personal use.
- ✓ McGraw was the judge overseeing Bill Hintz's case and had discretion over his plea agreement. Hintz pled guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct and all other charges were dropped.
- ✓ McGraw dismissed charges against Hintz's wife, who was also accused of stealing from taxpayers, because she was a first-time, non-violent offender.
- ✓ The Hintzes were previously accused of stealing more than \$15,000 in government funds.
- ✓ McGraw twice acquitted a women accused of tampering with public records and obstructing justice despite evidence indicating she brought home documents that included private information and lied to police.
- ✓ October 2011: McGraw acquitted a Department of Human Services employee from charges she tampered with public records despite evidence that the employee brought home "thousands of documents that included private information."
- ✓ March 2015: McGraw again acquitted the Department of Human Services employee for different charges and found that she lied to police investigating a murder but did not obstruct justice, despite a prior jury decision that found her guilty of obstruction.
- ✓ In a pair of cases McGraw was asked to recuse himself from due to conflicts of interest, but refused, McGraw acquitted a county attorney for corrupt sentencing and doing political work on county time.

- ✓ 2011: McHenry county state attorney Louis Bianchi faced two misconduct cases – one for doing campaign work on county time, and a second for giving lighter sentences to defendants he had connections with.
- ✓ McGraw was asked to recuse himself from Louis Bianchi’s cases due to a conflict of interest involving being paid by a state agency that was involved in aspects of Bianchi’s case, but did not.
- ✓ McGraw initially denied Louis Bianchi’s request to have the charges thrown out, But McGraw eventually acquitted Bianchi on both charges without hearing from a single defense witness.
- ✓ The Chicago Daily Herald called McGraw’s decision “stunning” and said the “procedural move in a bench trial” was “rarely [...] successful.”
- ✓ After a special grand jury indicted the Chief Investigator for the State Attorney for encouraging less prison time for his nephew, McGraw threw out the charge and sided with the defense that this wasn’t a crime.
- ✓ McHenry County investigator Ron Salgado was charged with misconduct for using his influence to encourage less prison time for his nephew.
- ✓ Ron Salgado was the chief investigator for State Attorney Lou Bianchi.
- ✓ After a special grand jury indicted Ron Salgado for encouraging less prison time for his nephew, McGraw threw out the charge against Salgado, agreeing that it was not a crime.
- ✓ McGraw threw out a charge against a state’s attorney investigator accused of misconduct for personal use of a county car.

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw’s Decisions And Found That He Abused His Judicial Discretion, Describing His Actions As “Erroneous,” “Arbitrary And Unreasonable”

- ✓ An Appellate Court reversed McGraw’s “erroneous” decision to squash a search warrant of a defendant who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol during a fatal car crash.
- ✓ Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was charged with reckless homicide for his involvement in a car crash that left one woman dead, authorities alleged he was under the influence of alcohol during the fatal crash.
- ✓ Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant claiming the police department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine, McGraw granted his motion to quash the evidence...
- ✓ ... But the Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois reversed McGraw’s “erroneous” decision to quash a search warrant and found the warrant was supported by probable cause.
- ✓ At the time of the fatal crash, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases, he was later convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- ✓ April 2013: An Appellate Court ruled that McGraw abused his discretion and described his actions to convict witnesses as “arbitrary and unreasonable,” the court reversed his decision.
- ✓ An appellate court ruled that McGraw abused his discretion in convicting witnesses who did not show up to court because they were unable to rearrange their holiday travel.

- ✓ McGraw wanted to sentence the witnesses to jail for not providing testimony at a grand jury, but fined them \$500 each instead.
- ✓ The Appellate Court wrote that McGraw’s refusal to grant a delay was “arbitrary and unreasonable” and reversed his conviction of the witnesses.
- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois found McGraw made a “clear and obvious error” by denying defendant’s “simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance.”
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw “misled” the Defendant into pleading guilty and said the circumstance of the case “br[ought] the judiciary into disrepute.”
- ✓ In a case regarding child abuse, McGraw offered a defendant a sentence “toward the low end” of the 6-30 year range at a pretrial bargaining meeting...
- ✓ ... But after the defendant pled guilty and gave up his right to a trial on the charges, McGraw sentenced him to 20 years in prison.
- ✓ The Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois found that McGraw “misled” the defendant into pleading guilty and that the circumstances of the case “br[ought] the judiciary into disrepute.”
- ✓ The Fourth District Appellate Court ultimately affirmed the defendant’s conviction, finding McGraw explained the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the prior misleading comments.
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw abused his discretion by imposing a \$1,200 sanction calculated using an hourly rate that had “no relation whatsoever” to the expenses incurred in a petition dismissal.

Fast And Loose With Taxpayer Money: While McGraw Was Demanding And Suing For More Funding From The Winnebago County Board And Giving His Staff Raises Without Approval, The County Budget Was In A Deficit That Led To Police Officers Being Laid Off

- ✓ September 2011: Shortly before McGraw became Chief Judge, former Chief Judge Holmgren was able to advocate for funding from the Winnebago County Board without legal action.
- ✓ 2016-2017: McGraw threatened to use his position to pursue legal action against the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund four additional officers, and then hired them before the board could vote on funding.
- ✓ 2017: McGraw threatened to use his position to punish the Winnebago County Board after it rejected McGraw’s request to fund a new bailiff.
- ✓ May 2017: McGraw issued a legal order against the Winnebago County Board in response to the board denying two of his budget requests.
- ✓ June 2017: McGraw ordered the board to spend after they rejected funding for legal research materials.
- ✓ July 2017: McGraw sued the Winnebago County Board over funding.
- ✓ September 2017: A judge granted a temporary injunction in favor of McGraw, with the board granting McGraw the funding as a result.

- ✓ December 2017: McGraw filed another court order requiring the county board to restore the spending cuts.
- ✓ April 2018: The lawsuit was settled with the County Board restoring \$386,000 in spending cuts to McGraw.
- ✓ The Winnebago County Board Chair said McGraw's "dangerous" actions violated "basic checks and balances of government" and "hijack[ed] representative government."
- ✓ Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: "the ongoing dispute with McGraw stems from the county's need for spending cuts."
- ✓ The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office needed to lay off as many as 100 employees due to the budget deficits.
- ✓ Winnebago County budget cuts forced the sheriff's department to disband a TAC Unit which "played a big role in local human trafficking investigations" and tackled drug crimes.
- ✓ During the budget deficit, McGraw gave staff pay raises without approval from the Winnebago county board.
- ✓ The Winnebago County Board had to hire a law firm at a rate of \$225 to defend itself against McGraw's lawsuit.

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Postconviction Petitions, McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Petitions Inhibited Their Ability To Challenge Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

- ✓ Post Conviction Petitions allowed defendants to challenge their sentence based on violations of their constitutional rights.
- ✓ An Appellate Court reversed McGraw's 2nd stage dismissal of a defendant's post-conviction petition and found that the defendant's 6th Amendment rights were violated as his post-conviction counsel failed to provide a reasonable level of assistance in providing evidence for his civil rights claims.
 - ✓ In A Post-Conviction Petition, an African American defendant claimed he was denied equal protection during his jury trial as the entire jury pool contained no African Americans, while the population of the city where the trial took place was one-third African American.
 - ✓ McGraw denied defendant's petition at the second stage of review and found the jury pool claim was insufficient and the petition failed to show trial counsel's decision to not challenge the jury was unreasonable.
 - ✓ McGraw's denial of defendant's post-conviction petition at the second stage prevented the defendant's petition and claims of constitutional rights violations from receiving an evidentiary hearing.
 - ✓ On appeal from McGraw's dismissal, defendant alleged his post-conviction counsel failed to provide a reasonable level of assistance and did nothing to support jury-pool claims in the amended petition.
 - ✓ The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois reversed McGraw's dismissal of defendant's petition and found the defendant's 6th Amendment rights were violated as postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance.

- ✓ McGraw denied a defendant's request to file a post-conviction petition that alleged five constitutional rights violations; an appellate court reversed his decision, and the defendant was ultimately found to have been wrongfully convicted after spending 23 years in prison.
 - ✓ The defendant filed a motion for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition alleging five constitutional rights violations, McGraw denied his request to file a petition.
 - ✓ The Second District Appellate Court found McGraw erred by denying defendant's request to file a successive petition post-conviction petition and said there was "nothing in the record to even remotely suggest that the state complied" with its obligation to disclose evidence in its possession.
 - ✓ Following the Appellate Court's decision to return the case for a new trial, prosecutors dropped charges as another man had confessed to the murder for which defendant was wrongfully convicted.
 - ✓ McGraw granted the defendant a certificate of innocence after he spent 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.
- ✓ McGraw denied a defendant's post-trial motion claiming 6th Amendment violations; the Appellate court reversed McGraw's denial finding counsel was ineffective and allowed "the only evidence linking defendant to the crime" to go "uncorroborated and unchallenged."
 - ✓ The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois found the defendant's counsel was ineffective, and therefore his 6th Amendment Rights were violated, and reversed defendant's convictions and McGraw's petition denial, the court remanded the case for a new trial.
- ✓ An Appellate court reversed McGraw's dismissal of defendant's post-conviction petition finding the defendant's 6th Amendment rights were violated, the Appellate court remanded the petition to the trial court to proceed to the second stage and appoint defendant an attorney.
 - ✓ McGraw dismissed a postconviction petition that claimed the defendant was deprived of his 6th Amendment rights, by dismissing the petition at the first stage defendant did not receive an attorney.
 - ✓ The Appellate Court reversed McGraw's dismissal of defendant's petition, sent the petition back to the lower court and said defendant should be appointed counsel to assist in second stage consideration of the petition.
- ✓ An Appellate Court said McGraw should not have dismissed a defendant's postconviction petition voluntarily without a motion to dismiss filed by the state, the court vacated McGraw's dismissal and remanded the cause.
 - ✓ The Appellate Court called McGraw's dismissal of the petition without a motion from the state "improper."
 - ✓ By 'improperly' dismissing defendant's petition of on his own without a motion from the state, McGraw cut short defendant's postconviction petition before it could receive an evidentiary hearing.
- ✓ An Appellate Court held that McGraw "erred in summarily dismissing defendant's postconviction petition," reversed McGraw's judgement and remanded the cause.
 - ✓ Defendant filed a postconviction petition alleging his guilty plea was induced by an unfulfilled promise by the state, McGraw summarily dismissed his petition at the first stage.

- ✓ By dismissing Defendant's postconviction petition at the first stage, the defendant was not given the assistance of counsel in making his claims that his rights were violated.
- ✓ The Appellate Court reversed McGraw's denial of defendant's postconviction petition and said he "erred in summarily dismissing defendant's postconviction petition" and returned the petition to the lower court for further postconviction petition proceedings.

McGraw Withheld Information From Voters: He Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure Despite Holding Numerous Positions

- ✓ McGraw claimed no positions on his 2023 personal financial disclosure, despite holding numerous positions in 2021-2023.
- ✓ McGraw reported no positions on his 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure.
- ✓ First Time Candidates were required to report positions held for the current calendar year and two calendar years prior to the Personal Financial Disclosure being filed.
- ✓ 2021-2024: McGraw was a co-chair of the steering committee of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council.
- ✓ As late as May 2023, McGraw was chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, as well as several other Illinois Supreme Court committees.
- ✓ 2022 – 2023: McGraw was a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.

McGraw Handed Down Multiple Incorrect Sentences Which Violated Defendants' Rights; Appellate Courts Reversed And Corrected His Sentencing Errors

- ✓ Under Illinois Supreme Court Rules, a miscalculation of a defendant's sentence resulting in a longer than necessary sentence was a violation of defendant's "substantial rights."
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw made several sentencing errors in one case, which violated defendant's rights, the court vacated the sentences McGraw handed down and remanding the case for resentencing.
- ✓ McGraw's miscalculation of the defendant's sentence resulted in a prison sentence that was longer than necessary, violating defendant's rights and requiring correction from an Appellate Court.
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw "erred" by handing down sentences with "improper" extended terms for less serious offenses, the appellate court corrected McGraw's sentences as they violated defendant's rights.
- ✓ The Appellate Court corrected the sentences McGraw handed down because his sentencing error resulted in a sentence that was longer than necessary, violating defendant's rights.
- ✓ An Appellate Court found McGraw made several sentencing errors in one case, the appellate court reversed the sentence he handed down and remanded the case for a new sentencing hearing.

Personal Ethics

McGraw: “As A Judge, I've Lived By A Strict Code Of Ethics My Entire Life”

McGraw: “As A Judge, I've Lived By A Strict Code Of Ethics My Entire Life.” “As a judge, I've lived by a strict code of ethics my entire life. I'm running to clean up Washington, D.C. because politicians should work for their constituents -- not the highest-bidding lobbyist, corporation, or special interest.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/14/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/14/24](#)]

Political Ethics

2024: McGraw Said He Would Ban Politicians From Becoming Lobbyists

2024: McGraw Said He Would Ban Politicians From Becoming Lobbyists. “Judge Joe has lived his life by a strict code of ethics, and he knows it’s high-time Washington, D.C. did the same. He’ll work to clean up Washington and end the corruption that allows politicians to line their pockets while taking more from ours. Judge Joe will ban politicians from becoming lobbyists, stop the power-grabs of unelected bureaucrats, and make Congress balance the budget before they get paid.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

McGraw Said The U.S. Should Ban Politicians From Becoming Lobbyists. “Politicians are supposed to serve the people, but lately it seems like many are serving their own self-interest. It's time to clean up Washington. ➡ Ban politicians from becoming lobbyists ➡ No balanced budget, no paycheck ➡ Stand up to the unelected bureaucrats” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Said “We Need To Ban Members Of Congress From Trading Individual Stocks”

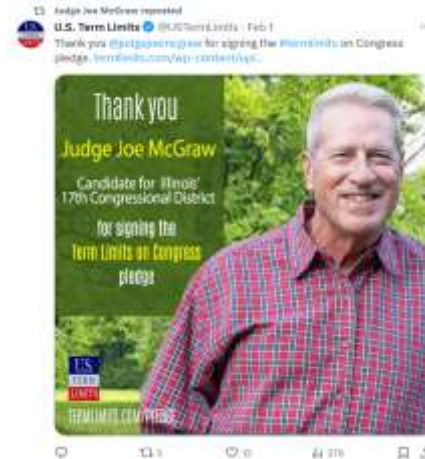
2024: McGraw Said “We Need To Ban Members Of Congress From Trading Individual Stocks.” “It's wrong when members of Congress seem more concerned about which stocks to trade than the needs of their constituents. Enough of this. We need to ban members of Congress from trading individual stocks. The job is about service -- not getting rich.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/5/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/5/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Signed The Term Limits On Congress Pledge

February 2024: McGraw Signed The Term Limits On Congress Pledge. “Thank you @judgejoemcgraw for signing the #termlimits on Congress pledge.” [US Term Limits, Twitter, [2/1/24](#)]



[US Term Limits, Twitter, [2/1/24](#)]

As A Judge, McGraw Empowered Political Corruption, Acquitting And Decreasing Charges Against Multiple Public Officials Accused Of Corruption And Misconduct

The Winnebago County Coroner Was Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct, Including Allegations That He Stole From Dead People; McGraw Approved A Lenient Plea Agreement And Dismissed Charges Against His Wife, Who Had Been Charged With Stealing From Taxpayers

Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz Was Arrested And Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct After Allegedly Stealing Thousands From Dead People And Using Winnebago County Credit Cards For Personal Use

Bill Hintz Was Charged With Nearly 50 Counts Of Theft, Forgery, And Misconduct After Allegedly Stealing Thousands From Dead People And Using Winnebago County Credit Cards For Personal Use. “Hintz was initially charged with nearly 50 counts of theft, forgery and misconduct. Authorities alleged that he used Winnebago County credit and gas cards for his personal use and stole more than \$16,000 from dead people and their families. Hintz was first charged with 37 offenses in October 2020 and vowed to stay at his elected post. He agreed to a leave of absence in 2021 after additional criminal allegations were filed against him. During the leave, he was prohibited from accessing any county-issued property or performing any work-related activities.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

October 2020: Bill And Michelle Hintz Were Arrested After They Allegedly Charged Winnebago County For A “New York Death Investigation Seminar,” Hintz Claimed He Attended January 31, 2022 To February 1, 2022. “On Thursday, Judge Joseph McGraw dismissed the case against Michelle Hintz, wife of former

Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz, after she was accused of stealing from taxpayers. McGraw dismissed the charges on the basis that she was a first-time, non-violent offender. In October 2020, the Hintz' were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a 'New York Death Investigation Seminar' Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st." [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **Bill And Melissa Hintz Spent Hundreds Of Dollars To Rent A Hotel Room, And For Car Rentals And Gas During That Alleged Trip.** "In October 2020, the Hintz' were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a "New York Death Investigation Seminar" Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st. Several hundred dollars were spent to allegedly rent a room at a Holiday Inn Express in Buffalo, New York, and for car rentals and gas. Winnebago County State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross said \$15,818 of government funds were stolen by Bill and Melissa Hintz." [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

State Police Claimed Bill Hintz Stole Roughly \$2,500 From Families Of People Who Had Been Cremated At The County's Expense And \$14,500 From The Coroner's Evidence Vault That Belonged To Deceased Individuals. "After the 2020 charges were filed, state police received additional information that Hintz had stolen roughly \$2,500 paid by the families of people who had been cremated at the county's expense, the release states. The latest indictment alleges Hintz required family members to pay cash in order to recover the cremated remains of their homeless loved ones but kept the money for himself. It also alleges Hintz stole about \$14,500 in cash out of the coroner's evidence vault that belonged to deceased individuals." [Rockford Register Star, [9/2/21](#)]

- **Bill Hintz Was A Republican.** "A Republican, Hintz was first elected coroner in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. Before he was elected coroner, he was a deputy under Sue Fiduccia, who ran the office for 21 years." [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

Attorney General Kwame Raoul: Bill Hintz's "Actions Took Advantage Of Grieving Families And Abused The Trust Of Winnebago County Residents." "The Illinois Attorney General's Office is prosecuting each case. Attorney General Kwame Raoul declined to comment on the current status of the proceedings but said in a release last year that Hintz used the coroner's office to 'line his pockets.' 'The defendant's actions took advantage of grieving families and abused the trust of Winnebago County residents,' the release states. Bill Hintz's next hearing is at 9 a.m., May 19, in Courtroom A . He remains on paid administrative leave." [Rockford Register Star, [5/11/22](#)]

McGraw Was The Judge Overseeing The Case

McGraw Oversaw Bill Hintz's Case. "Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct Wednesday during a hearing in front of Judge Joe McGraw. As part of a plea agreement, all other charges against Hintz will be dropped. Hintz was sentenced to 180 days in jail with three days already being served. He will also be on probation for four years." [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

Judges Had Discretion In Plea Agreement Cases. "When a defendant enters into a plea agreement, the defendant typically must stand up in court and admit they violated the law. The prosecutor makes a recommendation to the judge in accordance with the terms of the plea agreement. However, judges do retain discretion and are not required to abide by the deal that the prosecutor made." [Forbes, [6/12/23](#)]

Bill Hintz Pleaded Guilty To One Count Of Theft Of Government Funds And One Count Of Misconduct And All Other Charges Were Dropped

Bill Hintz Pleaded Guilty To One Count Of Theft Of Government Funds And One Count Of Misconduct. "Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government funds and one count of misconduct Wednesday during a hearing in front of Judge Joe McGraw." [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

All Other Charges Against Bill Hintz Were Dropped And He Would Serve 180 Days In Jail. “As part of a plea agreement, all other charges against Hintz will be dropped. Hintz was sentenced to 180 days in jail with three days already being served. He will also be on probation for four years.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

McGraw Dismissed Charges Against Hintz’s Wife, Who Was Also Accused Of Stealing From Taxpayers, Because She Was A First-Time, Non-Violent Offender

McGraw Dismissed Charges Against Michelle Hintz After She Was Accused Of Stealing From Taxpayers On The Basis That She Was A First-Time, Non-Violent Offender. “On Thursday, Judge Joseph McGraw dismissed the case against Michelle Hintz, wife of former Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz, after she was accused of stealing from taxpayers. McGraw dismissed the charges on the basis that she was a first-time, non-violent offender. In October 2020, the Hintz’ were arrested after the couple allegedly charged the county for a ‘New York Death Investigation Seminar’ Hintz said he attended from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **McGraw Dismissed The Case Against Michelle Hintz Under Winnebago County’s DIVERT Deferred-Prosecution Program Which Allowed The Conviction To Remain Off Her Record.** “The case against the wife of former Winnebago County Coroner Bill Hintz has been dismissed after a brief hearing Thursday in front of Judge Joe McGraw at the Winnebago County Justice Center. Prosecutors with the Illinois Attorney General's Office told McGraw that Hintz met all requirements under Winnebago County's DIVERT deferred-prosecution program, which allowed all charges to be dropped. According to a case management order filed on May 5, Hintz completed community service hours and gave a videotaped statement admitting to her involvement in the alleged offenses. The Illinois Attorney General's Office, which prosecuted the case, recognized that Hintz was jointly liable for the restitution McGraw ordered her husband to pay when he pleaded guilty Wednesday to felony theft and official misconduct. Records show that the ordered restitution of \$32,817.05 has been paid.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/21/22](#)]

The Hintzes Were Previously Accused Of Stealing More Than \$15,000 In Government Funds

Bill And Michelle Hintz Were Previously Accused Of Stealing \$15,818 In Government Funds. “The Illinois Attorney General has accused Hintz of stealing \$14,500 in cash belonging to deceased individuals, taking \$2,500 from family members of the dead in exchange for county-funded cremations, and Hintz and his wife were previously accused of stealing \$15,818 in government funds. He has paid the county back, and will also lose \$130,000 in his pension. Hintz also officially resigned his position as Winnebago County Coroner. He apologized to the court, county officials, his office’s staff and citizens.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

- **Bill Hintz Paid The County Back, Lost \$130,000 Of His Pension, And Resigned As County Coroner.** “He has paid the county back, and will also lose \$130,000 in his pension. Hintz also officially resigned his position as Winnebago County Coroner. He apologized to the court, county officials, his office’s staff and citizens.” [Fox 39, [7/21/22](#)]

McGraw Twice Acquitted a Women Accused Of Tampering With Public Records And Obstructing Justice Despite Evidence Indicating She Brought Home Documents That Included Private Information, And Lied To Police

October 2011: McGraw Acquitted A Department Of Human Services Employee From Charges She Tampered With Public Records Despite Evidence That The Employee Brought Home “Thousands Of Documents That Included Private Information”

October 2011: McGraw Acquitted A Department Of Human Services Employee From Charges That She Tampered With Public Records. “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private

information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. 'It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,' McGraw said." [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

There Was Substantial Evidence That The Employee Brought Home “Thousands Of Documents That Included Private Information.” “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. 'It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,' McGraw said." [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

- **The Documents Allegedly Brought Home By The DHS Employee Included Private Information Including Social Security Numbers And Medical Bills Of At Least 10 Public Aid Applicants.** “A Department of Human Services employee was acquitted today of charges she tampered with public records even though she brought home thousands of documents that included private information, Social Security numbers and medical bills of at least 10 public aid applicants. Diane Chavez -- who along with her tenant, Richard E. Wanke, was once considered a person of interest by detectives investigating the Feb. 6, 2008, slaying of attorney Gregory H. Clark -- was found not guilty by Judge Joseph McGraw. McGraw ruled Winnebago County prosecutors did not prove removing sensitive case files from the state Human Services offices on Avon Street was illegal. The files included original applications, documents and financial information on residents who sought financial assistance, food stamps and Medicaid. 'It was never demonstrated to the court there was a prohibition against removing files and other materials from the office,' McGraw said." [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

Prosecutors Said The Department Of Human Services Employee Never Returned The Sensitive Documents She Took Home, Nor Sought Permission From Supervisors To Take Work Home. “Chavez testified that she was an excellent employee and consistently one of the most productive caseworkers for the local office. She said she didn't know removing the files was prohibited. Chavez said she had in 2006 and 2007 become overwhelmed with work as caseworkers were being forced to pull double duty as clerks. She described a chaotic state office overwhelmed with case files and entire offices stuffed with paperwork stacked in boxes. Documents were routinely misplaced or lost, she said. She started bringing work home with her because she couldn't get it all done during the regular workday. But prosecutors pointed out that she never returned the documents, sought overtime pay, sought permission or informed supervisors she was taking work home. Prosecutors said she was 'hoarding' documents and could provide no plausible explanation for keeping them. This wasn't for work purposes, prosecutor Kate Kurtz said. Chavez sneaked files out of the office and created an insurmountable mountain of sensitive documents in her home, Kurtz said. 'She knew she wasn't supposed to do it, otherwise she would have returned them,' Kurtz said." [Rockford Register Star, [10/12/11](#)]

March 2015: McGraw Again Acquitted The DHS Employee For Different Charges And Found That She Lied To Police Investigating A Murder But Did Not Obstruct Justice, Despite A Prior Jury Decision That Found Her Guilty Of Obstruction

March 2015: McGraw Acquitted The DHS Employee And Found That She Lied To Police During A Murder Investigation But Did Not Obstruct Justice. “Diane Chavez lied to police investigating the February 2008 killing of attorney Gregory H. Clark but did not obstruct justice, Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw has found. McGraw’s ruling, issued Monday, said Chavez misled police by saying first-degree murder defendant Richard Wanke did not live with her at 1113 Grant Ave. when he, in fact, did live there. ‘False, misleading statements to police alone are not enough’ to find her guilty, he said. Although the initial lie and subsequent misrepresentations forced police to take the time to obtain a search warrant, it didn’t hinder the police investigation and didn’t amount to obstruction of justice, McGraw said. Chavez denies lying to police. It was the second time McGraw has acquitted Chavez, 56, of charges stemming from the investigation into Clark’s Feb. 6, 2008, killing.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

- **McGraw: “False, Misleading Statements To Police Alone [Were] Not Enough” To Find The DHS Employee Guilty.** “Diane Chavez lied to police investigating the February 2008 killing of attorney Gregory H. Clark but did not obstruct justice, Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw has found. McGraw’s ruling, issued Monday, said Chavez misled police by saying first-degree murder defendant Richard Wanke did not live with her at 1113 Grant Ave. when he, in fact, did live there. ‘False, misleading statements to police alone are not enough’ to find her guilty, he said. Although the initial lie and subsequent misrepresentations forced police to take the time to obtain a search warrant, it didn’t hinder the police investigation and didn’t amount to obstruction of justice, McGraw said. Chavez denies lying to police. It was the second time McGraw has acquitted Chavez, 56, of charges stemming from the investigation into Clark’s Feb. 6, 2008, killing.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Judge: Rockford Woman's Lie Doesn't Equal Obstruction.”** [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

In 2013, A Jury Initially Found The DHS Employee Found Guilty On The Obstructing-Justice Charge, But Her Defense Attorneys Convinced McGraw To Overturn That Decision. “McGraw presided over her 2011 bench trial and found her not guilty of tampering, ruling that the state had not proven that Chavez had done anything illegal. Chavez was initially found guilty by a jury in a 2013 trial on the obstructing-justice charge. But her defense attorneys convinced McGraw to overturn that decision. McGraw said he ordered a new trial when he realized he made a mistake when he had not allowed a jury instruction clarifying that a false statement and material interference with the investigation was needed for a guilty verdict for obstructing justice.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/9/15](#)]

In A Pair Of Cases McGraw Was Asked To Recuse Himself From Due To Conflict Of Interest, McGraw Acquitted A County Attorney For Corrupt Sentencing And Doing Political Work On County Time

2011: McHenry County State Attorney Louis Bianchi Faced Two Misconduct Cases – One For Doing Campaign Work On County Time, And A Second For Giving Lighter Sentences To Defendants He Had Connections With

2011: Louis Bianchi And One Of His Associates Were Charged With “Arranging Deals To Reduce Criminal Penalties For Relatives And Campaign Donors”

2011: Louis Bianchi Faced Charges Of Improperly Influencing Three Criminal Cases For “Seeking Lighter Treatment For Defendants Who Were Associated With Him Or His Office’s Chief Investigator.” “Bianchi, 68, of Crystal Lake, awaits his second trial Aug. 1 on charges that he improperly influenced three criminal cases, seeking lighter treatment for defendants who were associated with him or his office's chief investigator, Ron Salgado, 59, of McHenry. McGraw previously dismissed an official misconduct charge against Salgado, after arguments that his attempt to secure a lighter sentence for a relative in a drug case was not a violation of equal protection rights, as alleged.” [Chicago Tribune, [7/2/11](#)]

- **Louis Bianchi And His Chief Investigator Were Charged With “Arranging Deals To Reduce Criminal Penalties For Relatives And Campaign Donors.”** “New charges have been lodged against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi. Special prosecutors have charged Bianchi and his chief investigator, Ronald Salgado, with arranging deals to reduce criminal penalties for relatives and campaign donors.” [CBS News Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Giving Special Treatment To A Prominent Doctor Accused Of Making Lewd Comments To And Harassing A Woman. “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

- **The Doctor’s Lawyer Contributed \$250 To Bianchi’s Campaign In July 2005 And July 2006.** “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]
- **The Assistant States Attorney Said Similar Misdemeanor Cases Were Often Dismissed If The Defendant Sought Counseling, But He Had Not Seen Any Cases Dismissed With Prejudice As Bianchi Had Done.** “In this trial, Bianchi is accused of two counts of misconduct and, if convicted, could face up to five years in prison. Probation also is an option. Bianchi is accused of meddling in an investigation of a prominent Crystal Lake doctor who was charged last summer with disorderly conduct, accused of making lewd comments to and harassing a woman. The case was dismissed Aug. 17, 2010, after the doctor, Thomas Salvi, who ran for state representative years ago, went to counseling and wrote an apology letter. Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen argued Bianchi gave Salvi special treatment by dismissing the case with prejudice — meaning the state could not refile charges in the future. McQueen also noted that Salvi's attorney, Patrick Salvi, contributed \$250 to Bianchi's campaign in July 2005 and July 2006. But Assistant State's Attorney Demetri Tsilimigras, the prosecutor assigned to the case, testified that it was common for some misdemeanor cases to be dismissed if the defendant seeks counseling. Tsilimigras also said Bianchi said if the victim wanted to pursue the case and take it to trial, his office would do that. Tsilimigras met with the victim to lay out the options and gave her time to think about whether to move forward. Tsilimigras, who thought the case was weak, also warned that if the defendant were convicted, it was unlikely he'd do any jail time because he did not have a criminal background. Tsilimigras said he had not seen any cases dismissed with prejudice, but it didn't make a difference in the state's eyes.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Giving Preferential Treatment To Jeremy Reid, A 19 Year Old Distant Relative Charged With Selling Cocaine Twice To An Undercover Officer At A Highschool. “Bianchi also is accused of giving preferential treatment to Jeremy Reid, a 19-year-old charged in spring 2010 with selling cocaine twice to an undercover officer at Crystal Lake Central High School. McQueen argued Bianchi should have recused

himself from that case because the defendant was a distant relative of one of Bianchi's investigators. Instead, McQueen argued, Bianchi used his influence to get a sentence of four years in prison instead of five years on a reduced charge. The initial charges carried a six-year minimum sentence if convicted. Assistant State's Attorney Kirk Chrzanowski, the prosecutor assigned to Reid's case, said he was negotiating with Assistant Public Defender Christopher Harmon. Harmon wanted four years, but the state wanted five. Chrzanowski later met with Bianchi, who indicated four years was OK. Chrzanowski testified he told Harmon at an August 2010 court hearing that the deal was for four years, and Harmon's eyes widened. Chrzanowski also said Bianchi was at that hearing where Reid pleaded guilty and he saw Bianchi look toward Reid's family. The prosecution is expected to wrap up its case today in McHenry County court in Woodstock. McQueen also dropped a third misconduct charge that Bianchi intentionally delayed a theft case against Bianchi's nephew until a first-time offender program could be launched." [Chicago Daily Herald, [8/1/11](#)]

That Same Year, Louis Bianchi Was Also Accused Of Having Employees Do Campaign Work On The Taxpayer Dime

March 2011: Louis Bianchi Was Accused Of Using County Resources For Campaign Purposes. "The trial involving the current McHenry County State's Attorney begins Monday, and the attorney for Louis Bianchi promises a war. [...] He was accused last year of directing employees to write campaign correspondence on taxpayer time and solicit fundraising donations." [CBS News Chicago, [3/21/11](#)]

- **The Political Activities Included Writing Campaign Correspondence And Soliciting Fundraising Donations.** "The trial involving the current McHenry County State's Attorney begins Monday, and the attorney for Louis Bianchi promises a war. As WBBM Newsradio 780's Mary Frances Bragiel reports, Bianchi and his personal secretary, Joyce Synek, are charged with using county resources for political purposes. He was accused last year of directing employees to write campaign correspondence on taxpayer time and solicit fundraising donations." [CBS News Chicago, [3/21/11](#)]

McGraw Was Asked To Recuse Himself From Louis Bianchi's Cases Due To A Conflict Of Interest Involving Being Paid By A State Agency That Was Involved In Aspects Of Bianchi's Case, But Did Not

Special Prosecutors Thomas McQueen Argued Louis McGraw Should Recuse Himself Alleging The "Appearance Of Impropriety" Due To A Conflict Of Interest

Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen Argued That McGraw Should Recuse Himself From Louis Bianchi's Corruption Case Because "He Had Been Paid By The Same State Agency That Was Involved In Other Aspects Of Bianchi's Case." "The judge overseeing the corruption charges against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi denied a request Friday to step down from the case after a prosecutor questioned his impartiality. [...] Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of charges that he used county employees and computers for campaign work. Bianchi is awaiting a second trial before McGraw on charges that the state's attorney improperly gave breaks to acquaintances in criminal cases. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen had argued that McGraw should recuse himself because he had been paid by the same state agency that was involved in other aspects of Bianchi's case. Since the 2005 fiscal year, the Illinois state's attorneys appellate prosecutors office said, it has paid McGraw \$19,900 as an instructor at its continuing education seminars." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/11](#)]

Prosecutors Sought To Disqualify McGraw Alleging The "Appearance Of Impropriety." "Prosecutors are seeking to disqualify the judge who acquitted McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi, alleging 'the appearance of impropriety.' The prosecutors charged today that Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw received thousands of dollars in payments from the same state agency that, among other things, is challenging the prosecutors' legal fees in the case. Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of all charges that he used his office employees and equipment to do campaign work. McGraw is set to preside over Bianchi's second trial in June on charges of official misconduct involving his handling of criminal cases. In their motion, prosecutors stated that McGraw received at least \$6,250 last year from the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office for speaking at its attorney seminars. He is expected to speak again this year at an upcoming prosecutors seminar. The

appellate prosecutors office's main function is to represent state's attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state's attorney has a conflict. As a state's attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. The filing also points to various actions of the appellate prosecutors office in the Bianchi case. Because the judge has business dealings with the office, he shouldn't be hearing the case against Bianchi, prosecutors argue. For example, the motion points out that an attorney from the appellate prosecutor's office has been representing McHenry County in the case. The attorney is appealing a court order to pay the legal fees of the special prosecutors who are arguing the case against Bianchi. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen filed the motion 'with great respect for this Court,' and asked McGraw to remove himself from the case." [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

- **Illinois Supreme Court Rules Dictate That Judges Were Prohibited From Even The Appearance Of A Conflict Of Interest.** "The appellate prosecutors office's main function is to represent state's attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state's attorney has a conflict. As a state's attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. The filing also points to various actions of the appellate prosecutors office in the Bianchi case. Because the judge has business dealings with the office, he shouldn't be hearing the case against Bianchi, prosecutors argue. For example, the motion points out that an attorney from the appellate prosecutor's office has been representing McHenry County in the case. The attorney is appealing a court order to pay the legal fees of the special prosecutors who are arguing the case against Bianchi. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen filed the motion 'with great respect for this Court,' and asked McGraw to remove himself from the case. Under Illinois Supreme Court rules, judges are prohibited from even the appearance of a conflict of interest. But Bianchi's attorney, Terry Ekl, said the prosecutors have to show proof of bias to remove the judge from the case. 'We call this judge-shopping, and it's wrong,' he said. McGraw referred all comments in the case to the McHenry County Circuit Court trial administrator, who was not available for comment." [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

McGraw's Alleged Conflict Of Interest Involved \$19,900 He Received As An Instructor At The Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office Which Was Affiliated With The Defendant In The Case

The Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office "Paid McGraw \$19,900 As An Instructor At Its Continuing Education Seminars" Since The 2005 Fiscal Year. "Last month, McGraw found Bianchi not guilty of charges that he used county employees and computers for campaign work. Bianchi is awaiting a second trial before McGraw on charges that the state's attorney improperly gave breaks to acquaintances in criminal cases. Special prosecutor Thomas McQueen had argued that McGraw should recuse himself because he had been paid by the same state agency that was involved in other aspects of Bianchi's case. Since the 2005 fiscal year, the Illinois state's attorneys appellate prosecutors office said, it has paid McGraw \$19,900 as an instructor at its continuing education seminars." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/11](#)]

- **Bianchi, The Defendant In The Case, Could Vote To Elect Board Members Of The Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office And McHenry County Also Paid An Annual Fee To The Office.** "In their motion, prosecutors stated that McGraw received at least \$6,250 last year from the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutors Office for speaking at its attorney seminars. He is expected to speak again this year at an upcoming prosecutors seminar. The appellate prosecutors office's main function is to represent state's attorneys when cases are appealed to higher courts, and sometimes fill in when a state's attorney has a conflict. As a state's attorney, Bianchi can vote to elect on board members of the office, the motion stated, and McHenry County pays an annual fee to the appellate prosecutors office. [Chicago Tribune, [4/28/11](#)]

McGraw Initially Denied Louis Bianchi's Request To Have The Charges Thrown Out

McGraw Initially Denied Louis Bianchi's Request To Have The Misconduct And Conspiracy Charges Against Him Thrown Out. "A judge has denied a push from embattled McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi to have the misconduct and conspiracy charges against him and his secretary thrown out. The pair were

indicted last September on charges they used county resources for Bianchi's campaign. Bianchi's defense attorney Terry Ekl had argued that special prosecutors exceeded their authority in investigating anything other than initial claims by Bianchi's former employee Amy Dalby. Ekl contended the special prosecutors misled the grand jury and that the charges should be dismissed. But Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw disagreed in a four-page ruling Friday. 'The order of January 7, 2010, allowed the prosecutor to investigate actions and persons involved in the alleged misconduct occurring subsequent to Dalby's employment in the State's Attorney's Office,' McGraw wrote. 'This investigation allegedly disclosed additional acts of misconduct by Bianchi and included alleged illegal actions by Synek.'" [Chicago Daily Herald, 1/22/11]

- **March 2011: McGraw Refused To Drop Charges Against Louis Bianchi For A Second Time.** "A judge has denied a final motion to drop corruption charges against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi, meaning the matter is full steam ahead for trial Monday. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw rejected defense attorney Terry Ekl's argument that Special Prosecutors Thomas McQueen and Henry Tonigan mislead a grand jury that eventually indicted Bianchi and his personal secretary, Joyce Synek." [Chicago Daily Herald, 3/16/11]

McGraw Eventually Acquitted Louis Bianchi On Both Charges Without Hearing From A Single Defense Witness

March 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of The Charge Of Doing Political Work On County Time "Even Before Bianchi Had Presented A Defense"

March 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi For The Charges Of Doing Political Work On County Time. "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case. Bianchi's administrative assistant, Joyce Synek, was also acquitted on charges that she lied to a grand jury and destroyed political documents on her office computer. Bianchi, a Republican serving his second term as the top prosecutor in McHenry County, still faces additional charges stemming from the same investigation but for different conduct." [CBS News Chicago, [3/23/11](#)]

- **McGraw: "The Evidence Presented Here In This Case, In This Trial, Has Not Demonstrated Any Crimes Have Been Committed."** "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case." [CBS News, [3/23/11](#)]
- **McGraw "Delivered A Directed Verdict From The Bench Even Before Bianchi Had Presented A Defense In The Case."** "McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi has been acquitted of charges that he had employees do political work on county time. 'The evidence presented here in this case, in this trial, has not demonstrated any crimes have been committed,' Judge Joseph McGraw said Wednesday in delivering a directed verdict from the bench even before Bianchi had presented a defense in the case." [CBS News Chicago, [3/23/11](#)]

August 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of The Charge Of Influencing Sentences Of Defendants He Had Associations With

August 2011: McGraw Acquitted Louis Bianchi Of Charges Of Giving Lighter Sentences To Defendants He Had Connections With. "Judge Joseph McGraw on Tuesday issued a directed verdict that found Bianchi not guilty of two misconduct charges that alleged he had given more lenient deals to criminal defendants who had personal or political ties to his office. McGraw had already dropped a third charge of official misconduct on Monday." [Chicago Tribune, [8/3/11](#)]

- **McGraw: Louis Bianchi Handed The Cases “In The Normal, Customary Way.”** “Judge Joseph McGraw on Tuesday issued a directed verdict that found Bianchi not guilty of two misconduct charges that alleged he had given more lenient deals to criminal defendants who had personal or political ties to his office. McGraw had already dropped a third charge of official misconduct on Monday. ‘In each case, the state's attorney had the case handled in the normal, customary way,’ said McGraw, who was brought in from Winnebago to avoid a conflict of interest.” [Chicago Tribune, [8/3/11](#)]

McGraw Dismissed The Charges Without Hearing From A Single Witness

McGraw Dismissed Both Of The Louis Bianchi Charges Without Hearing From A Single Witness. “The cases against Bianchi and Synek fell apart in two bench trials before Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw. He found Bianchi and Synek not guilty on March 23 of the charges in the first indictment. McGraw in June threw out the charges against Salgado and McCleary, and on Aug. 2 found Bianchi not guilty of the remaining three charges against him. In both of Bianchi’s bench trials, McGraw dismissed the charges without Ekl having to call a single witness.” [Northwest Herald, [1/3/12](#)]

The Chicago Daily Herald Called McGraw’s Decision “Stunning” And Said The “Procedural Move In A Bench Trial” Was “Rarely [...] Successful”

The Chicago Daily Herald Called The Decision “Stunning” And Said The “Procedural Move In A Bench Trial” Was “Rarely [...] Successful.” “In a stunning decision, a Judge Wednesday declared McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi and his secretary not guilty on a combined 26 charges of conspiracy, misconduct and obstruction of justice without their defense team even having to present a single witness. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw entered his findings on the motion for a directed verdict a procedural move in a bench trial that rarely is successful.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [3/23/11](#)]

According To CBS, McGraw Said He Might Not Have Agreed With Every Decision Made By Louis Bianchi But None Rose To The Level Of A Crime

CBS: McGraw Said He Might Not Agree With Every Decision Made By Louis Bianchi But None Rose To The Level Of A Crime. “A judge rendered a directed verdict this afternoon and declared McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi not guilty on counts of professional misconduct. In his verdict, Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw said that while he might not agree with every decision made by the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, none of those decisions rose to a criminal level. This is the second trial this year alleging misconduct by Bianchi while serving as state's attorney. The first trial ended in March with a directed verdict of not guilty by McGraw.” [CBS, [8/2/11](#)]

NOTE: Bianchi filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated, a US district judge dismissed the [lawsuit twice](#). Prior to that dismissal, prosecutor Tonigan [agreed to a settlement](#) but admitted no wrongdoing.

NOTE: Bianchi also filed civil contempt of court charges against Prosecutor McQueen. In a 2014 bench trial, McGraw [found McQueen not guilty](#) of criminal contempt of court for his actions prosecuting the case.

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted The Chief Investigator For The State Attorney For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge And Sided With The Defense That This Wasn’t A Crime

McHenry County Investigator Ron Salgado Was Charged With Misconduct For Using His Influence To Encourage Less Prison Time For His Nephew

McHenry County Investigator Ron Salgado Was Accused Of Using His Influence To Encourage Less Prison Time For His Nephew. “A judge dismissed charges Friday against a McHenry County investigator accused of using his influence to improve a plea deal for a teen whom prosecutors had described as the investigator's nephew. Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was Charged With Official Misconduct In The Case. “Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was The Chief Investigator For State Attorney Lou Bianchi

Ron Salgado Was The Chief Investigator For State Attorney Lou Bianchi. “Ron Salgado, the chief investigator for State's Attorney Lou Bianchi, had been charged with official misconduct in the case against Jeremy Reid, 19. Reid was arrested in 2010, accused of selling drugs to an undercover police officer at a high school in Crystal Lake.” [CBS Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

Ron Salgado Was Bianchi's Chief Investigator. “New charges have been lodged against McHenry County State's Attorney Louis Bianchi. Special prosecutors have charged Bianchi and his chief investigator, Ronald Salgado, with arranging deals to reduce criminal penalties for relatives and campaign donors.” [CBS Chicago, [3/1/11](#)]

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted Ron Salgado For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against Salgado, Agreeing That It Was Not A Crime

After A Special Grand Jury Indicted Ron Salgado For Encouraging Less Prison Time For His Nephew, McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against Salgado. “The board's Law and Justice Committee on Monday authorized county staff to pay the amount for the legal defense of Ron Salgado, who was charged during the special prosecutors' investigation of Bianchi with one count of official misconduct. [...] A special grand jury indicted Salgado in February 2011, alleging that he encouraged less prison time for his 'nephew' by having a previously negotiated five-year prison sentence reduced to four years. Salgado has denied that the defendant identified in the allegations was his nephew. Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw in June threw out the charge against Salgado, concluding that 'the facts as pled do not state an offense.'” [The Northwest Herald via Newspapers.com, [2/8/12](#)]

- **Ron Salgado's Relative Was Accused Of Dealing Drugs Outside A Highschool.** “Tonigan and Special Prosecutor Thomas McQueen announced misconduct charges in February against Bianchi and investigators Salgado and Michael McCleary. Bianchi is accused of cutting a year off a plea bargain in August 2010, reducing a five-year sentence to four, in favor of Salgado's relative who was accused of dealing drugs outside an unnamed Crystal Lake high school. Salgado was accused of using his influence to effect [sic] the case's outcome.” [Chicago Daily Herald, [6/3/11](#)]

McGraw Agreed With The Defense That Ron Salgado's Actions Would Not Be A Crime. “Salgado was accused of telling a prosecutor to reduce Reid's prison sentence to four years, from five. Defense attorney Phil Prossnitz, however, said such an action would not be a crime, and Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw agreed.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/3/11](#)]

NOTE: Salgado was also a plaintiff in Bianchi's federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated. A US district judge dismissed the [lawsuit twice](#).

McGraw Threw Out A Charge Against A State's Attorney Investigator Accused Of Misconduct For Personal Use Of A County Car

McGraw Threw Out The Charge Against State's Attorney Investigator Michael McCleary Who Was Accused Of Official Misconduct For Personal Use Of A County Car. "McGraw later that month also threw out the sole charge brought against fellow state's attorney investigator Michael McCleary, who was accused of official misconduct for alleged personal use of a county car over four years. McCleary's legal counsel has not yet asked the county for repayment of his fees, County Administrator Peter Austin said." [The Northwest Herald via Newspapers.com, [2/8/12](#)]

NOTE: McCleary was also a plaintiff in Bianchi's federal civil-rights lawsuit against both prosecutors McQueen and Tonigan claiming their prosecution was politically motivated, a US district judge dismissed the [lawsuit twice](#).

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw's Decisions And Found That He Abused His Judicial Discretion, Describing His Actions As "Arbitrary And Unreasonable"

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's "Erroneous" Decision To Squash A Search Warrant Of A Defendant Who Was Allegedly Under The Influence Of Alcohol During A Fatal Car Crash

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Charged With Reckless Homicide For His Involvement In A Car Crash That Left One Woman Dead And Authorities Alleged He Was Under The Influence Of Alcohol During The Fatal Crash

July 2018: Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Charged With Reckless Homicide For His Involvement In A Crash That Left 58-Year Old Mary Wymore Dead. "A Rockford man has been charged with reckless homicide after a crash left a woman dead in Loves Park last weekend. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, 23, was booked into the Winnebago County Jail Friday. He's being held on a \$200,000 bond. The charge stems from a crash that occurred Saturday, July 14, at the intersection of North Perryville and Mulford roads. Authorities allege that Gomez-Gonzalez was driving a vehicle that hit a car driven by 58-year-old Mary Wymore, of Machesney Park. Wymore was pronounced dead at the scene." [Rock River Times, [7/21/18](#)]

Authorities Alleged Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Under The Influence Of Alcohol During The Fatal Crash. "Gomez-Gonzalez, of Rockford, is awaiting trial in the death of 58-year-old Mary Wymore. Wymore died from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred July 20, 2018, at the intersection of Perryville and North Mulford roads. Authorities allege that then-23-year-old Gomez-Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol when he ran a red light and crashed his Cadillac Escalade into Wymore's Toyota RAV4. After a brief foot chase, Loves Park officers took Gomez-Gonzalez into custody near the scene. He was later booked and held on a \$2 million bond. Wymore died at the scene. On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine." [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Filed A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Claiming The Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of His Blood And Urine And McGraw Granted His Motion To Quash The Evidence...

But Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Filed A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Claiming The Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of His Blood And Urine. "Gomez-Gonzalez, of Rockford, is awaiting trial in the death of 58-year-old Mary Wymore. Wymore died from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred July 20, 2018, at the intersection of Perryville and North Mulford roads. Authorities allege that then-23-year-old Gomez-Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol when he ran a red light and crashed his Cadillac Escalade into Wymore's Toyota RAV4. After a brief foot chase, Loves Park officers

took Gomez-Gonzalez into custody near the scene. He was later booked and held on a \$2 million bond. Wymore died at the scene. On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine.” [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

May 2021: McGraw Granted A Motion To Squash A Search Warrant Finding The Loves Park Police Department Did Not Have Sufficient Probable Cause To Obtain Samples Of The Defendant’s Blood And Urine. “On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine. McGraw granted the motion on May 7, 2021, and Gomez-Gonzalez was released from the Winnebago County Jail pending the state’s appeal. An Illinois appellate judge reversed McGraw’s decision on June 1, 2022, prompting prosecutors to file a motion to reinstate bond. The filing was set to be argued Tuesday, Aug. 16, but Gomez-Gonzalez failed to appear, court records show. According to documents, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases at the time of the fatal crash. He was eventually convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given six years in prison on the drug charge, three years for criminal damage to property, and 30 days in the county jail for DUI, sentences that were to be served concurrently. Because he received 2,236 days’ time served, Gomez-Gonzalez did not spend time in the Illinois Department of Corrections.” [WTVO 17 News, [9/12/22](#)]

... But The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Reversed McGraw’s “Erroneous” Decision To Quash A Search Warrant And Found The Warrant Was Supported By Probable Cause

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Reversed McGraw’s Decision In People V. Gomez-Gonzalez And Ruled That “The Trial Court Erred In Granting Defendant’s Motion To Quash Search Warrant.” “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Held: The trial court erred in granting defendant’s motion to quash search warrant as the search warrant used to seize defendant’s blood and urine was supported by probable cause. The State appeals from the trial court’s grant of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence. The trial court found that the affidavit accompanying the Loves Park Police’s Complaint for Search Warrant provided insufficient probable cause to justify a search warrant to seize defendant’s blood and urine. The State contends that the that the issuing magistrate was provided with a substantial basis for concluding that probable cause existed to justify the issuance of a search warrant. For the reasons that follow, we reverse the trial court’s ruling.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Ruled That The Trial Court’s Motion To Quash Evidence The Search Warrant And Suppress Evidence Was “Erroneous.”** “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Based on the foregoing, the trial court’s granting of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence was erroneous and is reversed. III. CONCLUSION For the foregoing reasons, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and this cause is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order. Reversed and remanded” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]
- **The Appellate Court Found The Search Warrant Used To Seize Defendant’s Blood And Urine Was Supported By Probable Cause.** “The People of the State of Illinois, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez, Defendant-Appellee. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County. No. 18-CF-1817 Honorable Joseph McGraw, Judge, Presiding. [...] Held: The trial court erred in granting defendant’s motion to quash search warrant as the search warrant used to seize defendant’s blood and urine was supported by probable cause. The State appeals from the trial court’s grant of defendant’s motion to quash search warrant and suppress evidence. The trial court found that the affidavit accompanying the Loves Park Police’s Complaint for Search Warrant provided insufficient probable cause to justify a search warrant to seize

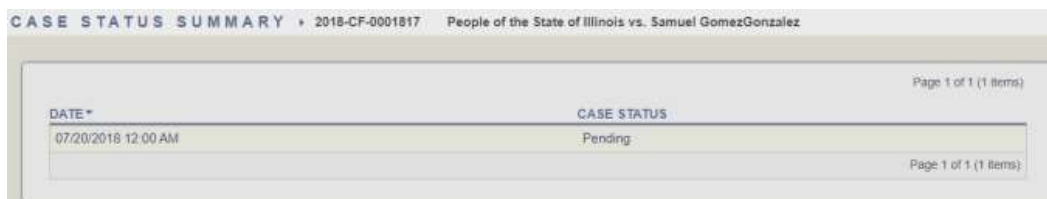
defendant's blood and urine. The State contends that the that the issuing magistrate was provided with a substantial basis for concluding that probable cause existed to justify the issuance of a search warrant. For the reasons that follow, we reverse the trial court's ruling." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Gomez-Gonzalez, Case #2-21-0200, Order, filed [6/1/22](#)]

At The Time Of The Fatal Crash, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Facing Charges In Two Pending Criminal Cases, And Was Later Convicted Of Criminal Damage To Property, Resisting An Officer, And A DUI

Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez Was Facing Charges In Two Pending Criminal Cases At The Time Of The Deadly Car Crash, He Was Later Convicted Of Manufacturing Cannabis, Criminal Damage To Property, Resisting An Officer, And Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol. "On Sept. 14, 2020, Gomez-Gonzalez filed a motion to squash a search warrant, claiming the Loves Park Police Department did not have sufficient probable cause to obtain samples of his blood and urine. McGraw granted the motion on May 7, 2021, and Gomez-Gonzalez was released from the Winnebago County Jail pending the state's appeal. An Illinois appellate judge reversed McGraw's decision on June 1, 2022, prompting prosecutors to file a motion to reinstate bond. The filing was set to be argued Tuesday, Aug. 16, but Gomez-Gonzalez failed to appear, court records show. According to documents, Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez was facing charges in two pending criminal cases at the time of the fatal crash. He was eventually convicted of manufacturing cannabis, criminal damage to property, resisting an officer, and driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given six years in prison on the drug charge, three years for criminal damage to property, and 30 days in the county jail for DUI, sentences that were to be served concurrently. Because he received 2,236 days' time served, Gomez-Gonzalez did not spend time in the Illinois Department of Corrections." [WTVO 17 News , [9/12/22](#)]

As Of June 2024, The Status Of People V. Gomez-Gonzalez Was Listed As Pending, A Jury Trial Status Was Scheduled For October 28th, 2024

As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Samuel Gomez-Gonzalez's Case Was Pending. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]



DATE*	CASE STATUS
07/20/2018 12:00 AM	Pending

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]

- **A Jury Trial For People V. Gomez-Gonzalez Was Scheduled For October 28th, 2024.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Hearing Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]



CALENDAR HEARING | 2018-CF-0001817 | People of the State of Illinois vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez

PARTICIPANTS | GomezGonzalez, Samuel - Defendant

FILTER BY | HEARING TYPE

*HEARING TYPE | Jury Trial

JUDGE | Gibbons, John

*COURT ROOM | A

*START DATE | 10/29/2024

DURATION | ***** Minutes

END DATE | *****

RESULT |

CONTINUANCE REASON |

CONTINUED BY |

COMMENT | *****

BATCH PRINT | *

*DOCKET TYPE | Jury

*START TIME | 09:00 AM

END TIME | *****

RETRIEVE

REFRESH CANCEL

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People v. vs. Samuel GomezGonzalez, Case #2018-CF-0001817, Hearing Summary, accessed [6/14/24](#)]

April 2013: An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion And Described His Actions To Convict Witnesses As “Arbitrary And Unreasonable,” The Court Reversed His Decision

An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion In Convicting Witnesses Who Did Not Show Up To Court Because They Were Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel

An Appellate Court Ruled That McGraw Abused His Discretion In Convicting Sheila And Marissa Brown On Charges Of Contempt Of Court And Overturned The Convictions. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw abused his discretion when he ordered a mother and daughter who witnessed the officer-involved shooting death of Mark Anthony Barmore to appear before a grand jury despite Christmas vacation plans. That was the ruling of the majority in an appellate court ruling overturning McGraw’s conviction of Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, on charges of contempt of court. McGraw’s refusal to grant a delay was ‘arbitrary and unreasonable,’ the majority wrote.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

The Browns Were Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel On Less Than A Week’s Notice. “‘What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the state’s attorney and the trial court — the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers,’ the appellate court wrote in a 21-page opinion. ‘Defendant’s alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate (Bruscato’s) trial calendar.’ McGraw in March 2012 found the Browns in criminal contempt of court and fined each \$500 for disregarding his December 2009 orders to testify before the Winnebago County grand jury. They were given less than a week’s notice to testify two days before Christmas.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

McGraw Refused The Browns’ Request For A Continuance Until After Their Trip. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw found Sheila and Marissa Brown in criminal contempt of court today and fined them \$500 each for disregarding his order in December 2009 to testify to a Winnebago County grand jury. Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, then 17, were witnesses in August 2009 to the fatal shooting of Mark Anthony Barmore during an altercation with police. They were given less than a week’s notice of their scheduled grand jury testimony two days before Christmas. [...] With long-standing plans to visit family and participate in religious services in Mississippi for Christmas, the Browns asked McGraw to grant them a continuance until after the trip. McGraw said it was a tough call but ruled that the trip was not urgent and did not trump their duty and the community interest to testify as scheduled Dec. 23, 2009. He denied their request for a continuance. Sheila Brown testified that Adam advised her that his appeal of McGraw’s decision would circumvent McGraw’s jurisdiction. Brown testified she was advised the appeal would allow them to go on the planned trip and repeatedly asked Adam if he was sure about it.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

The Browns Did Not Show Up To Court After Receiving Advice From An Attorney That They Could Go On Their Planned Trip. “Sheila Brown testified that Adam advised her that his appeal of McGraw's decision would circumvent McGraw's jurisdiction. Brown testified she was advised the appeal would allow them to go on the planned trip and repeatedly asked Adam if he was sure about it. ‘I didn't want to do anything wrong,’ Brown said. ‘If the judge wanted me here, I wanted to be here.’ Adam testified that his advice was based on his research of case law and consultations with other attorneys including his father, Sam Adam Sr., who represented the Browns during Wednesday's trial.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

McGraw Wanted To Sentence The Witnesses To Jail For Not Providing Testimony At A Grand Jury, But Fined Them \$500 Each Instead

McGraw Originally Said He Would Have Sentenced The Browns To Jail. “Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, then 17, were witnesses in August 2009 to the fatal shooting of Mark Anthony Barmore during an altercation with police. They were given less than a week's notice of their scheduled grand jury testimony two days before Christmas. ‘They knew what they had to do and when they had to do it,’ McGraw said as he rendered his verdict. ‘Mrs. Brown and Ms. Brown knew what was required and did not obey.’ McGraw said he would have sentenced the Browns to jail if Sheila Brown had not testified that they had been following the poor advice of their lawyer, Sam Adam Jr.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

McGraw Charged The Browns \$500 Each. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw found Sheila and Marissa Brown in criminal contempt of court Wednesday and fined each \$500 for disregarding his order in December 2009 to testify to a Winnebago County grand jury.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/12](#)]

The Appellate Court Wrote That McGraw's Refusal To Grant A Delay Was “Arbitrary And Unreasonable” And Reversed His Conviction Of The Witnesses

The Appellate Court Wrote That McGraw's Refusal To Grant A Delay Was “Arbitrary And Unreasonable,” And Reversed McGraw's Conviction Of The Browns. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw abused his discretion when he ordered a mother and daughter who witnessed the officer-involved shooting death of Mark Anthony Barmore to appear before a grand jury despite Christmas vacation plans. That was the ruling of the majority in an appellate court ruling overturning McGraw's conviction of Sheila Brown and her daughter, Marissa, on charges of contempt of court. McGraw's refusal to grant a delay was ‘arbitrary and unreasonable,’ the majority wrote.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/30/13](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found McGraw Made A “Clear And Obvious Error” By Denying Defendant's “Simple And Reasonable Request To Reschedule A Grand Jury Appearance”

Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois: “The Trial Court Made A Clear And Obvious Error When It Arbitrarily Denied Defendants' Emergency Petition For Reasons Not Advanced By The Parties Or Supported By The Record.” “We maintain that the trial court made a clear and obvious error when it arbitrarily denied defendants' emergency petition for reasons not advanced by the parties or supported by the record. Therefore, Givens permits us to review the trial court's order denying defendants' emergency petition despite the parties' failure to brief it in this specific appeal.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over The Trial Court In Re John Doe Investigation In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

2013 IL App (2d) 120425-U
No. 2-12-0425
Order filed April 24, 2013

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

<i>In re</i> JOHN DOE INVESTIGATION	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
	)	of Winnebago County.
)	
	)	No. 09-MR-1028
)	
	)	Honorable
(Sheila Brown and Marissa Brown,	)	Joseph G. McGraw,
Defendants-Appellants).	)	Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

Appellate Court: “We Express Our Concern Over The Manner In Which This Case Was Transpired. What Began As A Simple And Reasonable Request To Reschedule A Grand Jury Appearance Turned Into A Litigation Of Its Own.” “In closing, we express our concern over the manner in which this case was transpired. What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the State’s Attorney and the trial court—the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers. Defendants, mere observers to an individual’s death, faced their own potential incarceration when their alleged wrongdoing can be summarized as follows: (1) being available to appear before the grand jury on September 11, 2009, pursuant to the original subpoena, only to be told by the State that they did not need to appear; (2) after hearing nothing further from the State, purchasing airline tickets to travel on December 23, 2009, to visit family for the holidays; and (3) after being subpoenaed again, advising the State and the trial court that they would be available to appear on January 6, 2010, when the jury was already set to convene. More concisely, defendants’ alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate the State’s trial calendar.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

Appellate Court: “Defendants’ Alleged Wrongdoing Amounted To Nothing More Than Being Unable To Rearrange Their Holiday Travel Plans, Which They Made In Good Faith And Expended A Considerable Sum, On Less Than A Week’s Notice To Accommodate The State’s Trial Calendar.” “In closing, we express our concern over the manner in which this case was transpired. What began as a simple and reasonable request to reschedule a grand jury appearance turned into a litigation of its own, apart from what should have been the focus of the State’s Attorney and the trial court—the circumstances of a person’s death by two police officers. Defendants, mere observers to an individual’s death, faced their own potential incarceration when their alleged wrongdoing can be summarized as follows: (1) being available to appear before the grand jury on September 11, 2009, pursuant to the original subpoena, only to be told by the State that they did not need to appear; (2) after hearing nothing further from the State, purchasing airline tickets to travel on December 23, 2009, to visit family for the holidays; and (3) after being subpoenaed again, advising the State and the trial court that they would be available to appear on January 6, 2010, when the jury was already set to convene. More concisely, defendants’ alleged wrongdoing amounted to nothing more than being unable to rearrange their holiday travel plans, which they made in good faith and expended a considerable sum, on less than a week’s notice to accommodate the State’s trial calendar.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *In re John Doe Investigation*, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

- **Appellate Court: “The Trial Court Went Beyond The Record To Find A Basis To Deny Defendants’ Emergency Petition. Holding Defendants In Contempt For Violating A Trial Court Order Entered Without Sufficient Support In The Record Is A Clear Abuse Of A Court’s Inherent Contempt Power.”** “Contrary to the dissent’s conclusion, the trial court’s reasoning for denying the petition was not advanced by the parties or supported by the record. As outlined above, the State’s Attorney’s sole concern was that he and his top deputy had to be in trial on January 6, 2010, and the State’s Attorney could not ‘be two places at one

time.’ Instead of denying defendants’ emergency petition for the reasons advanced by the State during the hearing, the trial court denied the petition on the basis that everyone’s interests would be served if the grand jury heard the testimony continuously, so that the testimony would not be ‘old’ or ‘stale.’ However, the trial court was not presented with any evidence, nor did it hear any argument, on how defendants’ testimony would have been ‘old’ or ‘stale’ had it been heard on January 6, 2010, as opposed to December 23, 2009. Put more simply, the trial court went beyond the record to find a basis to deny defendants’ emergency petition. Holding defendants in contempt for violating a trial court order entered without sufficient support in the record is a clear abuse of a court’s inherent contempt power. Preventing such abuse is consistent with our supreme court’s directive that, because a court’s exercise of its abuse powers is delicate, care is needed to avoid arbitrary or oppressive results. [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, In re John Doe Investigation, Case #2-12-0425, Order, filed [4/24/13](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw “Misled” The Defendant Into Pleading Guilty And Said The Circumstance Of The Case “Br[ought] The Judiciary Into Disrepute”

In A Case Regarding Child Abuse, McGraw Offered A Defendant A Sentence “Toward The Low End” Of The 6-30 Year Range At A Pretrial Bargaining Meeting...

At A Rule 402 Conference, McGraw Said He Believed A Fair Sentence In This Case Was “Toward The Low End” Of The 6 To 30 Year Range And Was Inclined To Sentence The Defendant To Something Like 7 Or 8 Years

At A Rule 402 Conference, McGraw Said A Fair Sentence In This Case Was “Toward The Low End” Of The 6 To 30 Year Range And Said He Was Inclined To Sentence Defendant To Something Like 7 Or 8 Years. “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Higgins In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]



[Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Higgins, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **June 2021: McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over A 402 Conference In People V. Higgins.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Trenton Xavier Higgins, Case #2020-CF-0001032, Calendar Hearing, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

CALENDAR HEARING • 2020-CF-0001032 People of the State of Illinois vs. Trenton Xavier Higgins

PARTICIPANTS ▶ Higgins, Trenton Xavier - Defendant
 FILTER BY ▶ HEARING TYPE
 *HEARING TYPE ▶ 402 Conference
 JUDGE ▶ McGraw, Joseph
 *COURT ROOM ▶ A
 *START DATE ▶ 06/18/2021
 DURATION ▶ ***** Minutes
 END DATE ▶ *****
 RESULT ▶ 402 Conference Held
 CONTINUANCE REASON ▶
 CONTINUED BY ▶
 COMMENT ▶ *****
 BATCH PRINT ▶ *

*DOCKET TYPE ▶ Judge Set
 *START TIME ▶ 09:00 AM
 END TIME ▶ *****

RETRIEVE

SEL	NAME	CODE	DATE RESULTED
<input type="checkbox"/>	402 Conference Held	HR 402H	06/18/2021 02:24 PM

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Trenton Xavier Higgins, Case #2020-CF-0001032, Calendar Hearing, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Jim Dey Op-Ed: McGraw Testified To “Giving An Opinion Like Seven Or Eight Years, Something Towards The Low End” Of The Sentence Range To The Defendant At A 402 Meeting. “The appeals court affirmed Higgins’ conviction because it said McGraw explained to Higgins the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the shortcomings of the 402. That prompted the appellate court to ask ‘what was gained’ by holding a 402 conference in which Higgins was ‘mised.’ The Higgins case created a mess in Winnebago County. In an unusual occurrence, McGraw testified to ‘giving an opinion like seven or eight years, something towards the low end’ to Higgins at the 402. That’s one reason why the appellate court advised trial judges not to participate in 402s and urged the Illinois Supreme Court to prohibit them. The 4th District has previously challenged the propriety of 402s. The court’s strong language in the Higgins case reflects its desire to try again to get the attention of seven Supreme Court justices and hundreds of Illinois trial judges.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

402 Conferences Were Informal Gatherings At Which The Judge, Prosecutor, And Defense Could Work Out An Agreement Short Of Trial, A Judge Would Recommend A Sentence Which Defendant Could Accept Or Reject

Jim Dey Op-Ed: A 402 Conference Was An Informal Gathering Where The Judge, Prosecutor And Defense Lawyer Discuss The Case To See If They Can Work Out An Agreement Short Of Trial. “Defense lawyer James Dimeas describes a 402 conference as an informal gathering where the judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer ‘discuss the case to see if there’s a way to work out an agreement short of trial.’ It’s essentially three-way plea bargaining rather than traditional defense/prosecution talks. After review, Dimeas said the judge ‘will make a recommendation about an appropriate sentence,’ one the defendant can accept or reject. The conferences are more common in urban areas, like Cook County, but have been used with increasing regularity in Champaign County.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

- **Jim Dey Op-Ed: After A Review, The Judge Would Make A Recommendation About An Appropriate Sentence And The Defendant Can Accept Or Reject.** “Defense lawyer James Dimeas describes a 402 conference as an informal gathering where the judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer ‘discuss the case to see if there’s a way to work out an agreement short of trial.’ It’s essentially three-way plea bargaining rather than traditional defense/prosecution talks. After review, Dimeas said the judge ‘will make a recommendation about an appropriate sentence,’ one the defendant can accept or reject. The conferences are more common in urban areas, like Cook County, but have been used with increasing regularity in Champaign County.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

The Defendant, Trenton Higgins, Was Charged With Felony Offenses For Allegedly Beating A Young Boy In His Care

Jim Dey Op-Ed: Trenton Higgins Was Charged With Felony Offenses Carrying Six To 30 Years In Prison For Allegedly Beating A Young Boy In His Care. “Justices James Knecht and Amy Lannerd joined in

Steigmann’s Sept. 28 opinion in *People vs. Trenton Higgins*. [...] Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child’s injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child’s injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary’s general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, *News-Gazette Illinois*, [10/3/23](#)]

... But After The Defendant Pleaded Guilty And Gave Up His Right To A Trial On The Charges, McGraw Sentenced Him To 20 Years In Prison

The Defendant Gave Up His Right To A Trial On The Charges He Faced By Pleading Guilty. “So, what was gained by the trial court’s participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court’s statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant’s vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

McGraw Sentenced The Defendant To 20 Years In Prison, “Nearly Two And A Half Times What The Court Had Led The Attorneys And Defendant To Believe Would Be A Fair Sentence.” “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **Fourth District Illinois Appellate Court: “Defendant Was Required To Serve 12 More Years Than The Court Indicated Would Be Appropriate At The Rule 402 Conference.”** “Specifically, the court misled defense counsel—and, ultimately, defendant—by saying that the court believed a fair sentence in this case would be ‘toward the low end’ of the 6- to 30-year range and was inclined to sentence defendant to something like 7 or 8 years in prison. And yet, after defendant later pleaded guilty and the trial court conducted a sentencing hearing, the court sentenced defendant to 20 years in prison—nearly two and a half times what the court had led the attorneys and defendant to believe would be a fair sentence. Defendant was required to serve 12 more years than the court indicated would be appropriate at the Rule 402 conference.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That McGraw “Misled” The Defendant Into Pleading Guilty And That The Circumstances Of The Case “Br[ought] The Judiciary Into Disrepute”

The Fourth District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That Statements Made By McGraw “Misled Defense Counsel And Defendant” Into Pleading Guilty

The Fourth District Illinois Appellate Court Found That Statements Made By McGraw At An “Unwise And Unnecessary” Rule 402 Conference, “Misled Defense Counsel And Defendant” Into Pleading Guilty. “So,

what was gained by the trial court's participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court's statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. 82 One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant's vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty." [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That The Sentence Disparity Between McGraw's Original Statements And Imposed Sentence "Was An Injustice"

The Appellate Court Found The Sentence Disparity Between The Courts Original Statements And Imposed Sentence "Was An Injustice" And The "Circumstances Of This Case Bring The Judiciary Into Disrepute."

"So, what was gained by the trial court's participation in the unwise and unnecessary Rule 402 conference in this case? The record provides the answer: nothing at all, except (1) the court's statements at the conference misled defense counsel and defendant into entering an open plea of guilty, (2) the disparity between the 7- or 8-year sentence the court told counsel might be appropriate and the 20-year sentence the court actually imposed was an injustice, and (3) the circumstances of this case bring the judiciary into disrepute. One of the many troubling aspects of this case is that the 20-year sentence the trial court imposed was fully justified given defendant's vicious beating of the young victim and the terrible injuries that small child suffered. Nonetheless, before defendant gave up his right to a trial on these charges by pleading guilty, he had a right to not be misled by the court when it explained the likely sentence he would face by pleading guilty." [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Said The Trial Court Did Not Provide Any Explanation For Why It "Abandoned Its Earlier Assessment Of A Fair And Proper Sentence And Imposed One Over Two Times Greater"

Appellate Court: "Glaringly Absent From The Record In The Present Case Is Any Explanation Why The Trial Court Abandoned Its Earlier Assessment Of A Fair And Proper Sentence And Imposed One Over Two Times Greater." "First, in the absence of a record, how can a court of review know what the trial court was told at the Rule 402 conference about the nature of the crime and its effect on any victims? And second, why did the prosecutor at the Rule 402 conference not provide the court with the full information about aggravating factors pertaining to the defendant's criminal behavior that later came out at the sentencing hearing? We see no reason why a prosecutor would refrain from calling aggravating factors to the trial court's attention. This is why we view with skepticism the usual claim that the court 'heard new information' to justify a sentence that is sometimes vastly greater than the sentence the court indicated at the Rule 402 conference was appropriate. Glaringly absent from the record in the present case is any explanation why the trial court abandoned its earlier assessment of a fair and proper sentence and imposed one over two times greater." [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Informed The Defense Counsel He Intended To Impose A Sentence "Far In Excess" Of What Had Previously Been Discussed

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Informed The Defense Counsel He Intended To Impose A Sentence "Far In Excess" Of What Had Previously Been Discussed. "This court has previously written that trial courts should be very hesitant to reject plea agreements reached between a defendant and a prosecutor. However, when such a situation arises, the court should tell defense counsel that (1) the court is unwilling to accept the plea agreement and (2) if the defendant wishes to withdraw his guilty plea, the court would grant that motion and recuse itself from further proceedings. In our opinion, fairness requires no less. Similarly, once the trial court in the present case determined that it was going to impose a sentence that was far in excess of the sentence it had

favorably discussed with the attorneys at the Rule 402 conference, the court should have sua sponte acted to correct the situation. Specifically, the court should have informed defense counsel that because the court intended to impose a sentence upon defendant far in excess of the sentence the court indicated would be appropriate during the Rule 402 conference, the court would give defense counsel an opportunity to discuss with defendant whether he might wish to withdraw his guilty plea, explaining that if defendant so moved, the court would grant the motion and then recuse itself.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found McGraw Should Have Given Defense Counsel An Opportunity To Discuss With The Defendant Whether He Wanted To Withdraw His Guilty Plea.** “This court has previously written that trial courts should be very hesitant to reject plea agreements reached between a defendant and a prosecutor. However, when such a situation arises, the court should tell defense counsel that (1) the court is unwilling to accept the plea agreement and (2) if the defendant wishes to withdraw his guilty plea, the court would grant that motion and recuse itself from further proceedings. In our opinion, fairness requires no less. Similarly, once the trial court in the present case determined that it was going to impose a sentence that was far in excess of the sentence it had favorably discussed with the attorneys at the Rule 402 conference, the court should have sua sponte acted to correct the situation. Specifically, the court should have informed defense counsel that because the court intended to impose a sentence upon defendant far in excess of the sentence the court indicated would be appropriate during the Rule 402 conference, the court would give defense counsel an opportunity to discuss with defendant whether he might wish to withdraw his guilty plea, explaining that if defendant so moved, the court would grant the motion and then recuse itself.” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Found The 402 Hearing Failed To Meet The Required Legal Standards And Never Should Have Been Held

Jim Dey Op-Ed: The Appellate Court Found The Trial Court’s 402 Hearing Failed To Meet The Required Legal Standards And Never Should Have Been Held. “Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child’s injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child’s injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary’s general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Established Specific Guidelines By Which 402 Hearings Must Be Conducted But Compliance Was Rare And Those Meetings Were Usually Held In Secret And Undocumented.** “Higgins was charged with felony offenses carrying six to 30 years in prison for allegedly beating a young boy in his care. The appellate court, which characterized the child’s injuries as horrific, did not dispute the 20-year sentence. It focused on the 402 hearing that failed to meet the required legal standards and never should have been held. For example, the child’s injuries were not fully disclosed at the hearing to Judge Joseph McGraw, a vital factor in his change of mind. Supreme Court rules establish specific guidelines by which these conferences must be conducted. But compliance is rare, and they are usually held in secret and undocumented. The clandestine nature of 402 proceedings conflicts with the judiciary’s general obeisance to concepts of transparency and public accountability in criminal cases.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

The Fourth District Appellate Court Ultimately Affirmed The Defendant’s Conviction, Finding McGraw Explained The Consequences Of His Guilty Plea At His Sentencing Hearing, Negating The Prior Misleading Comments

The Appellate Court Found McGraw Properly Explained To The Defendant The Terms Of His Plea Agreement, Complying With Rule 402. “Here, defendant’s claims fail because the trial court complied with Rule 402. Although the record indicates that the parties and the court had uncertainty about the terms of the plea agreement at the onset of the guilty plea proceedings, any confusion was cleared up during the guilty plea process. [...] The record shows that the trial court complied with Rule 402 by explaining to defendant the terms of his plea agreement in a thorough and detailed manner and making clear the agreement’s essential characteristics: (1) that the sentences would run concurrently and not consecutively, (2) that defendant would receive between 6 and 30 years in prison based on the evidence to be presented at the sentencing hearing, and (3) that the charges against him in an unrelated felony case (case No. 19-CF-3312) would be dismissed. The court also explained to defendant it did not ‘even know what the sentence would be.’ Defendant agreed that he understood those terms and that no one had promised him anything in exchange for his plea. When asked if he had any questions, he simply said ‘no.’” [Fourth District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Higgins*, Case # 4-22-0837, Opinion, filed [9/28/23](#)]

Jim Dey Op-Ed: The Appellate Court Affirmed Trenton Higgin’s Conviction, Finding McGraw Explained To Higgins The Consequences Of His Guilty Plea At The Sentencing Hearing, Negating Comments Made At The 402 Meeting. “The appeals court affirmed Higgins’ conviction because it said McGraw explained to Higgins the consequences of his guilty plea at his sentencing hearing, negating the shortcomings of the 402. That prompted the appellate court to ask ‘what was gained’ by holding a 402 conference in which Higgins was ‘misled.’ The Higgins case created a mess in Winnebago County. In an unusual occurrence, McGraw testified to ‘giving an opinion like seven or eight years, something towards the low end’ to Higgins at the 402. That’s one reason why the appellate court advised trial judges not to participate in 402s and urged the Illinois Supreme Court to prohibit them. The 4th District has previously challenged the propriety of 402s. The court’s strong language in the Higgins case reflects its desire to try again to get the attention of seven Supreme Court justices and hundreds of Illinois trial judges.” [Jim Dey Op-Ed, News-Gazette Illinois, [10/3/23](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw Abused His Discretion By Imposing A \$1,200 Sanction Calculated Using An Hourly Rate That Had “No Relation Whatsoever” To The Expenses Incurred In A Petition Dismissal

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That McGraw Abused His Discretion By Imposing A \$1,200 Sanction And The Court Vacated The Sanction And Remanded The Cause For An Appropriate One. “Here, we hold that the trial court abused its direction when it imposed the \$1,200 sanction. As noted, Rule 137 authorizes ‘an appropriate sanction, which may include *** the amount of reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, *** including a reasonable attorney fee.’ Ill. S. Ct. R. 137(a) (eff. July 1, 2013). [...] For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Walker In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Walker*, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Walker, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That McGraw Abused His Discretion By Using An Hourly Rate That Had “No Relation Whatsoever To The Expenses That The State’s Attorney Incurred In Moving To Dismiss Defendant’s Petition.” “Here, we hold that the trial court abused its direction when it imposed the \$1,200 sanction. As noted, Rule 137 authorizes ‘an appropriate sanction, which may include *** the amount of reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, *** including a reasonable attorney fee.’ Ill. S. Ct. R. 137(a) (eff. July 1, 2013). In this case, the court attempted to award ‘a reasonable attorney fee’ that reflected the State’s ‘expenses incurred’ because of defendant’s petition. However, the court selected an attorney fee of \$150 per hour, based only on its ‘experience in the legal community.’ As defendant points out, this estimate of the hourly rate charged by a private attorney, though ‘modest,’ had no relation whatsoever to the expenses that the State’s Attorney incurred in moving to dismiss defendant’s petition. [...] For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Walker, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

- **Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois: “The Court Selected An Attorney Fee Of \$150 Per Hour, Based Only On Its ‘Experience In The Legal Community.’”** “As defendant points out, this estimate of the hourly rate charged by a private attorney, though ‘modest,’ had no relation whatsoever to the expenses that the State’s Attorney incurred in moving to dismiss defendant’s petition. 19 Contrary to defendant’s implications, we do not suggest that an attorney fee for a State’s Attorney must be based on his hourly salary or limited to the nominal fees in section 4-2002 of the Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/4-2002 (West 2012)). However, the attorney fee ‘must be informed, based on valid reasons, and follow logically from the circumstances of the case.’ Mohica, 2013 IL App (1st) 111695, Here, no testimony was given or evidence offered. Moreover, the trial court’s selection of \$150 per hour was unrelated to the specific circumstances of this case.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Walker, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]
- **The Sanction McGraw Handed Down Was “Unrelated To The Specific Circumstances Of This Case” And “No Testimony Was Given Or Evidence Offered” To Support The Sanction.** “Contrary to defendant’s implications, we do not suggest that an attorney fee for a State’s Attorney must be based on his hourly salary or limited to the nominal fees in section 4-2002 of the Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/4-2002 (West 2012)). However, the attorney fee ‘must be informed, based on valid reasons, and follow logically from the circumstances of the case.’ Mohica, 2013 IL App (1st) 111695, Here, no testimony was given or evidence offered. Moreover, the trial court’s selection of \$150 per hour was unrelated to the specific circumstances of this case. For these reasons, we vacate the \$1,200 sanction and remand the cause for the imposition of an appropriate one. In all other respects, we affirm the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Walker, Case #2-13-0837, Order, filed [5/19/15](#)]

January 2020: McGraw Imposed An Updated Sanction. [17th Circuit Court, People v. Walker, Case #2004-CF-0002576, ROA, [1/7/20](#)]

*DATE ▶ 01/07/2020	*JUDGE ▶ McGraw, Joseph	MICROFILM NUMBER ▶
SEALED ▶	CODE ▶ HR MPSG	
*TEXT ▶	*Hearing Result: Cause comes on for Relief. The Petitioner's Motion to Deny the Motion to Dismiss is denied. The People's Motion/Petition to Dismiss is Heard and Granted. Sanctions imposed, Order entered. Clerk to mail copy of Order to Defendant and the Warden.	

[17th Circuit Court, People v. Walker, Case #2004-CF-0002576, ROA, [1/7/20](#)]

Economic Sanctions Created A Contradictory Effect “That Disproportionately Penalize[d] Citizens For Their Poverty” And Could Perpetuate “A Cycle Of Criminal Justice Involvement.” “Economic sanctions are the most common form of punishment levied by criminal justice systems in the United States. Also known as criminal justice financial obligations (hereafter “CJFOs”), these broadly include court costs, fees, fines, bail, bond, property forfeitures, and restitution associated with civil, traffic, and criminal proceedings. [...] While CJFOs are intended to punish wrongdoers, fund system activities, or deter future crime, those with more contact with the justice system – those with lower socioeconomic status and in predominately minority communities – are more likely to bear the burden of these direct and collateral costs. This creates a contradictory effect that disproportionately penalizes citizens for their poverty or the community they live in, adding to their cumulative disadvantage, perpetuating a cycle of criminal justice involvement.” [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, [8/1/18](#)]

Fast And Loose With Taxpayer Money: While McGraw Was Demanding And Suing For More Funding From The Winnebago County Board And Giving His Staff Raises Without Approval, The County Budget Was In A Deficit That Led To Police Officers Being Laid Off

September 2011: Shortly Before McGraw Became Chief Judge, Former Chief Judge Holmgren Was Able To Advocate For Funding From The Winnebago County Board Without Legal Action

September 2011: When The Former Chief Judge, Holmgren’s Funding Was Held Up By The County Board, She Presented A 16-Page Memo With Statistics And Initiatives To Speed Up The System, The Board Then Voted Unanimously To Give The Court System Funding. “Holmgren, who has served two two-year terms as chief judge, last month presented the County Board a 16-page memo with statistics and initiatives to speed up the system. Holmgren’s memo was in response to a frustrated County Board that held up part of a \$250,000 request from the court system for personnel. Board members were upset at how slowly cases were moving through the system, which led to the growing jail population. The board voted unanimously Thursday to give the court system the money. Maybe that means board members think Holmgren’s initiatives were on the right track. Of course, McGraw has ideas of his own. He told Register Star reporter Kevin Haas he will review how each judge is used. That’s a good move because some judges are busier than others because of the kinds of cases they handle. McGraw sees opportunities for consolidation and reconfiguration that could make the system more efficient.” [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

January 2012-December 2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017.” [17TH Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2016-2017: McGraw Threatened To Use His Position To Pursue Legal Action Against The Winnebago County Board After Rejecting McGraw’s Request To Fund Four Additional Officers, And Then Hired Them Before The Board Could Vote On Funding

March 2016: McGraw Sought \$124,000 To Hire Six Probation Officers

March 2016: McGraw Sought \$124,000 To Hire Six Probation Officers. “Chief Judge Joe McGraw also is seeking \$124,000 to hire six probation officers for the remainder of the fiscal year. He outlined his plan at

Thursday's meeting. McGraw said his office '(doesn't) have a position on the source of the funds.' 'We were underfunded \$200,000 in our fiscal budget for the year,' he said. 'We've come back and asked for six probation officers to fill necessary functions in pretrial, in adult probation and juvenile probation. That's not enough probation to do our statutory and constitutional duties.'" [Rockford Register Star, 3/4/16]

McGraw Requested Funding For Officers To Transport Juvenile Defendants After The Illinois Supreme Court Eliminated The Use Of Restraints During Juvenile Court Proceedings

October 2016: The Illinois Supreme Court Adopted A Rule To Eliminate The Use Of Restraints During Juvenile Court Proceedings. "On Oct. 6, the state high court adopted a rule and amended another to eliminate the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings, unless after a hearing the court finds: restraints are necessary to prevent the minor from injuring his or herself or others, the minor has a history of disruptive behavior or is a flight risk." [Rockford Register Star, [11/6/16](#)]

McGraw Requested That The Winnebago County Board Approve A \$50,000 Budget Amendment To Hire Officers To Transport Juvenile Defendants And Comply With The Supreme Court Ruling. "Earlier this month, however, McGraw informed County Board members that four officers would need to be hired. Two officers to accompany a juvenile in the courtroom and two officers to transport juveniles between the Northrock Drive Juvenile Detention Center and downtown courtrooms. McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance." [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

October 2016: The Winnebago County Board Approved And Then Rescinded \$173,126 In Funding To Comply With The State Mandate Prohibiting Putting Juvenile Offenders In Restraints

The Winnebago County Board Approved And Then Rescinded \$173,126 In Funding To Comply With The State Mandate Prohibiting Putting Juvenile Offenders In Restraints. "The dispute dates back to October when the board approved and then rescinded \$173,126 sought by the judge to pay for additional probation staff to comply with a state mandate that prohibited keeping juvenile offenders in restraints in most cases. The mandate, McGraw says, requires the hiring of additional security personnel. County officials have refused to pay for the personnel and have declined requests to pay for a bailiff for a judge's courtroom." [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

February 2017: McGraw Ended Up Hiring The Officers Before The Board Could Vote On The Money To Pay Them

February 2017: McGraw Ended Up Hiring The Officers Before The Board Could Vote On The Money To Pay Them. "Board members, in turn, were ticked in February when McGraw hired four officers before the board had a chance to vote on the money to pay those officers. (The board voted down the budget amendment.) The board also rejected the judge's request in March for money for a bailiff that he said he needs to accommodate a Supreme Court ruling that said juveniles could no longer be routinely shackled in court." [Rockford Register Star, Editorial, [6/7/17](#)]

February 2017: The Winnebago County Board Overwhelmingly Rejected McGraw's Budget Request, One Republican Board Member Worried That McGraw's Request Would Result In A Tax Hike

February 2017: The Winnebago County Board Overwhelmingly Voted To Reject McGraw's Budget Amendment Request To Pay For Four New Juvenile Detention Center Officers With A Vote Of 17-2.

"Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw blasted — and then threatened — the Winnebago County Board tonight after it rejected his budget request for \$50,000 to help pay for four newly hired Juvenile Detention Center officers. A week after board members voted down the judge's request at a joint Finance and Public Safety

Committee meeting by a vote of 9-2, the entire board rejected the request 17-2. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, was not present.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

At A Joint Finance And Public Safety Committee Meeting Of The Winnebago County Board, Republican Member Gary Jury Said McGraw’s Request Might Result In A Tax Hike. “On Oct. 6, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted a rule and amended another to eliminate the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings, unless after a hearing the court finds: restraints are necessary to prevent the minor from injuring his or herself or others, the minor has a history of disruptive behavior or is a flight risk. The no shackling ruling went into effect Nov. 1. [...] McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance. McGraw’s request is the result of another ‘unfunded state mandate’ that may result in a tax hike, said County Board member Gary Jury, R-7, at a joint Finance and Public Safety committees meeting Wednesday.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

- **Gary Jury: “We Don’t Have Any Money, [...] We’re Broke. ... So We Are Going To Have To Raise Taxes.”** “McGraw is asking the County Board to approve a \$50,000 budget amendment to hire the necessary officers and pay them through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Thereafter, the annual cost for the four hires is estimated at \$205,140, which includes health and life insurance. McGraw’s request is the result of another ‘unfunded state mandate’ that may result in a tax hike, said County Board member Gary Jury, R-7, at a joint Finance and Public Safety committees meeting Wednesday. ‘We don’t have any money,’ Jury said. ‘We’re broke. ... So we are going to have to raise taxes.’ Finance Chairman Ted Biondo, R-20, said, ‘The question isn’t whether Winnebago County should do this or not. We have to do it. It’s the fact that do we really need four full-time detention people in order to follow the Supreme Court order, and what do we have to cut to do it?’ McGraw did not attend the joint committee meeting Wednesday.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/20/17](#)]

February 2017: McGraw Threatened Legal Action Against The Winnebago County Board For Refusing To Approve His Budget Amendment Request, McGraw’s Legal Threat Was Unprecedented

February 2017: After The Winnebago County Board Refused To Approve His Budget Amendments McGraw “Blasted – And Then Threatened” The County Board With Legal Action

February 2017: In Response To The Winnebago County Board Refusing To Approve His Budget Request, McGraw Said “The County Is Now Forced To Consider Whether It Will Exercise Its Inherent Authority To Compel The County Board To Meet Its Constitutional And Statutory Obligations.” “Without taking questions, McGraw ended his statement by saying, ‘This kind of financial neglect cannot continue. The Court is now forced to consider whether it will exercise its inherent authority to compel the County Board to meet its constitutional and statutory obligations.’” [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

- **Rockford Register Star: McGraw “Blasted – And Then Threatened – The Winnebago County Board” After It Rejected His Budget Request.** “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw blasted — and then threatened — the Winnebago County Board tonight after it rejected his budget request for \$50,000 to help pay for four newly hired Juvenile Detention Center officers. A week after board members voted down the judge’s request at a joint Finance and Public Safety Committee meeting by a vote of 9-2, the entire board rejected the request 17-2. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, was not present.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/10/17](#)]

McGraw’s Threat Of Legal Action Was An Unprecedented Step No Other Chief Judge In The County Had Taken

McGraw Threatened Legal Action After The County Board Voted Down His Budget Amendments, Taking Legal Action Would Be An Unprecedented Action By A Chief Judge In The County. “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw is threatening legal action against the County Board for failing to fund the hires of four new juvenile detention officers and a court bailiff. McGraw’s two budget amendment requests for more money, a result of recent mandates by the Illinois Supreme Court, have each been voted down by the County Board. On

Wednesday, McGraw sent County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral a 13-page letter outlining a history of continued reduction in funding to the County's court system and its impact on services to the community. [...] McGraw went on to state he is reluctantly taking a step that he can recall no other chief judge in the county ever being forced to take. He said, 'I will, on the schedule discussed below, enter an order compelling the County to satisfy its financial obligations to the criminal justice system.' The County Board has until April 28 to submit a written response in opposition. If the County Board fails to comply with McGraw's demands, a formal order will be submitted on May 1. The judge's letter and pending actions have been building for years." [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

McGraw's Request Came In The Midst Of A Deficit In Winnebago County's Budget

2017: Rockford Register Star: "The County [Winnebago] Has A \$2.5 Million Deficit In The 1 Percent Public Safety Sales Tax, And A \$1.7 Million Deficit In The General Fund." "Nine of 17 board members at tonight's County Board meeting voted against a budget amendment that would release funds to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board's 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass. [...] After the meeting, Haney expressed disappointment over the board's vote. 'One of the driving forces why some board members have concerns is budgetary,' he said. The county has a \$2.5 million deficit in the 1 percent Public Safety Sales Tax, and a \$1.7 million deficit in the general fund." [Rockford Register Star, [6/8/17](#)]

June 2017: The Winnebago County Board Again Rejected McGraw's Funding Request

June 2017: The Winnebago County Board Again Rejected McGraw's Funding Request. "Unfazed by a threat of litigation, the Winnebago County Board rejected a request for funding by 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw. Nine of 17 board members at Thursday's County Board meeting voted against a budget amendment that would release funds to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board's 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass." [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

2017: McGraw Threatened To Use His Position To Punish The Winnebago County Board After It Rejected McGraw's Request To Fund A New Bailiff

March 2017: McGraw Requested Funding For A New Bailiff

March 2017: McGraw Requested Funding For A New Bailiff. "The Winnebago County Board didn't discuss a judge's request for funding to pay for a new bailiff Thursday, but their 18-1 vote rejecting the budget amendment was heard loud and clear. 'No more unfunded state mandates,' board member Gary Jury, R-7, said before and after the vote. Chief Judge Joe McGraw was seeking \$13,700 to pay for the salary of a bailiff for the rest of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. The hiring of the bailiff would coincide with the appointment of new Associate Judge Donald Shriver." [Rockford Register Star, 3/24/17]

March 2017: The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw's Budget Request

March 2017: The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw's Budget Request For A New Bailiff. "The Winnebago County Board didn't discuss a judge's request for funding to pay for a new bailiff Thursday, but their 18-1 vote rejecting the budget amendment was heard loud and clear. 'No more unfunded state mandates,' board member Gary Jury, R-7, said before and after the vote." [Rockford Register Star, 3/24/17]

- **County Board Member Gary Jury Criticized McGraw's Request Saying: "We've Cut, Cut And Cut, We Can't Spend What We Don't Have. When Do You Say, 'No?' [...] We Are At The Point Now Of We Raise Taxes Or We Don't Raise Taxes, And I'm Not Going To Raise Taxes."** "Another unfunded state mandate. That's what Winnebago County Board members are saying after Chief Judge Joe McGraw's request

to hire a full-time bailiff and serve in the courtroom of newly appointed Associate Judge Donald Shriver. Trial Court Administrator Tom Jakeway made the request on McGraw's behalf last week at a joint meeting of the County Board's Finance and Public Safety committees. Jakeway said the Illinois Supreme Court reviewed the county's court case load and population size and decided to add another judge to the 17th Circuit Court, which includes Winnebago and Boone counties. 'Sure the state gives us the judge, but that's not a gift,' County Board member Gary Jury said. While the state pays for the salary and benefits of a judge, bailiffs serving in state court are county employees. McGraw is seeking \$13,700. However, board members were quick to note that the dollar amount is only for the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30 and excludes benefits. Next year, the county will be on the hook for the full salary and benefits, which totals to about \$42,000. 'We've cut, cut and cut,' Jury, R-7, said. 'We can't spend what we don't have. When do you say, 'No?' Somebody is going to lose their job if this is a mandate. We are at the point now of we raise taxes or we don't raise taxes, and I'm not going to raise taxes.' After much discussion, the joint committee narrowly passed the budget amendment by a vote of 7-6. The matter is now slated to be voted on today by the full County Board." [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/17](#)]

March 2017: McGraw Threatened Legal Action In Response To The County Board Rejecting His Budget Request

McGraw Threatened Legal Action In Response To The County Board Rejecting His Budget Request.

"Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw is threatening legal action against the County Board for failing to fund the hires of four new juvenile detention officers and a court bailiff." [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

McGraw Said The Board "Has Deliberately Chosen To Abdicate Its Legal Responsibility To Support Our Court System In Carrying Out The Duties Which Are Required Of It Under Law."

"On Wednesday, McGraw sent County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral a 13-page letter outlining a history of continued reduction in funding to the County's court system and its impact on services to the community. The judge said: 'At the very time when citizens of this community are increasingly looking to the criminal justice system to address the problems which have so conspicuously afflicted us, the Winnebago County Board has deliberately chosen to abdicate its legal responsibility to support our court system in carrying out the duties which are required of it under law.'" [Rockford Register Star, 3/30/17]

A Winnebago County Board Member Criticized McGraw's Threat Of Legal Action And Said Elected Official Should Not "Be Threatened With Litigation For Doing Their Jobs" Calling It "Bad Government"

Winnebago Board Member Dan Fellers Said McGraw's Legal Action Was "Simply Bad Government Between Elected Officials" And Said "No Other Group Of Elected Officials Should Be Threatened With Litigation For Doing Their Jobs."

"The judge has since threatened legal action against the county for failing to provide him with funding. That has rankled more than one board member. 'What we are going through here is simply bad government between elected officials,' board member Dan Fellers, D-19, said. 'No other group of elected officials should be threatened with litigation for doing their jobs.' Fellers suggested laying over the matter for more discussion, but the proposal did not receive a vote. He voted against the amendment." [Rockford Register Star, [6/8/17](#)]

May 2017: McGraw Issued A Legal Order Against The Winnebago County Board In Response To The Board Denying Two Of His Budget Requests

May 2017: McGraw Issued A Legal Order Against The Winnebago County Board In Response To The Board Denying Two Of His Budget Requests. "Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw has made good on his threat to take action against the Winnebago County Board for failing to accommodate his two budget amendment requests. He is ordering the County Board to come up with the money to fund his requests. In a scathing 13-page letter issued March 29 to County Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Susan Goral, McGraw criticized the County Board for rejecting his request to fund the hiring of four new juvenile

detention officers and a court bailiff. His request for money for the hires is a result of recent mandates by the Illinois Supreme Court that prohibits, with some exceptions, the use of restraints during juvenile court proceedings. In his letter, McGraw gave the board until April 28 to submit a written response. If the board failed to comply with his demands, he said, a formal order would be submitted on May 1.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/2/17](#)]

June 2017: McGraw Ordered The Board To Spend After They Rejected Funding For Legal Research Materials

Rockford Register Star: In June 2017, “Faced With Mounting Budget Issues” The Winnebago County Board Rejected McGraw’s Request For Funding. “The latest budget amendment was thought to be a compromise of sorts. Money was identified in the judge’s budget to pay for the officers, bailiff and the purchase of Westlaw legal research access costing \$50,000. In return, the board would restore the \$173,126 that was taken back in October. On Thursday, nine of 17 board members, faced with mounting budget issues, voted against a budget amendment that would have released funding to McGraw to pay for the hiring of four juvenile detention corrections officers, a bailiff and law books. Three of the board’s 20 members were absent. The amendment needed a supermajority of at least 14 votes to pass. Access to the legal research materials is essential for lawyers and the courts to do their jobs, ‘granting access to the basic, minimum required databases for Illinois and Federal cases and statutes,’ Trial Court Administrator Tom Jakeway and Public Defender David Doll told Winnebago County board members in a letter dated April 7. McGraw declined to comment today beyond citing a letter he sent to county officials and his court order, Jakeway said in an email to the Register Star.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

June 2017: McGraw Ordered The County Board To Spend \$50,00 On Legal Research Materials After The Board Rejected A Budget Amendment To Pay For The Items. “Chief Judge Joseph McGraw today ordered Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney and Treasurer Susan Goral to spend \$50,000 of county funds on legal research materials after board members on Thursday rejected a budget amendment to pay for the items. It’s the latest episode in a rift over spending between McGraw and the County Board, triggering a potential legal battle between the circuit court and the board. The dispute dates back to October when the board approved and then rescinded \$173,126 sought by the judge to pay for additional probation staff to comply with a state mandate that prohibited keeping juvenile offenders in restraints in most cases. The mandate, McGraw says, requires the hiring of additional security personnel. County officials have refused to pay for the personnel and have declined requests to pay for a bailiff for a judge’s courtroom.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/9/17](#)]

July 2017: McGraw Sued The Winnebago County Board Over Funding

HEADLINE: “Joe McGraw Sued Winnebago County Board Over Funding.” [Rockford Register Star, [7/25/17](#)]

- **McGraw Sued The Winnebago County Board, A Move The Board Chairman Called “Concerning” And “Dangerous.”** “Judge Joe McGraw will be represented by the Illinois Attorney General’s Office in his continuing dispute with the County Board. McGraw, the 17th Judicial Circuit Court’s chief judge, has filed suit against Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney, county Treasurer Sue Goral and the County Board. A hearing Tuesday revealed his legal representation. The lawsuit stems from a series of County Board decisions to deny McGraw’s requests for funding for court services. In a prepared statement, Haney called the judge’s actions ‘concerning’ and ‘dangerous.’” [Rockford Register Star, [7/25/17](#)]

July 2017: McGraw Sued The County Board “In An Attempt To Force The Release Of Funds To Pay For The Hiring Of Four Juvenile Corrections Officers, A Bailiff And Law Books.” “The Illinois Attorney General’s Office filed suit today against Winnebago County leaders on behalf of 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw. McGraw is suing the Winnebago County Board, County Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in an attempt to force the release of funds to pay for the hiring of four juvenile corrections officers, a bailiff and law books.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/1/17](#)]

McGraw Sued All 20 Members Of The County Board Under The Authority Of A State Supreme Court Rule, Which Compelled Compliance With Certain Orders Entered By A Chief Circuit Judge. “A temporary injunction granted Friday in favor of Judge Joe McGraw gives the 17th Circuit chief judge a preliminary victory in a protracted budget battle with the Winnebago County Board. The judge and County Board have been at odds since October when the previously elected board approved and then took back \$173,126 to pay for the salaries and benefits of probation employees that McGraw deemed essential. A new board and County Board chairman were elected in November and inherited a deficit in the county's 1 percent public safety sales tax fund, the court's primary funding source. The fund is over budget by \$2.5 million this fiscal year. McGraw sued all 20 members of the board, Chairman Frank Haney and county Treasurer Sue Goral under authority of a state Supreme Court rule, which compels compliance with certain orders entered by a chief circuit judge. Friday's 17th Circuit order, issued by Lee County Judge Ronald L. Jacobson, ensures the county will continue to pay for court services that McGraw deems essential. The order granting the temporary injunction is not the conclusion of the case, but it reflects Jacobson's determination that the court had demonstrated a ‘likelihood of success’ on the merits of its case.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Chair: “Suing The County Is Essentially Suing The Taxpayer For More Money — Money It Doesn't Appear To Have. At Some Point, We Need To Come To Grips With Our Financial Reality.” “However, County Board Chairman Frank Haney said the board's duty to adopt a balanced budget and allocate funds may be challenged by 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw in a lawsuit, a lawsuit previously thought to be all but dismissed. As a result, Haney is expected to recommend Thursday to the County Board that they hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, at a cost of \$225 per hour. [...] The ‘mere threat’ of a suit is causing the county to spend money, Haney said. ‘Judge McGraw is a good chief judge and was a solid County Board member in the past from what I have heard. However, you don't get to be both at the same time. Government, for all of its flaws, thankfully has a good check and balance system. ‘... Suing the county is essentially suing the taxpayer for more money — money it doesn't appear to have. At some point, we need to come to grips with our financial reality and start working together to maximize outcomes with the money we actually have versus the money we wish we had.’” [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/17](#)]

September 2017: A Judge Granted A Temporary Injunction In Favor Of McGraw, With The Board Granting McGraw The Funding As A Result

September 2017: A Judge Granted A Temporary Injunction In Favor Of McGraw, Requiring the Board To Pay Salaries For Four Additional Officers, An Additional Bailiff Position, And Legal Books. “A temporary injunction granted Friday in favor of Judge Joe McGraw gives the 17th Circuit chief judge a preliminary victory in a protracted budget battle with the Winnebago County Board. The judge and County Board have been at odds since October when the previously elected board approved and then took back \$173,126 to pay for the salaries and benefits of probation employees that McGraw deemed essential. A new board and County Board chairman were elected in November and inherited a deficit in the county's 1 percent public safety sales tax fund, the court's primary funding source. The fund is over budget by \$2.5 million this fiscal year. McGraw sued all 20 members of the board, Chairman Frank Haney and county Treasurer Sue Goral under authority of a state Supreme Court rule, which compels compliance with certain orders entered by a chief circuit judge. Friday's 17th Circuit order, issued by Lee County Judge Ronald L. Jacobson, ensures the county will continue to pay for court services that McGraw deems essential. The order granting the temporary injunction is not the conclusion of the case, but it reflects Jacobson's determination that the court had demonstrated a ‘likelihood of success’ on the merits of its case. Jacobson's order requires that the county: - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all juvenile detention staff, including the hiring of four additional officers through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all probation department staff through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay salaries and benefits of all court bailiff staff, including funding for an additional bailiff position through the end of the fiscal year. - Continue to pay \$50,000 for Westlaw legal books for the judges and Public Defender's Office through the end of the fiscal year.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Granted Funding For McGraw's Request. “McGraw, represented by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, filed suit on Aug. 1 against the County Board, Haney and Treasurer Sue Goral

seeking funding to pay the salaries of four juvenile detention officers for a total of \$205,140; a bailiff, \$42,000; probation staff, \$173,126; and Westlaw legal books, \$50,000. The board granted funding for each of those items at its Sept. 28 meeting.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/17](#)]

December 2017: McGraw Filed Another Court Order Requiring The County Board To Restore The Spending Cuts

December 2017: McGraw Filed Another Court Order Requiring The County Board To Restore Spending Cuts. “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joe McGraw ordered the County Board Wednesday to restore \$326,852 worth of spending cuts made in September that he says compromise court services and public safety. The court order filed by McGraw is the latest round of budgetary tug-of-war between the chief judge and the County Board as the county grapples with fighting crime while maintaining a balanced budget. McGraw's nine-page order demands the board restore court, probation and detention staff funding to fiscal 2017 levels, and that it continues to pay public defender staff positions funded under the 2017 budget.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Chief Judge Joe McGraw Orders Winnebago County Board To Restore Budget Cuts.”** [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

McGraw Fought The County Board Over \$300,000 In Budget Cuts, While The Sherriff’s Department Faced A \$4.3 Million Dollar Budget Cut. “McGraw and the County Board have been at odds for months over the county’s fiscal year 2018 budget, which went into effect Oct. 1. Confronted with a projected \$6.8 million budget shortfall, the board passed a balanced budget on Sept. 28 by slicing the budgets of several departments, including \$4.3 million from the sheriff’s budget and \$300,000 from McGraw’s. Sheriff Gary Caruana has laid off 64 reserve deputies, 10 correctional officers and other personnel, accounting for about \$2.5 million in reductions. McGraw, however, filed an order earlier this month demanding that the County Board restore to his budget \$326,852 worth of spending cuts made in September. He said the cuts compromise court services and public safety. He is demanding that the board restore court, probation and detention staff funding to fiscal 2017 levels as well as continue to pay public defender staff positions that were funded in the 2017 budget.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/22/17](#)]

- **Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney Criticized McGraw’s Administrative Order And Said “We Cannot Litigate Our Way Out Of Our Budget Shortfalls. Nobody Can.”** “In a Register Star photograph taken last year at the swearing in ceremony for Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney and other newly-elected county officials, 17th Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Joe McGraw peered over the shoulder of Haney as he signed paperwork inside of Veterans Memorial Hall. [...] In the weeks leading up to the new county budget, Sheriff Gary Caruana and Judge McGraw publicly voiced their concerns. After the budget was passed, concerns turned to frustration as more than 60 county reserve deputies were laid off. Last week, McGraw filed an administrative order demanding the County Board restore more than \$300,000 worth of spending cuts to his budget as well as that of the Public Defender's Office. Haney's response: ‘We cannot litigate our way out of our budget shortfalls. Nobody can.’ Without instituting what the chairman called a ‘budget reset,’ he compared the county's fiscal trajectory to that of the state's. ‘I believe financially, we are in a position that Springfield was in years ago, meaning you knew you weren't on a structurally sound path. You need to make changes now so that it does not get worse later. Well, that's what we did. Springfield was in that position some years ago. They didn't make the tough changes, and now look what a mess they have. That's not responsible.’” [Rockford Register Star, [12/9/17](#)]

April 2018: The Lawsuit Was Settled With The County Board Restoring \$386,000 In Spending Cuts To McGraw

April 2018: The Lawsuit Was Settled With The County Board Restoring \$386,000 In Spending Cuts To McGraw. “Winnebago County has settled a lawsuit over budget cuts made to court offices. The county board last month approved the restoration of \$386,000 in spending cuts at the request of new county 17th Judicial Circuit

Court Chief Judge Eugene Doherty, effectively clearing up the main sticking point of the lawsuit filed last year. The board's desire to balance the county budget and former Chief Judge Joe McGraw's unwillingness to accept spending cuts to services he deemed essential led to the dispute." [Rockford Register Star, [4/27/18](#)]

- **McGraw Initially Demanded \$787,000 In Funding Be Restored.** "McGraw had previously demanded that \$787,000 be restored to the Circuit Court, Public Defender, Juvenile Detention and Court Services. The settlement approved by both parties amounts to less than half that amount." [Rockford Register Star, [4/27/18](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Chair Said McGraw's "Dangerous" Actions Violated "Basic Checks And Balances Of Government" And "Hijack[ed] Representative Government"

The Winnebago County Board Chair Called McGraw's Actions "Concerning" And "Dangerous" And Said It "Essentially Hijacks Representative Government And Silences Voters Who Get To Elect Their Board Representatives Every Four Years." "McGraw, the 17th Judicial Circuit Court's chief judge, has filed suit against Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney, county Treasurer Sue Goral and the County Board. A hearing Tuesday revealed his legal representation. The lawsuit stems from a series of County Board decisions to deny McGraw's requests for funding for court services. In a prepared statement, Haney called the judge's actions 'concerning' and 'dangerous.' 'Today's decision by the 17th Judicial Court to engage legal counsel over a simple budget dispute is concerning. The courts continue to press forward with their notion that they somehow should decide how county tax dollars should get allocated. This is an attempt to circumvent the 20 citizen-representatives of this community (County Board) who were elected specifically to do just that. Is this the first time a department head of a public institution wanted more taxpayer money? No! Of course not. Are any of them suing their elected board or council? No! Is litigating vs. governing common in county government across the state? No. This move is dangerous in that it essentially hijacks representative government and silences voters who get to elect their board representatives every four years. It perverts the check and balance system we all know works better than any conceivable alternative.' Haney, Goral and the County Board are being represented by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. David Kurlinkus, the state's attorney's chief of staff, said the case will be tried without a jury and likely before a judge from outside of 17th Circuit Court. The next court date has yet to be set." [Rockford Register Star, [7/26/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Chair: McGraw's Actions Were Violating "Basic Checks And Balances Of Government." "'The County Board is elected to set the budget, not the chief judge,' Haney said. 'I respect the important work of the courts. The County Board has met all previous demands by the judge. But this is getting to a point where basic checks and balances of government are being violated. 'This is government gone wild and the answer is no.'" [Rockford Register Star, [12/6/17](#)]

Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: "The Ongoing Dispute With McGraw Stems From The County's Need For Spending Cuts"

Winnebago County Board Majority Leader: "The Ongoing Dispute With McGraw Stems From The County's Need For Spending Cuts." "County Board Majority Leader David Boomer said the ongoing dispute with McGraw stems from the county's need for spending cuts. The county's proposed fiscal 2018 budget includes public safety spending cuts across several departments, including a \$4.3 million reduction for the Sheriff's Department, a \$300,000 cut for courts and probation, a \$300,000 cut for the State's Attorney's office and \$250,000 less for the Public Defender's office." [Rockford Register Star, [9/8/17](#)]

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Needed To Lay Off As Many As 100 Employees Due To The Budget Deficits

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Needed To Lay Off As Many As 100 Employees Due To The Budget Deficits. "The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office sent letters to reserve deputies Tuesday informing them of

layoffs at the end of the month. ‘We regret to inform you that your reserve deputy position with Sheriff’s Office of Winnebago County is being reduced,’ the letter from Sheriff Gary Caruana reads. ‘Budgetary constraints have dictated a reorganization within the office, and, therefore you are being placed on layoff, effective September 30, 2017.’ The sheriff employs as many as 64 reserve deputies, who are responsible for security at the Winnebago County Courthouse, the Justice Center, Juvenile Courthouse and Adult Probation. If the reserve deputies are laid off as planned, the sheriff said the metal detectors and X-ray machines at those facilities will not be staffed. ‘If I can get some patrol people in there full time to walk around and do some roving patrols, at least we’ll have something in there,’ Caruana said. The Winnebago County Board is battling with a projected \$6.8 million deficit next fiscal year and has proposed \$4.3 million in cuts to Caruana’s budget. Caruana says he can absorb \$1.5 million in cuts to his \$38 million budget, but that deeper reductions would severely affect public safety. ‘It’s a sad day,’ Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney said. ‘A lot of good people are impacted by a budget reality that’s been building over many years.’ Caruana said he will need to cut as many as 100 employees to meet the \$4.3 million mark. In addition to reserve deputies, the sheriff said the cuts will come from several departments including corrections, 911 personnel, civil processing and deputies on the street.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/19/17](#)]

- **64 Reserve Deputies, 10 Correctional Officers, And Other Personnel Were Laid Off.** “Sheriff Gary Caruana has laid off 64 reserve deputies, 10 correctional officers and other personnel, accounting for about \$2.5 million in reductions.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

NOTE: The Winnebago County Sheriff and McGraw appeared together at a [press conference](#) to criticize the budget cuts.

Winnebago County Budget Cuts Forced The Sheriff’s Department To Disband A TAC Unit Which “Played A Big Role In Local Human Trafficking Investigations” And Tackled Drug Crimes

HEADLINE: “Winnebago County Budget Cuts Force Sheriff’s Department To Disband TAC Unit.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

Budget Cuts To The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office Forced The Department To Close The TAC Unit, Which Was Responsible For Tackling Street Crimes Like Human Trafficking And Drugs. “The loss of \$4.3 million due to budget cuts to the Winnebago County sheriff’s office has forced the department to do away with a crucial unit responsible for tackling street crimes like human trafficking and drugs. Sheriff Gary Caruana says he plans on this being a temporary move and hopes to get the unit back together as soon as possible. There’s no word yet on when that will be. The team of eight deputies enforced street crimes working primarily in plain clothes and unmarked cars. The unit focused on streets crimes like weapons offenses, violent crimes and drug trafficking offenses. The unit also played a big role in local human trafficking investigations. [...] The county says the TAC unit was disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

- **The TAC Unit “Played A Big Role In Local Human Trafficking Investigations.”** “The loss of \$4.3 million due to budget cuts to the Winnebago County sheriff’s office has forced the department to do away with a crucial unit responsible for tackling street crimes like human trafficking and drugs. Sheriff Gary Caruana says he plans on this being a temporary move and hopes to get the unit back together as soon as possible. There’s no word yet on when that will be. The team of eight deputies enforced street crimes working primarily in plain clothes and unmarked cars. The unit focused on streets crimes like weapons offenses, violent crimes and drug trafficking offenses. The unit also played a big role in local human trafficking investigations. [...] The county says the TAC unit was disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

Chief Deputy Mark Karner: “We As A Community Are Much Better Off With The Service Of That Unit. Having To Reassign Those Deputies Is Not A Good Thing For Anybody.” “‘We as a community are much better off with the service of that unit. Having to reassign those deputies is not a good thing for anybody,’ said Chief Deputy Mark Karner with the Winnebago County Sheriff’s department. The county says the TAC unit was

disbanded last week. The tact team in its current form was created under the guidance of Sheriff Gary Caruana.” [23 WIF, [10/30/17](#)]

During The Budget Deficit, McGraw Gave Staff Pay Raises Without Approval From The Winnebago County Board

During The “Budget Crisis,” McGraw Gave Staff Pay Raises Without Approval From The Winnebago County Board. “While Winnebago County departments absorb spending cuts of \$6.8 million amid a budget crisis, nearly 100 people working under Chief Judge Joe McGraw will get a 3 percent pay raise each year for the next four years starting Jan. 1. The employees — 78 probation and detention officers and 20 circuit court employees — are members of the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council. The contract was adopted without approval of the Winnebago County Board. [...] ‘We get no say in it or involvement in the process, but we have to pay for it with limited dollars in the midst of a budget crisis,’ Winnebago County Administrator Carla Paschal said.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Winnebago County Court Employees To Receive Pay Raises ‘In The Midst Of Budget Crisis.’”** [Rockford Register Star, [12/21/17](#)]

Republican Winnebago County Board Member Ted Biondo: McGraw’s Pay Raises Were The “Height Of Irresponsibility And Shows The Total Disregard Of The County’s Current Budget Crisis.” ‘The Winnebago County Board voted 17-3 Thursday in approval of a three-year labor contract with Sheriff’s Department deputies and detectives who are represented by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. [...] [...] David Kelly, R-9; Jim Webster, R-2; and Ted Biondo, R-20, voted against the agreement. [...] Reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday’s joint Finance and Public Safety committee meeting, Biondo said: ‘The (former Chief Judge Joe McGraw) is threatening a lawsuit to restore his budget, removing the cuts duly made by the County Board, which are covered by state statute. In addition, the chief judge handed out 12 percent raises (3 percent each year over four years) and promotions to 100 court employees that report to him, but the salaries and benefits are paid by county taxpayers.’ ‘This is the height of irresponsibility and shows the total disregard of the county’s current budget crisis.’ ‘And if that’s not enough, the sheriff has engaged an attorney (Terry Ekl of Lisle-based Ekl, Williams and Provenzale) at taxpayers’ expense to attempt to force the County Board, against that same state statute, to not only stop cutting his budget beyond the \$2.5M that’s been cut to date but to restore those cuts.’ Biondo called the actions of McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana ‘precedent setting in the state of Illinois.’ He also said the two officials are depleting the county’s general and Public Safety Sales Tax reserve funds to levels lower than that required by board policy and credit agencies.’ [Rockford Register Star, [1/25/18](#)]

- **Biondo: McGraw’s Actions Were “Precedent Setting In The State Of Illinois” And Depleted The County’s General And Public Safety Sales Tax Reserve Funds.** ‘The Winnebago County Board voted 17-3 Thursday in approval of a three-year labor contract with Sheriff’s Department deputies and detectives who are represented by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. Reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday’s joint Finance and Public Safety committee meeting, Biondo said: ‘The (former Chief Judge Joe McGraw) is threatening a lawsuit to restore his budget, removing the cuts duly made by the County Board, which are covered by state statute. In addition, the chief judge handed out 12 percent raises (3 percent each year over four years) and promotions to 100 court employees that report to him, but the salaries and benefits are paid by county taxpayers.’ ‘This is the height of irresponsibility and shows the total disregard of the county’s current budget crisis.’ ‘And if that’s not enough, the sheriff has engaged an attorney (Terry Ekl of Lisle-based Ekl, Williams and Provenzale) at taxpayers’ expense to attempt to force the County Board, against that same state statute, to not only stop cutting his budget beyond the \$2.5M that’s been cut to date but to restore those cuts.’ Biondo called the actions of McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana ‘precedent setting in the state of Illinois.’ He also said the two officials are depleting the county’s general and Public Safety Sales Tax reserve funds to levels lower than that required by board policy and credit agencies.’ [Rockford Register Star, [1/25/18](#)]

The Winnebago County Board Had To Hire A Law Firm At A Rate Of \$225 Per Hour To Defend Itself Against McGraw's Lawsuit

The Winnebago County Board Hired A Chicago-Based Law Firm As Defense Against McGraw's Lawsuit, The Law Firm Was Hired At A Rate Of \$225 Per Hour. "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. At issue are the \$300,000 in cuts the board made to the judge's budget as well as cuts to the State's Attorney's Office (\$200,000), Public Defender's Office (\$150,000), Sheriff's Department (\$4.3 million) and other departments in order to pass a balanced fiscal year 2018 budget. The fiscal year began Oct. 1. Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit." [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]

- **State's Attorney Joe Bruscato Recused Himself And His Staff From McGraw's Lawsuit Necessitating The Hiring Of Outside Council.** "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. [...] Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit. 'We have the state's attorney, the coroner, the circuit clerk, the treasurer, the county recorder and county clerk all abide by what we did with the budget, but we have two people (McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana) who insist they can mandate their own funds, I find that ridiculous.' State's Attorney Joe Bruscato recused himself and his staff from the lawsuit necessitating the hiring of outside council. After the full board approved the hire, Haney said, 'We have to move forward as a county. I don't want to be hiring outside council. I think it's unfortunate but necessary under the current climate.' Robbins Schwartz is a law firm Haney and board member Ted Biondo, R-20, are familiar with from their days on the Rock Valley School Board." [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]
- **The Winnebago County Board Chairman Expressed Frustration Over The "Unfortunate" Necessity Of Hiring Outside Council.** "The Winnebago County Board decided Thursday to hire Robbins Schwartz, a Chicago-based law firm, to represent the Winnebago County Board, Board Chairman Frank Haney and County Treasurer Sue Goral in a pending lawsuit filed Aug. 1 by 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Court Judge Joe McGraw. [...] Minutes before the board meeting, Finance Committee members approved hiring the law firm at a rate of \$225 per hour. Board member Gary Jury, R-7, also expressed his frustration over the lawsuit. 'We have the state's attorney, the coroner, the circuit clerk, the treasurer, the county recorder and county clerk all abide by what we did with the budget, but we have two people (McGraw and Sheriff Gary Caruana) who insist they can mandate their own funds, I find that ridiculous.' State's Attorney Joe Bruscato recused himself and his staff from the lawsuit necessitating the hiring of outside council. After the full board approved the hire, Haney said, 'We have to move forward as a county. I don't want to be hiring outside council. I think it's unfortunate but necessary under the current climate.' Robbins Schwartz is a law firm Haney and board member Ted Biondo, R-20, are familiar with from their days on the Rock Valley School Board." [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/17](#)]

Appellate Courts Repeatedly Reversed McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Postconviction Petitions, McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Petitions Inhibited Their Ability To Challenge Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

Post Conviction Petitions Allowed Defendants To Challenge Their Sentence Based On Violations Of Their Constitutional Rights

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Common Post-Conviction Petitions Raised Issues Of Juror Misconduct, Newly Discovered Evidence Of Innocence, And Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel.** “Common post-conviction petitions. Common issues raised in post-conviction proceedings include: Juror misconduct: For example, you might argue that jurors improperly did their research on the evidence, Newly discovered evidence of innocence: Sometimes new evidence is found after the trial is over, Failure of the prosecutor to turn over evidence of innocence: This can include witness statements or physical evidence, and Ineffective assistance of counsel: This is a mistake by a lawyer, which can include failing to investigate, or failing to show important evidence to the jury.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [6/30/21](#)]

Once Filed, Post-Conviction Petitions Proceed Through Three Stages: Summary Dismissal, Motion To Dismiss And The Evidentiary Hearing Stage

Once Filed, The First Stage Of A Post-Conviction Petition Is The Summary Dismissal Stage. “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Summary Dismissal Stage: A Trial Court Would Review The Petition To Determine If It Made A Good Argument And Was Based On Correct Legal Theory And Believable Claims; If The Petition Did Not It Was Summarily Dismissed.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If The Trial Court Did Not Dismiss The Petition Initially In The Summary Dismissal Stage, The Petition Would Move On To The Motion To Dismiss Stage, The Second Stage. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original

petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **Motion To Dismiss: If The Petitioner Could Not Afford An Attorney, Then The Court May Appoint One, An Attorney Would Then Consult With Petitioner To Determine Whether Their Claims Had Merit, The Attorney Could Then Amend The Petition To Better Present The Petitioner’s Claims.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **At The Motion To Dismiss Phase, The State Could File A Motion To Dismiss The Petition And The Judge Could Dismiss The Petition If It Did Not Substantially Show A Violation Or Had A Procedural Error.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **If The Court Found Allegations Made In The Petition, If True, Would Indicate Relief Was Necessary Then The Petition Would Move On, If Not It Would Be Dismissed.** “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If The Petition Survived The First Two Stages Of Review, The Trial Court Would Hold An Evidentiary Hearing, The Third Stage. “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **The Petitioner Had A Right To An Attorney At The Evidentiary Hearing And The Court Can Receive Evidence By Affidavit, Deposition, Or Live Testimony.** “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **After The Evidentiary Hearing The Trial Court Would Enter A Final Order On The Petition, If The Court Denied The Petition It Could Be Appealed To An Appellate Court.** “Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

If Claims Of Constitutional Rights Violations In Post-Conviction Petition Are Affirmed By A Court, The Court Could Offer A Defendant Relief Including Requesting A New Trial Or Correcting Sentencing Errors. “Post-conviction relief in Illinois is controlled by the Post-Conviction Hearing Act. What the Act provides is to permit individuals convicted of a crime to pursue collateral remedies after a direct appeal. Relief can include requesting a new trial or correcting sentencing errors. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence or conviction based on violations of state and federal constitutional rights. This usually only includes challenges which were not raised during the direct appeal process. If the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, but wasn’t, it typically cannot be raised in a post-conviction petition.” [Barkan Research, [10/20/21v](#)]

Petitioners Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition, To File Any Additional Post-Conviction Petitions The Defendants Has To Request Permission From The Court

Petitioners May Only File One Post-Conviction Petition, If A Petitioner Wants To File A Second Or Successive Petition They Must Request Permission From The Court And Show That They Could Not Have Raised The Claim Of A Constitutional Rights Violation In Their Initial Petition. “(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that the resulting conviction or sentence violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s 2nd Stage Dismissal Of A Postconviction Petition And Found That The Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As His Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance In Supporting Defendant’s Civil Rights Claims

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

In A Postconviction Petition, An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection During His Jury Trial As The Entire Jury Pool Contained No African Americans

An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection As The Jury Pool Had No African-Americans While The Population Of The City Where The Trial Was Held Was One-Third African-American

In A Post-Conviction Petition, An African American Defendant Claimed He Was Denied Equal Protection During His Jury Trial, As The Entire Jury Pool Contained No African Americans. “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. 4 An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us ’ ; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Jury Pool Was Not Indicative Of The Population Of Rockford, Which Was Nearly One-Third African American.** “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. 4 An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us ’ ; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

In The Petition, Defendant Claimed His Trial Counsel Was Ineffective Because They Failed To Move To Dismiss The Jury Panel Even After The Defendant Voiced His Concerns

Defendant Claimed His Trial Counsel Was Ineffective Because They Failed To Move To Dismiss The Jury Panel, After Defendant Voiced His Concerns Over The Jury Pool, Counsel Claimed It Would Benefit

Defendant. “Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand. [...] On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us ’ ; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

McGraw Denied Defendant’s Petition At The 2nd Stage And Found His Jury Pool Claim Was Insufficient And The Petition Failed To Show Trial Counsel’s Decision Not To Challenge The Jury Was Unreasonable

McGraw Dismissed Defendant’s Amended Petition And Found The Jury Pool Claim Was Insufficient And That The Petition Failed To Show The Trial Counsel’s Decision Was Not A Reasonable Strategy. “On October 20, 2008, he filed his pro se petition. As pertinent here, it alleged that defendant, who is African-American, was denied equal protection in that the jury pool contained no African-Americans. It also alleged generally that trial counsel was ineffective. An accompanying memorandum alleged that, during jury selection, defendant told his attorney that there were no African-Americans in the entire jury pool; that his attorney responded, ‘ its [sic] O.K., it may help us ’ ; and that the trial was held in Rockford, which is nearly one-third African-American. The memorandum elaborated on the claim that trial counsel had been ineffective. As pertinent here, it repeated the account of defendant’s exchange with his attorney about the jury pool, and it alleged further that counsel performed unreasonably in failing to move to dismiss the jury panel (see 725 ILCS 5/114-3 (West 2004)). The pro se petition and memorandum attached no affidavits. The trial court appointed counsel for defendant and moved the proceedings to the second stage. Counsel filed an amended postconviction petition. [...] The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel’s decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **McGraw Also Stated The Issues Raised In The Petition Could Have Been Raised On Direct Appeal And Therefore Were Forfeited.** “The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel’s decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]
- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Ingram In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

2016 IL App (2d) 140709-U
No. 2-14-0709
Order filed August 25, 2016

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee.)	
v.	)	No. 05-CF-1780
LOUIS C. INGRAM,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

McGraw's Denial Of Defendant's Post-Conviction Petition At The Second Stage Prevented The Defendant's Petition And Claims Of Constitutional Rights Violations From Receiving An Evidentiary Hearing

By Dismissing Defendant's Claim At The Second Stage (Summary Dismissal), McGraw Prevented Defendant's From Receiving An Evidentiary Hearing. "Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner's contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief." [...] Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

NOTE: In this case, McGraw appointed post-conviction counsel to Defendant at the second stage of summary dismissal.

On Appeal From McGraw's Dismissal, Defendant Alleged His Post Conviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance And Did Nothing To Support Jury-Pool Claims In The Amended Petition

After McGraw Dismissed Defendant's Amended Petition, Defendant Appealed And Claimed His Postconviction Attorney Did Not Provide The Level Of Assistance Required By Law. "The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel's decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed. On appeal, defendant contends that, although his postconviction attorney filed a certificate of compliance with Rule 651(c), the record as a whole shows that he did not provide the level of assistance that the Act and the rule require. He argues that, although the amended petition included the jury-pool claim, counsel did nothing to support it beyond obtaining defendant's affidavit. Defendant reasons that, had counsel concluded that the claim could not be made in reasonable good faith, he would not have included it—but, having concluded that the claim was reasonable, he was obligated to investigate it and to attempt to support it with evidence. Defendant asserts that counsel could have found such evidence." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Ingram, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

Defendant Alleged That His Postconviction Attorney Included The Jury-Pool Claim In The Amended Petition, He Did Nothing To Support The Claim Aside From Obtaining Defendant’s Affidavit. “The trial court dismissed the amended petition. The court agreed with the State that the jury-pool claim was insufficient, as it failed every prong of the Duren-Simms test and also failed to show that trial counsel’s decision was not reasonable trial strategy. Further, the court stated, the issue could have been raised on direct appeal, so it was forfeited. Defendant timely appealed. On appeal, defendant contends that, although his postconviction attorney filed a certificate of compliance with Rule 651(c), the record as a whole shows that he did not provide the level of assistance that the Act and the rule require. He argues that, although the amended petition included the jury-pool claim, counsel did nothing to support it beyond obtaining defendant’s affidavit. Defendant reasons that, had counsel concluded that the claim could not be made in reasonable good faith, he would not have included it—but, having concluded that the claim was reasonable, he was obligated to investigate it and to attempt to support it with evidence. Defendant asserts that counsel could have found such evidence.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Petition And Found The Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Denial Of Defendant’s Petition And Found Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated As Postconviction Counsel Failed To Provide A Reasonable Level Of Assistance. “Held: Postconviction counsel failed to comply with Rule 651(c), as he submitted a jury pool-exclusion claim but did not state it sufficiently or support it with available evidence; thus, we reversed the dismissal of defendant’s petition and remanded the cause for compliance with the rule. Defendant, Louis C. Ingram, appeals the second-stage dismissal of his amended petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2014)) from his conviction, after a jury trial, of aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4(a)(3) (West 2004)). Defendant contends that his postconviction counsel failed to provide the reasonable level of assistance required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 651(c) (eff. Feb. 6, 2013). We reverse and remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Also “Disagree[d] With The Trial Court” That Defendant’s Claim Was Forfeited.** “We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant’s claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel’s ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded ” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]
- **The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants.** “Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Defendant’s Postconviction Counsel “Submitted A Patently Insufficient Claim Of A Constitutional Violation” And “Neglected To Take Easily Available Measures” To Support The Claim. “We agree with defendant that his postconviction counsel did not fulfill all of his obligations under Rule 651(c) and that the judgment must be reversed and the cause remanded. Defendant has demonstrated first that counsel submitted a patently insufficient claim of a constitutional violation: the amended petition’s allegation that defendant

was denied a jury pool that represented a fair cross-section of the community did not even set out the elements of that claim and, more important, it provided minimal or no factual allegations on each element. Defendant has demonstrated second that counsel neglected to take easily available measures to support two of the elements of the claim. It would not have been difficult to attach census data or other evidence to prove that African-Americans represented a distinctive group within the pertinent community. Also, while defendant's affidavit provided some evidence that there were no African-Americans in the venire, the more definitive statement of the prospective juror, which was not disputed, was easily available from the trial-court record." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found Counsel Could Have Easily Attached Census Data To Prove That African-Americans Represented A Distinctive Group Within Rockford, And A Statement Confirming There Were No African-Americans In The Jury Pool Was “Easily Available From The Trial-Court Record.”** “We agree with defendant that his postconviction counsel did not fulfill all of his obligations under Rule 651(c) and that the judgment must be reversed and the cause remanded. Defendant has demonstrated first that counsel submitted a patently insufficient claim of a constitutional violation: the amended petition's allegation that defendant was denied a jury pool that represented a fair cross-section of the community did not even set out the elements of that claim and, more important, it provided minimal or no factual allegations on each element. Defendant has demonstrated second that counsel neglected to take easily available measures to support two of the elements of the claim. It would not have been difficult to attach census data or other evidence to prove that African-Americans represented a distinctive group within the pertinent community. Also, while defendant's affidavit provided some evidence that there were no African-Americans in the venire, the more definitive statement of the prospective juror, which was not disputed, was easily available from the trial-court record.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]
- **The Appellate Court Found The Amended Postconviction Petition Submitted By Postconviction Counsel Was “Deficient Not Merely For The Absence Of Evidence (Or The Lack Of Any Explanation For That Absence) But Also For Legal Insufficiency.”** “Finally, while we agree with defendant that evidence of systematic discrimination would have been more difficult to obtain, the amended postconviction petition does not even show that counsel was aware of this element or, assuming that he was aware of it, that he made any effort to obtain such evidence. The amended petition's claim was thus deficient not merely for the absence of evidence (or the lack of any explanation for that absence) but also for legal insufficiency. We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant's claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel's ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). 22 The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Remanded The Cause To The Trial Court. “Finally, while we agree with defendant that evidence of systematic discrimination would have been more difficult to obtain, the amended postconviction petition does not even show that counsel was aware of this element or, assuming that he was aware of it, that he made any effort to obtain such evidence. The amended petition's claim was thus deficient not merely for the absence of evidence (or the lack of any explanation for that absence) but also for legal insufficiency. We do disagree with the trial court (and the State at the trial-court level) that the claim was forfeited. Because defendant's claim was that his trial attorney was ineffective, and this claim required (and to a very limited degree counsel supplied) evidence outside the trial-court record, it was not forfeited. See *People v. Evans*, 186 Ill. 2d 83, 94 (1999) (forfeiture rule does not apply when facts relating to claim of counsel's ineffectiveness do not appear on face of record). 22 The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and the cause is remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Ingram*, Case #2-14-0709, Order, filed [8/25/16](#)]

NOTE: After the cause was remanded, Defendant was appointed counsel and filed a successive post-conviction petition. On July 17th, 2018, Defendant's post-conviction proceedings were withdrawn, there were no available court documents indicating any additional details.

McGraw Denied A Defendant's Request To File A Post-Conviction Petition That Alleged Five Constitutional Rights Violations; An Appellate Court Reversed His Decision And The Defendant Was Ultimately Found To Have Been Wrongfully Convicted After Spending 23 Years In Prison

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights, Defendants Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition And Had To Request Permission From The Court To File An Additional Successive Post-Conviction Petitions

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

Petitioners Could Only File One Post-Conviction Petition Without Permission From The Court. “(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that the resulting conviction or sentence violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- **To File A Second Or Successive Petition, A Petitioner Must Request Permission From The Court And Show That They Could Not Have Raised The Claim Of A Constitutional Rights Violation In Their Initial Petition.** “(725 ILCS 5/122-1) (from Ch. 38, par. 122-1) Sec. 122-1. Petition in the trial court. (a) Any person imprisoned in the penitentiary may institute a proceeding under this Article if the person asserts that: (1) in the proceedings which resulted in his or her conviction there was a substantial denial of his or her rights under the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Illinois or both; [...] (f) Only one petition may be filed by a petitioner under this Article without leave of the court. Leave of court may be granted only if a petitioner demonstrates cause for his or her failure to bring the claim in his or her initial post-conviction proceedings and prejudice results from that failure. For purposes of this subsection (f): (1) a prisoner shows cause by identifying an objective factor that impeded his or her ability to raise a specific claim during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings; and (2) a prisoner shows prejudice by demonstrating that the claim not raised during his or her initial post-conviction proceedings so infected the trial that the resulting conviction or sentence violated due process. (Source: P.A. 102-639, eff. 8-27-21; 103-51, eff. 1-1-24.)” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Defendant Filed A Motion For Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition Alleging Five Constitutional Rights Violations, McGraw Denied His Request To File A Petition

Defendant Filed A Motion For Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition, Which Alleged Five Constitutional Violations And Included “The Proposed Successive Petition And Voluminous Exhibits.” “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant’s request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **Defendant Alleged 1) Newly Discovered Evidence Proved Defendant Was Actually Innocent, 2) The State Violated Its Discovery Obligation At Trial, 3) Defendant’s Trial Attorneys Were Ineffective, 4) Defendant’s Attorney On Direct Appeal Was Ineffective, And 5) Defendant’s Sentence Of Life Without Parole Violated The 8th Amendment.** “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant’s request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

McGraw Denied Defendant’s Request To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition As To All Of His Claims Of Constitutional Violations. “On September 2, 2013, this time with the benefit of counsel,¹ defendant filed a ‘Motion for Leave to File a Successive Post-Conviction Petition,’ which included the proposed successive petition and voluminous exhibits. Defendant’s successive petition alleged five constitutional violations: (1) newly discovered evidence proved defendant was actually innocent; (2) at trial, the State violated its discovery obligation under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) defendant’s trial attorneys were ineffective; (4) defendant’s attorney on direct appeal was ineffective; and (5) defendant’s sentence of life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment (U. S. Const., amend. VIII) because the trial court failed to adequately consider defendant’s youth at his sentencing hearing. [...] In its written objection, the State argued that defendant had not set forth a colorable claim of actual innocence. It also alleged that defendant had not demonstrated cause for his failure to bring the claim in his initial post-conviction proceedings, and that prejudice resulted from that failure as required under section 1(f) of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act). 725 ILCS 5/122-1(f) (West 2010). After considering the pleadings and the arguments of the parties, the trial court denied defendant’s request for leave to file a successive post-conviction petition as to all of his claims. Defendant timely appealed.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Horton In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

NOTE: Defendant had filed three previous post-conviction petitions, all of which were dismissed by the trial court and one of which was also dismissed on appeal to the appellate court. The motion to file a successive (4th) post-conviction petition was the first defendant filed with the benefit of counsel.

The Second District Appellate Court Found McGraw Erred By Denying Defendant’s Request To File A Successive Petition Post-Conviction Petition And Said There Was “Nothing In The Record To Even Remotely Suggest That The State Complied” With Its Obligation To Disclose Evidence In Its Possession

The Appellate Court Found That McGraw Erred By Denying Defendant Leave To File A Successive Post-Conviction Petition Alleging The State Violated Its Discovery Obligations Under Brady v. Maryland.

“Defendant failed to establish a colorable claim of actual innocence in his successive post-conviction petition. However, the trial court erred in denying defendant leave to file a successive post-conviction petition alleging that the State violated its discovery obligations pursuant to Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). Because the pleadings and record establish a Brady violation, we reverse defendant’s convictions and we remand for a new trial. We also address evidentiary issues regarding the admissibility of statements against penal interest that will likely arise on retrial. Finally, we denied defendant’s request to assign a different judge on remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **Brady Obligations Were The Duty Of Prosecutors To Fully Disclose To The Accused All Evidence In Their Possession.** “Brady requires that prosecutors fully disclose to the accused all exculpatory evidence in their possession. Subsequent Supreme Court decisions have elaborated the Brady obligations to include the duty to disclose (1) impeachment evidence, (2) favorable evidence in the absence of a request by the accused, and (3) evidence in the possession of persons or organizations (e.g., the police).” [Advisory Committee On Criminal Rules Of The Judicial Conference Of The United States, Report, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Appellate Court: “There Is Nothing In The Record To Even Remotely Suggest That The State Complied With Its Brady Obligations.” “Although this court affirmed the defendant’s conviction, it strongly condemned the conduct of the prosecution, saying ‘[w]ere it not for the overwhelming evidence of defendant’s guilt in this case, we would be compelled to reverse.’ Id. at 796. Unlike in Vargas, there is nothing in the record to even remotely suggest that the State complied with its Brady obligations. For all these reasons we deny the State’s petition for rehearing upon modification of the minor changes contained within this order.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Horton, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found Error In The Trial Court’s Brady Court Ruling, But Found No Expression Of Prejudice Towards The Defendant And Denied Defendant’s Request For A New Judge On Remand.**

“Finally, defendant requests that we order a different judge to hear this case on remand. We have carefully reviewed the record and, while we found error in the trial court’s ruling regarding the Brady claim, we find no expression of prejudice toward defendant. In the exercise of our discretion we decline defendant’s request. The trial court’s order appointing a special prosecutor from the Office of the State’s Attorney’s Appellate Prosecutor will continue to be in effect, subject to the pleasure of the Attorney General.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Established A Brady Violation And That There Was “A Reasonable Probability That The Result Of Defendant’s Trial Would Have Been Different” Had Evidence Been Disclosed. “We find that defendant has established a Brady violation, i.e., there is a reasonable probability that the result of defendant’s trial would have been different had the impeachment evidence been disclosed. We recognize that in his successive petition and his brief before this court defendant requests an opportunity to move forward with his petition in the trial court. However, we have determined de novo that the State violated Brady, which can never be harmless. *Beaman*, 229 Ill. 2d at 81 (citing *People v. Coleman*, 183 Ill. 2d 366, 393 (1988)). While ordinarily at this juncture in the case we would remand the case with directions to the trial court to allow defendant leave to file his Brady claim, a hearing is unnecessary and would be a waste of judicial time and resources. [...] Therefore, ‘[u]nder the unusual circumstances of this case, we find that defendant is entitled to a new trial.’ *Jimerson*, 166 Ill. 2d at 230-31 (a finding that a witness committed perjury in denying an inducement to testify entitled the defendant to a new trial instead of sending the case back for a third stage evidentiary hearing).” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Was Entitled To A New Trial Due To The “Unusual Circumstances Of The Case.” “We find that defendant has established a Brady violation, i.e., there is a reasonable probability that the result of defendant’s trial would have been different had the impeachment evidence been disclosed. We recognize that in his successive petition and his brief before this court defendant requests an opportunity to move forward with his petition in the trial court. However, we have determined de novo that the State violated Brady, which can never be harmless. *Beaman*, 229 Ill. 2d at 81 (citing *People v. Coleman*, 183 Ill. 2d 366, 393 (1988)). While ordinarily at this juncture in the case we would remand the case with directions to the trial court to allow defendant leave to file his Brady claim, a hearing is unnecessary and would be a waste of judicial time and resources. [...] Therefore, ‘[u]nder the unusual circumstances of this case, we find that defendant is entitled to a new trial.’ *Jimerson*, 166 Ill. 2d at 230-31 (a finding that a witness committed perjury in denying an inducement to testify entitled the defendant to a new trial instead of sending the case back for a third stage evidentiary hearing).” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Horton*, Case #2-14-1059, Order, filed [10/12/16](#)]

Following The Appellate Court’s Decision To Return The Case For A New Trial, Prosecutors Dropped Charges As Another Man Had Confessed To The Murder For Which Defendant Was Wrongfully Convicted

After An Appellate Court Decision Returned The Case To The Trial Court, A Special Prosecutor Dropped The Charges Against Horton After His Cousin Repeatedly Confessed To The Killing He Was Wrongfully Convicted Of. “A man who spent 23 years in prison for murder was granted a certificate of innocence Monday in Winnebago County court. John W. Horton Jr., 42, of Rockford was all smiles after emerging from Judge Joe McGraw’s courtroom. ‘It was a long road, but man, I’m blessed by the outcome,’ Horton said, standing outside the courtroom with his wife and two of his five daughters. ‘Today my daughters officially got their father back with his name.’ The certificate not only clears Horton’s name, it also allows him to seek financial compensation. Horton was charged with the Sept. 19, 1993, murder and armed robbery of Arthur Castaneda at a McDonald’s at 2715 Charles St. Horton, who was 17 at the time, has maintained his innocence. He was sentenced in 1995 to life in prison, but in October 2016 the Illinois Appellate Court ruled that he was entitled to a new trial. A special prosecutor dropped the charges Oct. 4, 2017. Horton’s cousin Clifton English has repeatedly confessed to the killing but has never been charged. English is in prison for a similar murder committed at the former Bombay Bicycle Club days after Castaneda’s death. McGraw, reading his ruling in court, said that English has no reason to lie.” [Loevy + Lovey, [12/18/18](#)]

McGraw Granted The Defendant A Certificate Of Innocence After He Spent 23 Years In Prison For A Murder He Did Not Commit

McGraw Granted John Horton, The Defendant, A Certificate Of Innocence After He Spent 23 Years In Prison For A Murder He Was Wrongfully Convicted Of. “A man who spent 23 years in prison for murder was granted a certificate of innocence Monday in Winnebago County court. John W. Horton Jr., 42, of Rockford was all smiles after emerging from Judge Joe McGraw’s courtroom. ‘It was a long road, but man, I’m blessed by the outcome,’ Horton said, standing outside the courtroom with his wife and two of his five daughters. ‘Today my daughters officially got their father back with his name.’ The certificate not only clears Horton’s name, it also allows him to seek financial compensation. Horton was charged with the Sept. 19, 1993, murder and armed robbery of Arthur Castaneda at a McDonald’s at 2715 Charles St. Horton, who was 17 at the time, has maintained his innocence. He was sentenced in 1995 to life in prison, but in October 2016 the Illinois Appellate Court ruled that he was entitled to a new trial. A special prosecutor dropped the charges Oct. 4, 2017. Horton’s cousin Clifton English has repeatedly confessed to the killing but has never been charged. English is in prison for a similar murder committed at the former Bombay Bicycle Club days after Castaneda’s death. McGraw, reading his ruling in court, said that English has no reason to lie.” [Loevy + Lovey, [12/18/18](#)]

McGraw Denied A Defendant’s Post-Trial Motion Claiming 6th Amendment Violations; The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Denial Finding Counsel Was Ineffective And Allowed “The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To The Crime” To Go “Uncorroborated And Unchallenged”

Following A Jury Trial, Post-Trial Motions Allowed Defendants To File For Relief And To Address Errors That May Have Occurred During The Trial

Following A Trial In A Jury Case, A Defendant Could File For Relief In A Single Post-Trial Motion Stating The Relief Requested And The Grounds In Support Of The Motion. “Relief desired after trial in a jury case must be included in a single post-trial motion. The post-trial motion must contain the points relied upon and specify the grounds in support of the post-trial motion. It must also state the relief desired. Examples of relief desired include the entry of a judgment or the granting of a new trial. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(b). The motion must be filed within 30 days of entry of the judgment or the discharge of the jury, if no verdict is reached, or within any further time the court may allow within the 30 days or any extensions. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(c). Filing on time, ‘stays enforcement of the judgment’ which means the judgment cannot be enforced for a period of time. This usually lasts until the hearing on the motion. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(d). Any party who does not request a new trial in his or her post-trial motion waives the right to ask for a new trial, except in cases in which the jury did not reach a verdict. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(e). A court must rule on all relief requested in post-trial motions. 735 ILCS 5/2-1202(f).” [Illinois Legal Aid, [9/11/18](#)]

A Post-Trial Motion Could Be Filed To Correct An Apparent Error That Occurred During The Trial. “If you lose at trial as a result of an apparent error, you can file a post-trial motion to correct the error. You might file a motion for a new trial based on an error in the jury verdict. For example, a motion for a new trial might be appropriate if the jury finds a defendant liable but awards no damages, when the plaintiff’s evidence clearly supports the damages that they have incurred. These motions can be hard to win unless the error was obvious.” [Justia, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

McGraw Denied A Defendant’s Post-Trial Motion Alleging 6th Amendment Violations

After A Man Was Convicted Of Residential Burglary By A Jury Trial, He Filed A Post-Trial Motion Alleging 6th Amendment Violations As Counsel Failed To Challenge DNA Evidence. “Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant’s pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel’s failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence. On December 10, 2009, the court sentenced defendant to 30 years’ imprisonment. Defendant

did not file a postsentencing motion. On appeal, defendant argues that both trial and posttrial counsel provided ineffective assistance. Specifically, defendant asserts that, where the only evidence the State produced against him constituted a partial DNA ‘match,’ trial counsel provided ineffective assistance in that she did not: (1) cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present any evidence regarding the fact that the partial profile should be considered a ‘nonmatch’ and was not, in fact, unique; (2) present any expert testimony to establish that the statistical calculations relied upon by the State and its expert were flawed; and (3) understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury. As to posttrial counsel, defendant asserts that counsel provided ineffective assistance where he was appointed for the purpose of filing postsentencing motions but, instead, filed only a notice of appeal. For the following reasons, we conclude that defendant was denied the effective assistance of trial counsel. We reverse his conviction and remand for a new trial with new counsel. We do not reach the issue of whether posttrial counsel was ineffective.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants.** “Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

McGraw Denied The Defendant’s Post-Trial Motion Alleging Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel. “Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant’s pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel’s failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Watson In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

<i>People v. Watson, 2012 IL App (2d) 091328</i>	
Appellate Court Caption	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. TROY S. WATSON, Defendant-Appellant.
District & No.	Second District Docket No. 2-09-1328
Filed	January 25, 2012
Held <i>(Note: This syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader.)</i>	Defendant’s conviction for residential burglary was reversed and the cause was remanded for a new trial with new counsel where defendant’s trial counsel was ineffective in failing to cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present evidence that the partial profile should be considered a “nonmatch,” failing to present expert testimony that the statistical calculations relied on by the State were flawed, and failing to understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury, and defendant’s posttrial counsel was ineffective in only filing a notice of appeal without filing any postsentencing motions.
Decision Under Review	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, No. 08-CF-1692; the Hon. Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, presiding.
Judgment	Reversed and remanded.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Defendant's 6th Amendment Rights Were Denied And Said Counsel Allowed "The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To The Crime" To Go "Uncorroborated And Unchallenged"

The Appellate Court Concluded That The Defendant Was Denied The Effective Assistance Of Trial Counsel.

“Following a jury trial, defendant, Troy S. Watson, was convicted of residential burglary (720 ILCS 5/19-3(a) (West 2006)). On December 3, 2009, the trial court denied defendant’s pro se posttrial motion alleging, in part, ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel’s failure to challenge the allegedly marginal statistical significance of admitted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence. On December 10, 2009, the court sentenced defendant to 30 years’ imprisonment. Defendant did not file a postsentencing motion. On appeal, defendant argues that both trial and posttrial counsel provided ineffective assistance. Specifically, defendant asserts that, where the only evidence the State produced against him constituted a partial DNA ‘match,’ trial counsel provided ineffective assistance in that she did not: (1) cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present any evidence regarding the fact that the partial profile should be considered a ‘nonmatch’ and was not, in fact, unique; (2) present any expert testimony to establish that the statistical calculations relied upon by the State and its expert were flawed; and (3) understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury. As to posttrial counsel, defendant asserts that counsel provided ineffective assistance where he was appointed for the purpose of filing postsentencing motions but, instead, filed only a notice of appeal. For the following reasons, we conclude that defendant was denied the effective assistance of trial counsel. We reverse his conviction and remand for a new trial with new counsel. We do not reach the issue of whether posttrial counsel was ineffective.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

- **Appellate Court: “It Is Clear That Counsel’s Challenge To This [DNA] Evidence Was Virtually Nonexistent, And Quite Possibly Counsel Simply Did Not Understand The Evidence.”** “When we view in its entirety the manner in which defense counsel handled the DNA issue in this case, it is clear that counsel’s challenge to this evidence was virtually nonexistent, and quite possibly counsel simply did not understand the evidence. Again (and unlike the cases upon which the State relies to argue that convictions may be upheld on partial-profile matches), the only evidence linking defendant to this crime (the seven-loci comparison) was uncorroborated and unchallenged. Counsel’s cross-examination of the only witness linking defendant to the crime consisted of three questions. We do not mean to suggest that the number of questions asked rendered the performance per se unreasonable. Indeed, we acknowledge that, generally speaking, whether to call particular witnesses and the manner and extent of cross-examination are matters of trial strategy that will not ordinarily support an ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claim. *People v. Ramey*, 152 Ill. 2d 41, 54 (1992). However, as an ineffective-assistance claim requires consideration of how a reasonably effective defense attorney would conduct himself or herself if confronted with the circumstances of the defendant’s trial, the question of what constitutes sound trial strategy is necessarily fact-dependent.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]
- **Appellate Court: “The Only Evidence Linking Defendant To This Crime (The Seven-Loci Comparison) Was Uncorroborated And Unchallenged.”** “When we view in its entirety the manner in which defense counsel handled the DNA issue in this case, it is clear that counsel’s challenge to this evidence was virtually nonexistent, and quite possibly counsel simply did not understand the evidence. Again (and unlike the cases upon which the State relies to argue that convictions may be upheld on partial-profile matches), the only evidence linking defendant to this crime (the seven-loci comparison) was uncorroborated and unchallenged. Counsel’s cross-examination of the only witness linking defendant to the crime consisted of three questions. We do not mean to suggest that the number of questions asked rendered the performance per se unreasonable. Indeed, we acknowledge that, generally speaking, whether to call particular witnesses and the manner and extent of cross-examination are matters of trial strategy that will not ordinarily support an ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claim. *People v. Ramey*, 152 Ill. 2d 41, 54 (1992). However, as an ineffective-assistance claim requires consideration of how a reasonably effective defense attorney would conduct himself or herself if confronted with the circumstances of the defendant’s trial, the question of what constitutes sound trial strategy is necessarily fact-dependent.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Watson*, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

NOTE: Justice Birkett dissented and noted that defendant Watson confessed to the burglary.

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found Defendant’s Counsel Was Ineffective, Reversing Defendant’s Convictions And McGraw’s Petition Denial, The Court Remanded The Case For A New Trial

The Appellate Court Reversed Defendant’s Conviction For Residential Burglary And Remanded The Cause For A New Trial With New Counsel As Defendant’s Prior Trial Counsel Was Ineffective. “Defendant’s conviction for residential burglary was reversed and the cause was remanded for a new trial with new counsel where defendant’s trial counsel was ineffective in failing to cross-examine the State’s DNA expert or present evidence that the partial profile should be considered a ‘nonmatch,’ failing to present expert testimony that the statistical calculations relied on by the State were flawed, and failing to understand the DNA evidence or ensure that it was properly explained to the jury, and defendant’s posttrial counsel was ineffective in only filing a notice of appeal without filing any post sentencing motions.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Watson, Case #2-09-1328, Opinion, filed [1/25/12](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was the judge presiding over People v. Watson in the Winnebago County Circuit Court, but Watson was ultimately convicted by a jury.

After A New Trial, McGraw Sentenced The Defendant To 17 Years In Prison

November 2016: McGraw Sentenced The Defendant, Troy Watson To 17 Years In Prison With Credit For 2974 Days Served. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]



*DATE * 11/02/16 *JUDGE * McGraw, Joseph MICROFILM NUMBER *
SEALED * CODE * BN JAM
Sentence Modified: RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
Facility: Department of Corrections
*TEXT * *Certification Type: DOC
Sentence Term: 17 years
Credit Time Served: 2974 days

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- **Troy Watson Received A Negotiated Plea Under McGraw.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]



*DATE * 11/08/2016 *JUDGE * McGraw, Joseph MICROFILM NUMBER *
SEALED * CODE * HR NEGP
*TEXT * *Hearing Result: Cause comes on for Plea. Result: Negotiated Plea

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Troy S Watson, Case #2008-CF-0001692, ROA Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Post-Conviction Petition Finding Defendant’s 6th Amendment Rights Were Violated, The Appellate Court Remanded The Petition To The Trial Court To Proceed To The Second Stage And Appoint Defendant An Attorney

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a

petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

McGraw Dismissed A Postconviction Petition That Claimed The Defendant Was Deprived Of His 6th Amendment Rights, By Dismissing The Petition At The First Stage Defendant Did Not Receive An Attorney

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Claiming He Was Deprived of The Effective Assistance Of Counsel – His 6th Amendment Right, McGraw Dismissed Defendant’s Petition In The First Stage

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Claiming He Was Deprived of The Effective Assistance Of Counsel, McGraw Summarily Dismissed His Petition As Frivolous And Patently Without Merit. “On October 16, 2014, the defendant filed a postconviction petition, asserting that he was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel. The trial court dismissed his petition as frivolous and patently without merit. On November 3, 2014, the trial court ordered that the defendant’s sentence for child abduction be served consecutively to the sentences he had received for criminal sexual assault. The trial court’s order had the effect of increasing the defendant’s cumulative sentence from 45 years’ imprisonment to 48 years’ imprisonment. On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court did not comply with this court’s mandate in Trotter I and that his sentence is excessive. The defendant further contends that the trial court erred in dismissing his post-conviction petition. We affirm the defendant’s sentence but remand for additional post-conviction proceedings. [...] On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel’s failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State’s plea offer of a 20-year prison term.” [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

- **Summary Dismissal Indicated The Postconviction Petition Was Dismissed In The First Stage.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **Dismissal Based On Finding A Petition Was “Frivolous And Patently Without Merit” Means The Petition May Have Had A Good Argument But Was Based On Incorrect Legal Theory Or Claims That Were Not Believable.** “Once your post-conviction petition is filed, it may proceed through three stages. Summary dismissal stage: The first stage is the summary dismissal stage. A trial court will review the petition to determine if it makes a good argument. If the petition does not have a good argument, it will be summarily dismissed. The petitioner can appeal that decision. A petition with a good argument cannot be ‘frivolous and patently without merit.’ That means it is based on an incorrect legal theory or claims that are not believable. The petition only needs to allege enough facts to assert an arguable claim. Formal legal arguments and citations are not required. However, the petition must set forth some objective facts that can be supported. Otherwise, it must explain why those facts are missing.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]
- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Trotter In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

2017 IL App (2d) 141207
 Nos. 2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, cons.
 Order filed March 16, 2017

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(c)(1).

IN THE
 APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
 SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 09-CF-2439
DONALD TROTTER,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court, People v. Trotter, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

The 6th Amendment Guaranteed The Right To Effective Assistance Of Counsel For All Criminal Defendants.

“Effective assistance of counsel is a right guaranteed for criminal defendants under the Sixth Amendment. The purpose of this guarantee is to increase the fairness and likelihood of justice ultimately being reached in a criminal justice system that places private individuals and the government in an adversarial position. The accused defendant must be assisted and represented by either a retained or appointed attorney, who makes decisions about defense strategy without interference from the government. Assistance of counsel is not considered effective if the attorney does not provide the defendant with adequate legal assistance.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

By Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition At The First Stage, Defendant Was Not Given The Assistance Of Counsel In Making His Claims That His Rights Were Violated

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The Summary Dismissal Stage It Moves On To The Second Motion To Dismiss Stage, Where A Court May Appoint An Attorney To Amend The Petition To Better Represent Defendant’s Claims That Their Rights Were Violated. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Petition Dismissal, Sent The Petition Back To The Lower Court And Said Defendant Should Be Appointed Counsel To Assist In Second Stage Consideration Of The Petition

The Second District Appellate Court Reversed McGraw’s Dismissal Of Defendant’s Post-Conviction Petition And Remanded For Counsel To Assist The Defendant With The Second Stage Of Postconviction Proceedings.

“Appeal No. 2-14-1207: On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel’s failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State’s plea offer of a 20-year prison term. [...] Here, as in Barghout, the defendant alleged that he would have accepted the State’s plea offer had his counsel accurately informed him of the maximum sentence that he could receive. The defendant’s allegations were supported by his affidavit. The fact that the defendant received a significantly longer sentence (48 years) than the State offered him via the plea agreement

(20 years) supports a claim that he was prejudiced by his counsel's representation. See *People v. Hale*, 2013 IL 113140, Accordingly, without addressing the merits of the defendant's petition, we reverse the trial court's judgment and remand for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant with the second stage of postconviction proceedings. [...] For the foregoing reasons, in appeal no. 2-14-1207, we reverse the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County and remand for additional proceedings pursuant to the Act." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings, These Proceedings Could Be A New Trial, Consideration Of New Evidence, Or Correction Of Judgement.**

"Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court's proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment." [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

The Appellate Court Found Merit To Defendant's Claims Of Ineffective Assistance Of Counsel Due To The Trial Counsel's Failure To Inform Him Of The Maximum Sentencing Range. "Appeal No. 2-14-1207: On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court erred in summarily dismissing his petition. Specifically, the defendant contends that his petition set forth the potentially meritorious claim of ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel's failure to inform him of the maximum sentencing range, causing him to turn down the State's plea offer of a 20-year prison term. [...] Here, as in *Barghouti*, the defendant alleged that he would have accepted the State's plea offer had his counsel accurately informed him of the maximum sentence that he could receive. The defendant's allegations were supported by his affidavit. The fact that the defendant received a significantly longer sentence (48 years) than the State offered him via the plea agreement (20 years) supports a claim that he was prejudiced by his counsel's representation. See *People v. Hale*, 2013 IL 113140, Accordingly, without addressing the merits of the defendant's petition, we reverse the trial court's judgment and remand for the appointment of counsel to assist the defendant with the second stage of postconviction proceedings. [...] For the foregoing reasons, in appeal no. 2-14-1207, we reverse the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County and remand for additional proceedings pursuant to the Act." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

NOTE: The cause was returned to the trial court under McGraw for a secondary stage hearing with counsel. Court records show the petition moved on to a third stage evidentiary hearing where it was dismissed, McGraw's dismissal at the third stage was affirmed by an Appellate Court in April 2022.

An Appellate Court Said McGraw Should Not Have Dismissed A Defendant's Postconviction Petition Voluntarily Without A Motion To Dismiss Filed By The State, The Court Vacated McGraw's Dismissal And Remanded The Cause

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. "The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

A Defendant Appealed McGraw's Second Stage Dismissal Of His Post Conviction Petition Claiming McGraw Erred By Dismissing The Petition Without A Motion Or Response From The State

A Defendant Appealed McGraw’s Second Stage Dismissal Of His Post Conviction Petition Claiming McGraw Erred By Dismissing The Petition Without A Motion Or Response From The State. “This appeal arises from the second-stage dismissal of defendant’s petition for relief under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act (Act) (725 ILCS 5/122-1 et seq. (West 2010)). Defendant argues that it was error to dismiss the petition before the State answered it or moved for its dismissal. Defendant also argues that his extended term sentence for possession with intent to deliver cocaine is void. We vacate the dismissal of defendant’s postconviction petition and remand for further proceedings. [...] Defendant first argues that it was error for the trial court to dismiss his postconviction petition in the absence of a motion to dismiss filed by the State. [...] Once the initial 90-day period for first-stage review of the petition elapses, the Act makes no provision for disposing of a postconviction petition until the State has either answered the petition or moved to dismiss it. 725 ILCS 5/122-5, 122-6 (West 2010). Any sua sponte disposition after the initial 90-day period is improper. *People v. Greer*, 341 Ill. App. 3d 906, 910 (2003), *aff’d*, 212 Ill. 2d 192 (2004). Here the dismissal occurred well beyond the 90-day period. The State concedes that the dismissal was error and that the case must be remanded so that the State may answer the petition or move for its dismissal.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over *People V. Butler* In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Vacated McGraw’s Order Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Proceedings

The Appellate Court Vacated McGraw’s Order Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Proceedings. “For the foregoing reasons, we vacate the order dismissing defendant’s postconviction petition and remand for further proceedings. We also reduce defendant’s sentence for unlawful possession of cocaine with intent to deliver to 15 years’ imprisonment Judgment modified; order vacated; cause remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Butler*, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings, These Proceedings Could Be A New Trial, Consideration Of New Evidence, Or Correction Of Judgement.** “Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court’s proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment.” [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

NOTE: McGraw did not hand down the sentence that the appellate court modified, Defendant was [sentenced by Judge Edward Prochaska](#).

The Appellate Court Called McGraw's Dismissal Of The Petition Without A Motion From The State "Improper"

The Appellate Court Said McGraw's Dismissal Of Defendant's Petition Without Prompting From The State Or Defendant Was "Improper." "Defendant first argues that it was error for the trial court to dismiss his postconviction petition in the absence of a motion to dismiss filed by the State. This court has recently observed as follows: 'The Act provides a three-stage process for adjudicating postconviction petitions. [Citation.] At the first stage, a trial court considers whether the postconviction petition is frivolous or patently without merit. [Citation.] If the postconviction petition survives the first-stage review, it proceeds to the second stage and is docketed 'for further consideration in accordance with Sections 122-4 through 122-6.' [Citation.] At the second stage, counsel is appointed and the pro se petition may be amended. [Citation.] In addition, the State may answer the petition or seek its dismissal. [Citation.] The proceedings advance to the third stage if the State answers the petition or the court denies the State's motion to dismiss.' People v. Thomas, 2014 IL App (2d) 121001, Once the initial 90-day period for first-stage review of the petition elapses, the Act makes no provision for disposing of a postconviction petition until the State has either answered the petition or moved to dismiss it. 725 ILCS 5/122-5, 122-6 (West 2010). Any sua sponte disposition after the initial 90-day period is improper. People v. Greer, 341 Ill. App. 3d 906, 910 (2003), aff'd, 212 Ill. 2d 192 (2004). Here the dismissal occurred well beyond the 90-day period. The State concedes that the dismissal was error and that the case must be remanded so that the State may answer the petition or move for its dismissal." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

The Appellate Court Said McGraw "Was Not Permitted To Dismiss Sua Sponte Defendant's Postconviction Petition At The Second Stage." "The trial court was not permitted to dismiss sua sponte defendant's postconviction petition at the second stage; thus, we vacated the dismissal and remanded the cause; (2) defendant's extended-term sentence for possession with intent to deliver cocaine was void, as the offense was less serious than his offense of possession with intent to deliver heroin; thus, we reduced the sentence to the maximum nonextended term." [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Butler, Case #2-13-0561, Order, filed [3/12/15](#)]

- **Sua Sponte Indicates A Court Indicate That A Court Took Notice Of An Issue On Its Own Motion Without Prompting Or Suggestion From Either Party.** "Sua sponte: Latin for 'of one's own accord; voluntarily.' Used to indicate that a court has taken notice of an issue on its own motion without prompting or suggestion from either party." [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

By 'Improperly' Dismissing Defendant's Petition Of On His Own Without A Motion From The State, McGraw Cut Short Defendant's Postconviction Petition Before It Could Receive An Evidentiary Hearing

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The First Two Stages Of Review, The Trial Court Would Hold An Evidentiary Hearing. "Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

- **The Petitioner Had A Right To An Attorney At The Evidentiary Hearing And The Court Can Receive Evidence By Affidavit, Deposition, Or Live Testimony.** "Evidentiary hearing stage: If the petition survives the two stages, the trial court will hold an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the court can receive evidence by: Affidavit, Depositions, or Live testimony. The petitioner has a right to an attorney at the evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the petitioner has the burden to prove a violation. After the hearing, the court enters a final order on the petition. If the petition is denied, the petitioner can appeal that decision." [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

NOTE: After the petition was remanded to the trial court, Defendant failed to appear in Court multiple times and could not be located by his Attorney. The petition was dismissed in his absence.

An Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant’s Postconviction Petition,” Reversed McGraw’s Judgement And Remanded The Cause

Post-Conviction Petitions Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights

A Post-Conviction Petition Allowed A Defendant To Challenge A Sentence Based On Violations Of Constitutional Rights. “The Post-Conviction Hearing Act controls post-conviction petitions. A post-conviction petition challenges a sentence based on violations of constitutional rights. These challenges were not raised on direct appeal of the conviction. If you could have raised the issue at trial, you typically cannot raise it in a petition. There are three exceptions to the rule: If fundamental fairness requires the petitioner to be allowed to raise the issue, If you did not raise the issue was because of ineffective assistance of counsel, or If the facts relating to the claim do not appear on the face of the original appellate record.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Alleging His Guilty Plea Was Induced By An Unfulfilled Promise By The State, McGraw Summarily Dismissed His Petition At The First Stage

Defendant Filed A Postconviction Petition Alleging His Guilty Plea Was Induced By An Unfulfilled Promise By The State. “Defendant, Leon Smith, was charged with aggravated discharge of a firearm (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(1) (West 2010)) and aggravated unlawful use of weapons (720 ILCS 5/24-1.6(a)(1), (a)(3)(A) (West 2010)), and he agreed to plead guilty to aggravated discharge of a firearm in exchange for 36 months of probation. As a term of his probation, defendant was required to meet with his probation officer. When defendant failed to do so, the State petitioned to revoke his probation. Defendant admitted to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. That sentence, among other factors, made defendant statutorily eligible for impact incarceration (see generally 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 (West 2010)). However, when defendant arrived at a facility of the Department of Corrections (DOC), he was told that his sentence disqualified him for impact incarceration. Defendant petitioned for postconviction relief. He argued primarily that his admission had been induced by his counsel’s ineffectiveness, but he additionally suggested, with a citation to *People v. Whitfield*, 217 Ill. 2d 177 (2005), that he had relied on an unfulfilled promise by the State. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, and this timely appeal followed. For the reasons that follow, we reverse and remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **The Defendant Pleaded Guilty In Exchange For A Sentence That Would Make Him Eligible For Impact Incarceration, But After Arriving At The Department Of Corrections He Was Incorrectly Informed He Was Not Eligible.** “At the hearing on the petition to revoke defendant’s probation, defendant agreed to admit to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. Defense counsel advised the court that ‘[defendant] is going to execute a consent to participate in the impact incarceration [program],’ that defendant ‘would ask the Court to enter that recommendation,’ and that ‘[defendant] does understand that the final determination [of admission to the program] rests with the [DOC].’ The court agreed to enter a recommendation. [...] After defendant was transferred to the DOC, he inquired about impact incarceration. More specifically, he submitted an ‘Offender Request’ wherein he asserted that he ‘took [b]oot camp with 7 years,’ but, ‘when [he] got to State ville [sic],’ they said [he] wasn’t eligible for [b]oot camp.’ Defendant asked, ‘[C]an you tell me why I was denied[?]’ In a written response, DOC personnel explained that defendant did ‘not qualify because sentence [sic].’ Thereafter, defendant petitioned pro se for postconviction relief, arguing that his admission was constitutionally invalid. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, finding it frivolous and patently without merit. This timely appeal followed. [...] Defendant entered his admission in exchange for a sentence that would, along with other factors, make him statutorily eligible for impact incarceration. Indeed, the record demonstrates that defendant’s statutory eligibility for impact incarceration was the precise benefit for which he bargained. However, though the DOC’s response to his inquiry is not exactly a model of clarity, the DOC, at least arguably, concluded erroneously that his sentence made him statutorily ineligible for impact incarceration. See 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1(b)(4) (2010)

(defendant can be statutorily eligible as long as he ‘has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 8 years or less’). Thus, at least arguably, defendant was denied the benefit of his bargain.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **The Illinois Impact Incarceration Program Allowed Eligible Offenders To Enter A Military Style Boot Camp, The Program Allowed Successful Participants To Return Home After 6 Months Rather Than Serve Their Full Sentence.** “The Illinois impact incarceration program, more commonly referred to as ‘boot camp’, is a program within the Illinois Department of Corrections that allows eligible offenders sentenced to prison the opportunity to significantly reduce their sentence. It is referred to as boot camp because the program is run like a military style boot camp. Most offenders entering the program are not able to get felony probation for a variety of reasons and are, therefore, facing a prison sentence. Boot camp allows its successful participants to be home after approximately 6 months, rather than serve the actual sentence with which they initially entered the Illinois Department of Corrections. If the offender cannot successfully complete the program, he/she will then be required to finish out their remaining sentence. Those who do successfully complete the program and are discharged home, still remain under the control of prison authorities because they will be on parole. If they violate any parole conditions, they can be returned to prison to serve the balance of the original sentence.” [HG.org, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

McGraw Summarily Denied The Defendant’s Petition At The First Stage Of The Postconviction Petition Process. “Defendant, Leon Smith, was charged with aggravated discharge of a firearm (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(1) (West 2010)) and aggravated unlawful use of weapons (720 ILCS 5/24-1.6(a)(1), (a)(3)(A) (West 2010)), and he agreed to plead guilty to aggravated discharge of a firearm in exchange for 36 months of probation. As a term of his probation, defendant was required to meet with his probation officer. When defendant failed to do so, the State petitioned to revoke his probation. Defendant admitted to violating the terms of his probation, in exchange for a seven-year prison sentence. That sentence, among other factors, made defendant statutorily eligible for impact incarceration (see generally 730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 (West 2010)). However, when defendant arrived at a facility of the Department of Corrections (DOC), he was told that his sentence disqualified him for impact incarceration. Defendant petitioned for postconviction relief. He argued primarily that his admission had been induced by his counsel’s ineffectiveness, but he additionally suggested, with a citation to *People v. Whitfield*, 217 Ill. 2d 177 (2005), that he had relied on an unfulfilled promise by the State. The trial court summarily dismissed the petition, and this timely appeal followed. For the reasons that follow, we reverse and remand.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Smith In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

2014 IL App (2d) 130017-U
No. 2-13-0017
Order filed August 25, 2014

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(c)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 10-CF-744
LEON SMITH,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Smith*, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

By Dismissing The Defendant's Postconviction Petition At The First Stage, The Defendant Was Not Given The Assistance Of Counsel In Making His Claims That His Rights Were Violated

If A Post-Conviction Petition Survived The Summary Dismissal Stage It Moves On To The Second Motion To Dismiss Stage, Where A Court May Appoint An Attorney To Amend The Petition To Better Represent Defendant's Claims That Their Rights Were Violated. “Motion to Dismiss stage: If the trial court does not dismiss the petition initially, it moves to the second stage. If the petitioner cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one. The attorney must consult with the petitioner to determine whether their claims that their rights were violated have merit. That meeting can take place by phone, by mail, or by electronic means. After the initial meeting, the attorney must review the Record of Proceedings. They must make any amendments to the petition filed to present the petitioner’s contentions. The attorney does not have to amend the petition if it adequately states the claims. The attorney does not have to search for new claims not included in the original petition. The state can file a motion to dismiss the petition at the second stage. The judge can dismiss the petition because of a procedural defect or because it does not make a substantial showing of a violation. Examples of procedural defects are late filing or failing to notarize a supporting affidavit. The court determines whether the allegations, if true, would give rise to relief.” [Illinois Legal Aid, [11/8/23](#)]

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Denial Of Defendant's Postconviction Petition And Returned The Petition To The Lower Court For Further Postconviction Petition Proceedings

The Appellate Court Reversed McGraw's Denial Of Defendant's Postconviction Petition And Remanded The Cause For Further Postconviction Petition Proceedings. “Thus, we decline defendant’s request that we immediately give him ‘the opportunity to withdraw his admission, if he so desires.’ Cf. id. at 202 (awarding the defendant relief where he had ‘established that his constitutional rights were substantially violated’). Instead, we simply reverse the first-stage dismissal of defendant’s petition and remand the cause for further proceedings under the Act. Those proceedings should determine whether the DOC indeed concluded that defendant was statutorily ineligible, and, if it did, the trial court should allow defendant to withdraw his admission to the petition to revoke probation. The judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is reversed, and this cause is remanded for further proceedings. Reversed and remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Smith, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

- **To Remand A Cause Meant To Return It To A Lower Court For Further Proceedings.** “Remand: If the appellate court finds that the lower court’s proceedings were unfair or illegal, they can remand the decision and send the case back to the lower court. That might mean there will be a new trial or that the original trial court will need to reconvene to consider new evidence. Alternatively, the lower court might simply need to modify or correct its judgment.” [City Bureau, [4/12/18](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant's Postconviction Petition.”

The Second District Appellate Court Held That McGraw “Erred In Summarily Dismissing Defendant's Postconviction Petition.” “The trial court erred in summarily dismissing defendant’s postconviction petition, as defendant stated the gist of a claim that he was denied the benefit of the bargain under which he admitted a probation violation: whereas he bargained for statutory eligibility for impact incarceration, the Department of Corrections arguably concluded erroneously that he was statutorily ineligible in light of his sentence.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Smith, Case #2-13-0017, Order, filed [8/25/14](#)]

NOTE: After the petition was remanded to the trial court, McGraw dismissed the postconviction petition in [January 2017](#). Court records indicate defendant did not appeal the dismissal.

McGraw Withheld Information From Voters: He Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure Despite Holding Numerous Positions

McGraw Claimed No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, Despite Holding Numerous Positions In 2021-2023

McGraw Reported No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure

McGraw Reported No Positions On His 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure. [U.S. House Clerk, Joe McGraw 2023 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [10/13/23](#)]

First Time Candidates Were Required To Report Positions Held For The Current Calendar Year And Two Calendar Years Prior To The Personal Financial Disclosure Being Filed

First-Year Candidates Were Required To Report Positions Held For The Current Calendar Year And The Two Prior Calendar Years. “First-year candidates and new employee filers must report positions held at any time during the current calendar year up to the date of filing, plus the two prior calendar years. If you no longer hold the position, you may wish to indicate that fact parenthetically, but you still must report the position.” [House Committee on Ethics, [5/15/23](#)]

2021-2024: McGraw Was A Co-Chair Of The Steering Committee Of The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council

January 2024: The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council Listed McGraw As A Co-Chair Of Its Steering Committee. [Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council, About the IFVCC, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

- **McGraw Was Appointed To The Position In 2021.** “Judge Joseph G. McGraw and Judge Maureen Schuette have been named as the new Co-Chairs of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council Steering Committee.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [6/8/21](#)]

As Late As May 2023, McGraw Was Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality, As Well As Several Other Illinois Supreme Court Committees

May 2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement Press Release Listed Him As The Current Chair Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality. “Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality’s Stated Mission Was To “Promote Equality And Fairness In All Aspects Of The Administration Of Justice.”** [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]
- **As Of January 17, 2024, Hon. Michael B. Hyman Was The Chairperson For The Illinois Supreme Court Committee On Equality, So McGraw Appeared To Have Been Replaced Between May 2023 And January 2024.** [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

As Late As May 2023, McGraw Was A Member Of Several Other Illinois Supreme Court Committees

May 2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement Press Release Said He Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Committees On Judicial Ethics, Access To Justice, And Judicial Performance Evaluation. ““Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

NOTE: As of March 2024, Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Access to Justice listed McGraw as a member “ex officio” by virtue of his position as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality. However, McGraw was replaced as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Committee on Equality sometime in 2023, so it is unknown whether he still served on the Committee on Access to Justice. [Illinois Courts, Committees and Commissions, accessed [3/16/24](#)]

2022 – 2023: McGraw Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board

2023: McGraw’s Retirement Announcement State Said Was A Member Of The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board. “Judge McGraw served as Chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018. He is the current Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality, and an active member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Committees on Judicial Ethics, the Access to Justice Committee, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, and the Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2022: The Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board Preliminary Report Listed McGraw As A Board Member. [Illinois Supreme Court, Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board 2022 Preliminary Report, [7/1/22](#)]

PRETRIAL DATA OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Marcia M. Meis Director Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	Candice Adams Circuit Court Clerk 18 th Judicial Circuit
Tod Dillard IPCSA President Morgan County Court Services Department	Jeremy Jewell, Ph.D., L.C.P., L.S. Professor, Department of Psychology Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
Jim Kaltschuk Executive Director Illinois Sheriff’s Association	Timothy Lavery, Ph.D. Associate Director, Research & Analysis Unit Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Annie McGowan Senior Research Associate The Civic Federation	Hon. Joseph McGraw Chair, Supreme Court Committee on Equality Criminal Justice Center

[Illinois Supreme Court, Pretrial Practices Data Oversight Board 2022 Preliminary Report, [7/1/22](#)]

McGraw Handed Down Multiple Incorrect Sentences Which Violated Defendants’ Substantial Rights, Appellate Courts Reversed And Corrected His Sentencing Errors

Under Illinois Supreme Court Rules, A Miscalculation Of A Defendant’s Sentence Resulting In A Longer Than Necessary Sentence Was A Violation Of The Defendant’s Rights

Under Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Plain Errors Or Defects That Affect “Substantial Rights” May Be Noticed By An Appellate Or Reviewing Court. “Rule 615. The Cause on Appeal (a) Insubstantial and Substantial Errors on Appeal. Any error, defect, irregularity, or variance which does not affect substantial rights shall be disregarded. Plain errors or defects affecting substantial rights may be noticed although they were not brought to the attention of the trial court. (b) Powers of the Reviewing Court. On appeal the reviewing court may: (1) reverse, affirm, or modify the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (2) set aside, affirm, or modify any or all of the proceedings subsequent to or dependent upon the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (3) reduce

the degree of the offense of which the appellant was convicted; (4) reduce the punishment imposed by the trial court; or (5) order a new trial.” [Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Rule 615, [5/19/21](#)]

- **A Plain Error Was An Error That Was Plainly Evident From The Record And Affected A Litigant’s Substantial Rights.** “Plain error is error that is plainly evident from the record and affects a litigant’s substantial right(s). Although an appellate court generally only reviews errors brought to its attention by the litigants, it has the discretion to correct plain errors that were not addressed, or forfeited, when not doing so would affect the integrity and reputation of the courts. [...] The purpose of the plain error rule is not only to protect the defendant from serious injustices, but to also protect the reputation of the courts and ensure that their decisions follow a fair procedure. [...] For example, a miscalculation of a defendant’s sentence, resulting in a sentencing that is longer than necessary, has been found to be a plain error requiring correction from appellate court.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]
- **A Miscalculation Of A Defendant’s Sentence That Resulted In A Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary Would Be A Plain Error Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court.** “Plain error is error that is plainly evident from the record and affects a litigant’s substantial right(s). Although an appellate court generally only reviews errors brought to its attention by the litigants, it has the discretion to correct plain errors that were not addressed, or forfeited, when not doing so would affect the integrity and reputation of the courts. [...] The purpose of the plain error rule is not only to protect the defendant from serious injustices, but to also protect the reputation of the courts and ensure that their decisions follow a fair procedure. [...] For example, a miscalculation of a defendant’s sentence, resulting in a sentencing that is longer than necessary, has been found to be a plain error requiring correction from appellate court.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw Made Several Sentencing Errors In One Case, Which Violated The Defendant’s Rights; The Court Vacated The Sentences McGraw Handed Down And Remanded The Case For Resentencing

McGraw Trotter To 45 Years In Prison, The Maximum Prison Sentence For His Charges Of Criminal Sexual Assault, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse And Child Abduction

McGraw Handed Down The Maximum Sentence, 45 Years, To Donald Trotter For Criminal Sexual Assault, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse, Child Abduction, And Unlawful Sending Of A Ticket For Public Conveyance To A Minor. “A man convicted in connection with a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old girl was sentenced Friday to 45 years in prison. Donald Trotter, 56, was convicted in August in Winnebago County Court on three counts of criminal sexual assault, four counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, child abduction and unlawful sending of a ticket for public conveyance to a minor. The charges stem from a sexual relationship he had with the girl from June 1 to Aug. 1, 2009. She was reported missing to the Rockford Police Department on Aug. 2, 2009, and found in an apartment in Long Beach, Calif. Trotter reportedly told authorities he bought an airline ticket for the girl to travel on Aug. 1 from O’Hare International Airport in Chicago to California. He was arrested Aug. 5, with assistance from the FBI. Trotter met the teenager through his involvement with Christian Youth Theater and Children’s Theater Project/Youth Theater Project. Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Trotter to the maximum sentence allowed by law. Criminal sexual abuse is punishable by four to 15 years for each count.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/22/11](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw Made Several Sentencing Errors And Vacated Trotter’s Sentence; The Appellate Court Remanded The Case Back To The Trial Court For Resentencing

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found McGraw Erred By Imposing A Concurrent Sentence For Child Abduction, The Court Found The Sentence Was Void As It Must Be Served Consecutively To The Three Criminal Sexual Assault Sentences. “Defendant argues that the trial court abused its discretion by imposing an excessive aggregate prison term. The trial court imposed consecutive 15-year terms of imprisonment

on each of the three criminal sexual assault offenses, a concurrent 3-year term of imprisonment on the child abduction offense, and a concurrent 1-year term of imprisonment on the offense of unlawfully transferring a travel ticket to a minor. Thus, the trial court imposed an aggregate prison term of 45 years. Defendant's sentence for child abduction is void, as under the law it must be served consecutively to the three criminal sexual assault sentences. See 730 ILCS 5/5-8-4(a)(ii) (West 2008); *People v. Curry*, 178 Ill. 2d 509, 539 (1997); *People v. Arna*, 168 Ill. 2d 107, 113 (1995). Thus, the trial court erred in imposing the sentence for child abduction." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-12-0363, Opinion, filed [12/13/13](#)]

The Appellate Court Also Found McGraw Erred By Imposing A Fixed Three Year Period Of MSR On Each Of The Criminal Sexual Assault Convictions. "The trial court also erred in imposing a fixed, three-year period of MSR on each of the criminal sexual assault convictions. Under section 5-8-1(d)(4) of the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1(d)(4) (West 2008)), the trial court should have ordered an indeterminate MSR term of three years to natural life on each of the criminal sexual assault convictions. See *People v. Rinehart*, 2012 IL 111719, ¶¶ 23-30" [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-12-0363, Opinion, filed [12/13/13](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Said McGraw Should Have Ordered An Indeterminate MSR Term Of Three Years To Natural Life On Each Conviction Of Criminal Sexual Assault.** "The trial court also erred in imposing a fixed, three-year period of MSR on each of the criminal sexual assault convictions. Under section 5-8-1(d)(4) of the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1(d)(4) (West 2008)), the trial court should have ordered an indeterminate MSR term of three years to natural life on each of the criminal sexual assault convictions. See *People v. Rinehart*, 2012 IL 111719, ¶¶ 23-30" [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-12-0363, Opinion, filed [12/13/13](#)]
- **MSR Or Mandatory Supervised Release Was Also Commonly Referred To As Parole, It Required The Supervision Of Formerly Incarcerated People After They Were Released From Prison.** "Illinois got rid of discretionary parole in 1978. It replaced it with a mandatory supervised release (MSR) system. MSR requires the supervision of formerly incarcerated people after they are released from prison. Incarcerated people are released after completing their entire prison sentences. People on MSR must follow certain rules and can return to prison for breaking those rules. MSR is also commonly referred to as parole. People also now get determinate prison sentences. A determinate sentence means that someone's prison sentence is for a specific amount of time. For example, if they were sentenced to 30 months in prison, they have a determinate sentence and must serve time on MSR after release." [Illinois Legal Aid Online, [9/6/23](#)]

Following The Appellate Court's Remand For A New Sentencing Hearing In The Lower Court, Trotter Was Re-Sentenced To 38 Years Of Imprisonment Rather Than 45

Following The Appellate Court's Remand To Resentencing At The Trial Court Level, Defendant Was Re-Sentenced To 38 Years Imprisonment Rather Than 45. "On direct appeal, this court affirmed the defendant's convictions but vacated the sentences and remanded the cause for the trial court to determine the appropriate sentences to be served consecutively and to impose an indeterminate MSR term of three years to natural life on each of the criminal sexual assault convictions. *People v. Trotter* (*Trotter I*), 2013 Ill App (2d) 120363, ¶ 2. ¶ 3 On October 16, 2014, the defendant filed a postconviction petition, asserting that he was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel. The trial court dismissed his petition as frivolous and patently without merit. On November 3, 2014, the trial court ordered that the defendant's sentence for child abduction be served consecutively to the sentences he had received for criminal sexual assault. The trial court's order had the effect of increasing the defendant's cumulative sentence from 45 years' imprisonment to 48 years' imprisonment. On appeal, the defendant argues that the trial court did not comply with this court's mandate in *Trotter I* and that his sentence is excessive." [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Trotter*, Case #2-14-1207 & 2-14-1267, Order, filed [3/16/17](#)]

McGraw's Miscalculation Of Defendant's Sentence Resulted In A Prison Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary, Violating The Defendant's Rights And Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court

Under Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Plain Errors That Affect “Substantial Rights” May Be Noticed By An Appellate Or Reviewing Court. “Rule 615. The Cause on Appeal (a) Insubstantial and Substantial Errors on Appeal. Any error, defect, irregularity, or variance which does not affect substantial rights shall be disregarded. Plain errors or defects affecting substantial rights may be noticed although they were not brought to the attention of the trial court. (b) Powers of the Reviewing Court. On appeal the reviewing court may: (1) reverse, affirm, or modify the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (2) set aside, affirm, or modify any or all of the proceedings subsequent to or dependent upon the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (3) reduce the degree of the offense of which the appellant was convicted; (4) reduce the punishment imposed by the trial court; or (5) order a new trial.” [Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Rule 615, [5/19/21](#)]

- **A Miscalculation Of A Defendant's Sentence That Resulted In A Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary Would Be A Plain Error Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court.** “Plain error is error that is plainly evident from the record and affects a litigant's substantial right(s). Although an appellate court generally only reviews errors brought to its attention by the litigants, it has the discretion to correct plain errors that were not addressed, or forfeited, when not doing so would affect the integrity and reputation of the courts. [...] The purpose of the plain error rule is not only to protect the defendant from serious injustices, but to also protect the reputation of the courts and ensure that their decisions follow a fair procedure. [...] For example, a miscalculation of a defendant's sentence, resulting in a sentencing that is longer than necessary, has been found to be a plain error requiring correction from appellate court.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

An Appellate Court Found McGraw “Erred” By Handing Down Sentences With “Improper” Extended Terms For Less Serious Offenses, The Appellate Court Corrected McGraw's Sentences As They Violated The Defendant's Rights

An Appellate Court Found McGraw “Erred” By Handing Down “Improper” Extended Term Sentences For Less Serious Offenses Which Were Not Statutorily Authorized

The Second District Appellate Court Held That Extended Term Sentences On Convictions For Two Less Serious Offenses Handed Down By McGraw Were Not Statutorily Authorized. “Held: (1) Where the State proved beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant and his battery victim had a dating relationship and resided together, the victim qualified as a family or household member under either criteria, and defendant's convictions of aggravated domestic battery and domestic battery were affirmed; (2) where extended-term sentences on the convictions for the two less serious offenses were not statutorily authorized, defendant's sentence was reduced to the maximum nonextended-term sentence.” [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Chandler*, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over *People V. Chandler* In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court, *People v. Chandler*, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

2011 IL App (2d) 090071-U
No. 2-09-0071
Order filed August 26, 2011

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 08-CF-1200
CHRISTOPHER L. CHANDLER,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That “It Was Improper For The Court To Sentence Defendant To Extended Terms For The Less Serious Offenses” As A Defendant May Only Be Sentenced To An Extended-Term Sentence For Offenses Within The Most Serious Class. “When a defendant is convicted of multiple offenses that are part of a single course of conduct, he may be sentenced to an extended-term sentence only for those offenses that are within the most serious class. [...] Therefore, as we are authorized to do under Supreme Court Rule 615(b)(4) (134 Ill. 2d R. 615(b)(4)), we reduce defendant’s extended-term sentence for aggravated battery to the maximum allowable term of five years’ imprisonment, and we reduce defendant’s extended-term sentence for each domestic battery to the maximum allowable term of three years’ imprisonment, with the sentences to run concurrently with each other and with defendant’s prison term of 14 years for aggravated domestic battery. See Smith, 345 Ill. App. 3d at 190; Pittman, 316 Ill. App. 3d at 253; Linwood, 243 Ill. App. 3d at 745. ¶ 43 Based on the foregoing, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is affirmed as modified.” [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

The State Agreed That McGraw Erred By Sentencing Defendant To Extended-Term Sentences For Aggravated Battery And For Domestic Battery. “Defendant next argues that his sentences should be reduced. Defendant’s aggravated domestic battery is a Class 2 felony (720 ILCS 5/12—3.3(b) (West 2008)), which normally carries a sentencing range of not less than three and not more than seven years’ imprisonment. 730 ILCS 5/5—8—1(a)(5) (West 2008). However, the trial court found that defendant was eligible for an extended term and sentenced defendant to 14 years’ imprisonment. Defendant’s aggravated battery is a Class 3 felony. 720 ILCS 5/12—4(e)(1) (West 2008). A Class 3 felony is generally punishable by a term of not less than two and not more than five years’ imprisonment. 730 ILCS 5/5—8—1(a)(6) (West 2008). The trial court sentenced defendant to an extended-term of 10 years’ imprisonment. Defendant’s two domestic batteries are Class 4 felonies. 720 ILCS 5/12—3.2(b) (West 2008). A Class 4 felony is generally punishable by a term of not less than one and not more than three years’ imprisonment. 730 ILCS 5/5—8—1(a)(7) (West 2008). The trial court sentenced defendant to a extended-term sentence of six years’ imprisonment on each conviction. ¶ 40 Defendant maintains that it was error for the trial court to sentence him to extended-term sentences for aggravated battery and for domestic battery and asks that we reduce the sentences to the maximum nonextended terms. The State agrees.” [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

The Appellate Court Corrected The Sentences McGraw Handed Down And Affirmed The Judgement As Amended

The Appellate Court Corrected Defendant’s Sentence And Affirmed The Judgement Of The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County As Modified. “When a defendant is convicted of multiple offenses that are part of a single course of conduct, he may be sentenced to an extended-term sentence only for those offenses that are within the most serious class. [...] Therefore, as we are authorized to do under Supreme Court Rule 615(b)(4) (134 Ill. 2d R. 615(b)(4)), we reduce defendant’s extended-term sentence for aggravated battery to the maximum allowable term of five years’ imprisonment, and we reduce defendant’s extended-term sentence for each domestic battery to the

maximum allowable term of three years' imprisonment, with the sentences to run concurrently with each other and with defendant's prison term of 14 years for aggravated domestic battery. See Smith, 345 Ill. App. 3d at 190; Pittman, 316 Ill. App. 3d at 253; Linwood, 243 Ill. App. 3d at 745. Based on the foregoing, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is affirmed as modified." [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Reduced Defendant's Extended-Term Sentence For Aggravated Battery To The Maximum Allowable Term Of Five Years Imprisonment To Run Concurrently.** "Therefore, as we are authorized to do under Supreme Court Rule 615(b)(4) (134 Ill. 2d R. 615(b)(4)), we reduce defendant's extended-term sentence for aggravated battery to the maximum allowable term of five years' imprisonment, and we reduce defendant's extended-term sentence for each domestic battery to the maximum allowable term of three years' imprisonment, with the sentences to run concurrently with each other and with defendant's prison term of 14 years for aggravated domestic battery. See Smith, 345 Ill. App. 3d at 190; Pittman, 316 Ill. App. 3d at 253; Linwood, 243 Ill. App. 3d at 745. Based on the foregoing, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is affirmed as modified." [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]
- **The Appellate Court Reduced Defendant' Extended-Term Sentence For Each Domestic Battery To The Maximum Allowable Term Of Three Years Imprisonment To Run Concurrently.** "Therefore, as we are authorized to do under Supreme Court Rule 615(b)(4) (134 Ill. 2d R. 615(b)(4)), we reduce defendant's extended-term sentence for aggravated battery to the maximum allowable term of five years' imprisonment, and we reduce defendant's extended-term sentence for each domestic battery to the maximum allowable term of three years' imprisonment, with the sentences to run concurrently with each other and with defendant's prison term of 14 years for aggravated domestic battery. See Smith, 345 Ill. App. 3d at 190; Pittman, 316 Ill. App. 3d at 253; Linwood, 243 Ill. App. 3d at 745. Based on the foregoing, the judgment of the circuit court of Winnebago County is affirmed as modified." [Second District Appellate Court, People v. Chandler, Case #2-09-0071, Order, filed [8/26/11](#)]

McGraw's Miscalculation Of Defendant's Sentence Resulted In A Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary, Violating The Defendant's Rights And Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court

Under Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Plain Errors That Affect "Substantial Rights" May Be Noticed By An Appellate Or Reviewing Court. "Rule 615. The Cause on Appeal (a) Insubstantial and Substantial Errors on Appeal. Any error, defect, irregularity, or variance which does not affect substantial rights shall be disregarded. Plain errors or defects affecting substantial rights may be noticed although they were not brought to the attention of the trial court. (b) Powers of the Reviewing Court. On appeal the reviewing court may: (1) reverse, affirm, or modify the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (2) set aside, affirm, or modify any or all of the proceedings subsequent to or dependent upon the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken; (3) reduce the degree of the offense of which the appellant was convicted; (4) reduce the punishment imposed by the trial court; or (5) order a new trial." [Illinois Supreme Court Rules, Rule 615, [5/19/21](#)]

- **A Miscalculation Of A Defendant's Sentence That Resulted In A Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary Would Be A Plain Error Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court.** "Plain error is error that is plainly evident from the record and affects a litigant's substantial right(s). Although an appellate court generally only reviews errors brought to its attention by the litigants, it has the discretion to correct plain errors that were not addressed, or forfeited, when not doing so would affect the integrity and reputation of the courts. [...] The purpose of the plain error rule is not only to protect the defendant from serious injustices, but to also protect the reputation of the courts and ensure that their decisions follow a fair procedure. [...] For example, a miscalculation of a defendant's sentence, resulting in a sentencing that is longer than necessary, has been found to be a plain error requiring correction from appellate court." [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

After An Appellate Court Found McGraw Made Several Sentencing Errors In One Case, The Court Reversed The Sentence He Handed Down And Remanded The Case For A New Sentencing Hearing

May 2013: McGraw Sentenced Jamie Dock To 375 Years In Prison In Connection With An Armed Robbery And The Sexual Assault Of Two Women, Dock Would Serve A Maximum Of 150 Years Total

May 2013: McGraw Sentenced Dock To 375 Years In Prison In Connection With An Armed Robbery And Sexual Assault Of Two Women. “A Rockford man was sentenced Thursday to 375 years in prison in connection with the 2010 armed robbery and sexual assault of two women. Jamie Dock, 32, of Rockford, who was found guilty after a jury trial on July 11 on multiple counts of counts of armed robbery and aggravated criminal sexual assault, was sentenced Thursday by Judge Joseph McGraw. Rockford police were called shortly after 5 p.m. on April 24, 2010, to the Travelodge Hotel, 4850 E. State St., in reference to an armed robbery. The hotel clerk stated two victims ran up to the front desk naked. The clerk gave the victims towels to cover themselves. Both victims told police they were sexually assaulted at gunpoint. One of the victims stated their attacker drank from a Dr. Pepper can in the hotel room. DNA was collected from a swab of the Dr. Pepper can, which matched the DNA of Dock. One of the victims also identified Dock from a photo lineup. While the 75-year sentences from each offense total 375 years, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato said the defendant will serve a maximum of 150 years.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/24/13](#)]

On Appeal, The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found McGraw Made Several Sentencing Errors

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Said McGraw Erred By Ordering Defendant To Serve His Armed Robbery Sentences At 85%

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Said McGraw Erred By Ordering Defendant To Serve His Armed Robbery Sentences At 85%. “Defendant argues, and the State concedes, that the trial court erred by ordering defendant to serve his armed robbery sentences at 85%. Section 3-6-3(a)(2) of the Unified Code of Corrections (Code), also known as the truth-in-sentencing law, limits the sentencing credit that certain prisoners are eligible to receive. 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2) (West 2010). The truth-in-sentencing law requires a defendant convicted of, inter alia, aggravated criminal sexual assault, to serve at least 85% of his court-imposed sentence. 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)(ii) (West 2010). However, a defendant convicted of armed robbery is required to serve at least 85% of his imposed sentence only ‘when the court has made and entered a finding *** that the conduct leading to conviction for the enumerated offense resulted in great bodily harm to the victim.’ 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)(iii) (West 2010). Because the trial court made no such findings in this case and the victims testified that they were not injured, defendant is entitled to good conduct credit on his armed robbery sentences.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Dock*, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People V. Dock In The Circuit Court Of Winnebago County.** [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Dock*, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]



[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Dock, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Found That McGraw Erred As He Did Not Enter A Finding Indicating The Actions Of Defendant Resulted In Great Bodily Harm To The Victim And The Victims Testified That They Were Not Injured. “Defendant argues, and the State concedes, that the trial court erred by ordering defendant to serve his armed robbery sentences at 85%. Section 3-6-3(a)(2) of the Unified Code of Corrections (Code), also known as the truth-in-sentencing law, limits the sentencing credit that certain prisoners are eligible to receive. 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2) (West 2010). The truth-in-sentencing law requires a defendant convicted of, inter alia, aggravated criminal sexual assault, to serve at least 85% of his court-imposed sentence. 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)(ii) (West 2010). However, a defendant convicted of armed robbery is required to serve at least 85% of his imposed sentence only ‘when the court has made and entered a finding *** that the conduct leading to conviction for the enumerated offense resulted in great bodily harm to the victim.’ 730 ILCS 5/3-6-3(a)(2)(iii) (West 2010). Because the trial court made no such findings in this case and the victims testified that they were not injured, defendant is entitled to good conduct credit on his armed robbery sentences.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Dock, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Found That McGraw Erred By Ordering Defendant To Serve His Sentences For Both Of His Armed Robbery Convictions Consecutively

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Said McGraw Erred By Ordering Defendant To Serve His Sentences For Both Of His Armed Robbery Convictions Consecutively. “Next, defendant argues that the trial court erred by ordered him to serve his sentences for both of his armed robbery convictions consecutively to his sentences for his three aggravated criminal sexual assault convictions. Defendant argues, and the State concedes, that he should serve his two sentences for armed robbery concurrently to each other, and consecutively to the three sentences for aggravated criminal sexual assault. We agree with defendant.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Dock, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

- **The State Conceded That Defendant Should Serve His Two Sentences For Armed Robbery Concurrently To Each Other And Consecutively To The Three Sentences For Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.** “Next, defendant argues that the trial court erred by ordered him to serve his sentences for both of his armed robbery convictions consecutively to his sentences for his three aggravated criminal sexual assault convictions. Defendant argues, and the State concedes, that he should serve his two sentences for armed robbery concurrently to each other, and consecutively to the three sentences for aggravated criminal sexual assault. We agree with defendant.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Dock, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

The Appellate Court Affirmed Dock’s Convictions And The Trial Court’s 150-Year Aggregate Term Of Imprisonment, But Vacated His Sentences And Remanded The Case For Resentencing

The Appellate Court Affirmed Dock’s Convictions, But Vacated His Sentences And Remanded The Case For Resentencing. “Finally, defendant argues that the trial court improperly imposed a 150-year aggregate prison term

in excess of that authorized by statute. Defendant argues that under the relevant statute, section 5-8-4(c)(2) of the Code (730 ILCS 5/5-8-4(c)(2) (West 2010)), the trial court was limited to sentencing defendant to an aggregate of 120 years, and not, 150 years. Section 5-8-4(c)(2) of the Code provides, in pertinent part: “[T]he aggregate of consecutive sentences for offenses that were committed as part of a single course of conduct during which there was no substantial change in the nature of the criminal objective shall not exceed the sum of the maximum terms authorized under Section 5-8-2 for the 2 most serious felonies involved * * *.” 730 ILCS 5/5-8-4(c)(2) (West 2010). [...] Given the language of the statute, the legislature’s stated purpose, and the fact that its enactment is more recent, the rule of lenity cannot apply here. Accordingly, the trial court properly sentenced defendant to an additional 30 years’ imprisonment for two convictions of aggravated criminal sexual assault with a firearm. See 720 ILCS 5/12-14(d)(1) (West 2010). Therefore, the trial court properly sentenced defendant to a 150-year aggregate term of imprisonment. Upon remand the court may not sentence the defendant to an aggregate term in excess of 150 years. III. CONCLUSION Accordingly, defendant’s convictions are affirmed, his sentences are vacated, and the case is remanded for resentencing consistent with this decision. Affirmed, in part, vacated, in part, and remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Dock*, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found The Trial Court Properly Sentenced Dock To A 150-Year Aggregate Term Of Imprisonment And Clarified On Remand The Court Could Not Sentence Defendant To An Aggregate Term In Excess Of 150-Years.** “Finally, defendant argues that the trial court improperly imposed a 150-year aggregate prison term in excess of that authorized by statute. Defendant argues that under the relevant statute, section 5-8-4(c)(2) of the Code (730 ILCS 5/5-8-4(c)(2) (West 2010)), the trial court was limited to sentencing defendant to an aggregate of 120 years, and not, 150 years. Section 5-8-4(c)(2) of the Code provides, in pertinent part: “[T]he aggregate of consecutive sentences for offenses that were committed as part of a single course of conduct during which there was no substantial change in the nature of the criminal objective shall not exceed the sum of the maximum terms authorized under Section 5-8-2 for the 2 most serious felonies involved * * *.” 730 ILCS 5/5-8-4(c)(2) (West 2010). [...] Given the language of the statute, the legislature’s stated purpose, and the fact that its enactment is more recent, the rule of lenity cannot apply here. Accordingly, the trial court properly sentenced defendant to an additional 30 years’ imprisonment for two convictions of aggravated criminal sexual assault with a firearm. See 720 ILCS 5/12-14(d)(1) (West 2010). Therefore, the trial court properly sentenced defendant to a 150-year aggregate term of imprisonment. Upon remand the court may not sentence the defendant to an aggregate term in excess of 150 years. III. CONCLUSION Accordingly, defendant’s convictions are affirmed, his sentences are vacated, and the case is remanded for resentencing consistent with this decision. Affirmed, in part, vacated, in part, and remanded.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Dock*, Case #2-13-0601, Order, filed [3/17/16](#)]

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- **A Miscalculation Of A Defendant’s Sentence That Resulted In A Sentence That Was Longer Than Necessary Would Be A Plain Error Requiring Correction From An Appellate Court.** “Plain error is error that is plainly evident from the record and affects a litigant’s substantial right(s). Although an appellate court generally only reviews errors brought to its attention by the litigants, it has the discretion to correct plain errors that were not addressed, or forfeited, when not doing so would affect the integrity and reputation of the courts. [...] The purpose of the plain error rule is not only to protect the defendant from serious injustices, but to also

protect the reputation of the courts and ensure that their decisions follow a fair procedure. [...] For example, a miscalculation of a defendant's sentence, resulting in a sentencing that is longer than necessary, has been found to be a plain error requiring correction from appellate court.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

Political Relationships

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw was noncommittal on a Biden Impeachment inquiry.
- ✓ McGraw was listed as one of Mike Johnson’s endorsed challengers, and in December 2023, Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival donated \$5,000 to McGraw’s Congressional campaign. In March 2024, McGraw said Mike Johnson served as a quiet leader who managed republican party factions.
- ✓ McGraw did not say whether he would have supported the removal of former Speaker McCarthy.
- ✓ March 2024: McGraw said he was “sincerely grateful” to receive an endorsement from Majority Leader Steve Scalise.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Gov. Ron DeSantis and said DeSantis was “electric,” and attendees “pretty much unanimous[ly]” agreed he should seek the GOP presidential nomination.
- ✓ McGraw was aided by the National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee and was believed to be their preferred candidate.
- ✓ January 2024: McGraw was endorsed by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police.
- ✓ January 2024: McGraw spoke at an event for the Peoria Patriots, who had posted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, warned about legislation that would prevent private paramilitary activity, and claimed the World Health Organization’s agenda was to sexualize children.

Joe Biden

McGraw Was Noncommittal On A Biden Impeachment Inquiry

WCBU: McGraw Was Noncommittal On A Biden Impeachment Inquiry. “McGraw didn’t say whether he would’ve supported the removal of former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy if he was a current member of Congress. He also was noncommittal on a Biden impeachment inquiry. ‘I think a lot of people are very disgusted, disturbed about what’s taking place in Congress,’ he said. ‘They want Congress to stop being the sideshow and to get on with the work of the people, and my goal would be to do that 100%.’”

[WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

Mike Johnson

December 2023: McGraw Received \$5,000 From Mike Johnson’s PACs

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

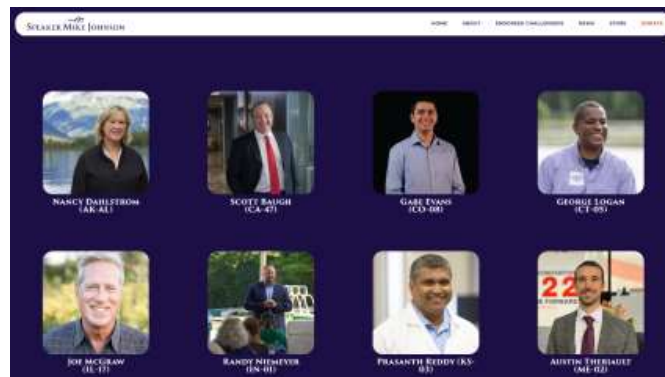
Source name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson’s Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen.”

“McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we've ever seen.’ ‘He's been a guy who's stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas. He's professional, he's smart, he knows what he's doing and he's gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.’” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner.

“Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Said Mike Johnson Served As A Quiet Leader Who Managed Republican Party Factions

March 2024: McGraw Said Mike Johnson Served As A Quiet Leader Who Managed Republican Party Factions. “McGraw said he would take a practical approach to Washington, suggesting some congressional Republicans have gone too far in trying to force a government shutdown. ‘You have those that want all or nothing and sometimes they are content to get nothing. That’s not an approach that works,’ said McGraw, adding that House Speaker Mike Johnson has served as a quiet leader who has managed Republican Party factions. Political analysts have rated the 17th District as leaning left.” [WGLT, [3/21/24](#)]

Kevin McCarthy**McGraw Did Not Say Whether He Would Have Supported The Removal Of Former Speaker McCarthy****McGraw Did Not Say Whether He Would Have Supported The Removal Of Former Speaker McCarthy.**

“McGraw didn’t say whether he would’ve supported the removal of former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy if he was a current member of Congress. He also was noncommittal on a Biden impeachment inquiry. ‘I think a lot of people are very disgusted, disturbed about what's taking place in Congress,’ he said. ‘They want Congress to stop being the sideshow and to get on with the work of the people, and my goal would be to do that 100%.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

Steve Scalise

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” To Receive An Endorsement From Majority Leader Steve Scalise

McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” For Majority Leader Steve Scalise’s Endorsement. “As a former prosecutor and judge, I know you have to be tough to get things done. In Congress, there’s no one tougher than @SteveScaliseGOP and I am sincerely grateful for his support in our campaign to flip Illinois’ 17th Congressional District.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]

March 2024: Scalise Endorsed McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. “Today, Judge Joe McGraw, candidate for Illinois’ 17th Congressional District, announced the endorsement of House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (LA-01). ‘American families don’t feel safe in Joe Biden’s America as millions cross over our border illegally, drugs pour into our communities, and soft-on-crime politicians coddle criminals. It’s time we restore law and order. Judge Joe McGraw has spent his entire career defending the rule of law in the courtroom. I’m proud to endorse Judge Joe because on Day One he’ll help us protect Americans from lawlessness and put violent criminals behind bars,’ said House Majority Leader Steve Scalise. Judge Joe McGraw issued the following statement in response to the endorsement: ‘As a former prosecutor and judge, I know you have to be tough to get things done. In Congress, there’s no one tougher than Steve Scalise and I am sincerely grateful for his support in our campaign to flip Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Steve Scalise has led the fight against President Biden’s failed left-wing agenda and rallied House Republicans to deliver conservative solutions on issue after issue. I’ve stepped down from the bench because I’m ready to fight alongside Majority Leader Scalise in Congress to ensure America’s best days are ahead.’ This is Judge Joe McGraw’s second endorsement from House Republican leadership. Earlier this year, McGraw was endorsed by House Republican Conference Chairwoman Elise Stefanik. Additionally, McGraw has the endorsements of the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police, twelve Illinois sheriffs, and more than four dozen local leaders from across the district.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Press Release, [3/11/24](#)]

NOTE: See Thematic 1 for Scalise’s anti-abortion advocacy.

Ron DeSantis

McGraw Attended An Event With Ron DeSantis And Said DeSantis Was “Electric,” And Attendees “Pretty Much Unanimous[ly]” Agreed He Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination

February 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Ron DeSantis And Said DeSantis Was “Electric,” And Attendees “Pretty Much Unanimous[ly]” Agreed He Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination

February 2023: McGraw Attended A DeSantis Event In Elmhurst, Illinois And Said DeSantis Was “Electric.” “DeSantis was ostensibly on the road to make a sales pitch for police to move to Florida and tout his tough-on-crime policies, but it was clear that those in the crowds were already seizing up the Florida governor as a possible alternative to Trump. At DeSantis’ stop in Elmhurst, Illinois, Joe McGraw, an Illinois circuit court judge, said DeSantis was ‘electric’ and that it was ‘pretty much unanimous’ among attendees that DeSantis should seek the GOP presidential nomination.” [WSILTV, [2/22/23](#)]

McGraw Said It Was “Pretty Much Unanimous” Among Attendees That DeSantis Should Seek The GOP Presidential Nomination. “DeSantis was ostensibly on the road to make a sales pitch for police to move to Florida and tout his tough-on-crime policies, but it was clear that those in the crowds were already seizing up the Florida governor as a possible alternative to Trump. At DeSantis’ stop in Elmhurst, Illinois, Joe McGraw, an Illinois circuit court judge, said DeSantis was ‘electric’ and that it was ‘pretty much unanimous’ among attendees that DeSantis should seek the GOP presidential nomination.” [WSILTV, [2/22/23](#)]

DeSantis’ Legislative Agenda In Florida Targeted “Immigrants, LGBTQ Individuals, Black Americans, And Women” And Included A 15 Week Abortion Ban That Made Providing An Abortion A Third Degree Felony

Vox: DeSantis’s Legislative Agenda In Florida Targeted “Immigrants, LGBTQ Individuals, Black Americans, And Women, As Well As The Corporations Who Come To Their Defense.” “DeSantis’s legislative agenda in Florida — which he has framed as a ‘blueprint’ for America — has targeted immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, Black Americans, and women, as well as the corporations who come to their defense. And state lawmakers have advanced DeSantis’s own political career at the expense of transparency and accountability. That’s all been done in the name of wooing an activist GOP base, which still loves former President Donald Trump and has given him a historically large lead in Republican primary polls.” [Vox, [5/25/23](#)]

- **The NAACP And Equality Florida Have Cautioned People Against Traveling To Florida Because Of Increasing Policy Attacks On LGBTQ Rights And Black Americans Under Governor Ron DeSantis.** “Many of the Florida laws passed this session, which concluded earlier this month, go further even than other red states. Proposals banning gender-affirming care for minors and establishing a six-week abortion ban, for example, impose harsh new restrictions that could have severe consequences on those seeking such care in the state. Immigration proposals targeting undocumented people have also inspired fear among the roughly 772,000 undocumented immigrants in the state, and prompted some to leave. The attacks on LGBTQ rights and Black Americans via policies that restrict the teaching of systemic racism and trans people’s ability to use bathrooms have been so harsh that civil rights groups like the NAACP and Equality Florida have cautioned people against traveling to the state. Some of those groups are challenging laws DeSantis has signed in court. DeSantis has nevertheless doubled down on those policies.” [Vox, [5/25/23](#)]

DeSantis Signed Bill Banned Abortion After 15 Weeks And Made Providing An Abortion A Third Degree Felony, That Carried 5 Year Prison Sentence. “In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill on April 14 that, with some exceptions, bans abortions after 15 weeks. Doctors that violate the law are guilty of a third degree felony. That carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.” [Austin Statesman, [5/7/22](#)]

NRCC/Establishment Republicans

McGraw Was Aided By The National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee And Was Believed To Be Their Preferred Candidate

McGraw Was Aided By The National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee And Started Off His Campaign With Significant Support From Elected Republicans In The District. “The 17th is one of the most competitive congressional districts in Illinois. The seat is held by Democratic Rep. Eric Sorensen. The first-time lawmaker defeated Republican Esther Joy King 52% to 48% in 2022. The district includes Rockford, the Illinois Quad-Cities, Peoria and Bloomington-Normal along with swaths of rural northwestern and central Illinois. McGraw

is being aided by the National Republican Congressional Committee. Lee Enterprise reporter Brenden Moore reported that McGraw is starting with significant support from elected Republicans in the district, including state House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savana, 10 other state legislator who represent areas throughout the district and local officials.” [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

McGraw Had The Backing Of The State And National Republican Political Establishment. “With the backing of the state and national Republican political establishment, retired Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw on Wednesday launched his bid to unseat freshman Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline, in the swingy 17th Congressional District. His entry into the race ensures that Republican themes of law-and-order will once again be front-and-center this election cycle after helping the party win House seats unexpectedly in 2020 but mostly failing to galvanize voters in the 2022 midterm elections. But it's more than just political messaging this time with top Republicans believing that McGraw's judicial background will allow the candidate to speak with authority on issues ranging from urban crime to immigration while setting up a contrast with Sorensen, who was a television meteorologist before running for and winning office last year.” [Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Pantagraph: McGraw Was Believed To Be The Preferred Candidate Of The National Republican Congressional Committee. “Estrada's departure clears the way for retired Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw, who left the bench in July and filed a statement of candidacy for the seat in September. A campaign launch is expected in Rockford next Wednesday. McGraw is believed to be the preferred candidate of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the party's campaign arm, which is expected to be heavily involved once again in contesting the swing district. Though candidates will not file their petitions for placement on the primary ballot until late November, McGraw is now the only declared Republican candidate in the race. McGraw was appointed a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Boone and Winnebago counties, in 2002. He served as chief judge from 2012 to 2017 and as the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until his retirement.” [Pantagraph, [10/3/23](#)]

Important In-State Relationships

Darin LaHood, Illinois 16th Congressional Representative

February 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Accepted \$2,000 From His Campaign Committee

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Proud” To Be Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood. “Proud to have the endorsement of @DarinLaHoodIL in our fight to flip #IL17. Darin knows how to get things done and I look forward to working with him in Congress to deliver results for the people of Illinois.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Received \$2,000 From LaHood For Congress. According to FEC Receipts, LaHood for Congress gave \$2,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on February 1st 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
LAHOOD FOR CONGRESS	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/01/2024	\$2,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser With Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Helped McGraw “Each Step Of The Way”

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser Where Congressman Darin LaHood Was The Special Guest. [Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]



[Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]

- **LaHood Represented Illinois’s 16th Congressional District.** “Congressman Darin LaHood, born and raised in Peoria, serves the constituents of the 16th District of Illinois.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, About, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Said He “Help[d] Me Each Step Of The Way.” HOST: “So you have probably been making your way up around the district. Do you have any specific locations and dates coming up?” MCGRAW: “Well we are gonna be in Peoria Thursday and the district is um well let’s just say it is irregularly shaped.” HOST: “Hahaha.” MCGRAW: “If there was a uh picture in a dictionary that defined gerrymandering, the 17th congressional district would be an illustration of that point. It goes from Rockford on the east NE of IL to Rock Island on NW and down the Mississippi to Peoria area and across to Bloomington so as I said it is part of 14 counties so yeah we will be, I will be formally endorsed Thursday evening by Congressman Darin LaHood. He is the congressman in the 16th congressional district and he is one of the good friends and people who encouraged me to run and he has been helping me each step of the way because our districts are completely interlocked.” [Regional Media Podcast, 17th Congressional District Candidate Judge Joe McGraw, 9:37, [1/24/24](#)] (AUDIO)

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support Congressman LaHood And Called Him A “Friend”

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support His “Friend” Congressman LaHood. “Happy to be in Peoria today supporting my friend, Congressman Darin LaHood. He was joined by former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe. It’s reassuring to know that we have great Americans like John & Darin looking out for the safety & security of our nation.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Was “A Great Role Model” And Said He Was Grateful To Talk With LaHood About His Ongoing Work In Congress

March 2024: McGraw Said Darin LaHood Was “A Great Role Model, Great Example, Of Someone Who Can Work With Everyone.” HOST: “To wrap things up um there is some conservative ball work Republicans that are retiring because they just cannot take the decisiveness in politics. They do wanna work across the aisle, it is just happening. One of them, Ken Buck CO, Mike Gallagher Wisconsin who works with one of our friends of the show, Roger Christian Murphy in the China select committee, they are working well together across the aisle. It just seems to be so divisive in trying to get these things done. Uh how will it affect you if elected?” MCGRAW: “You know I am a disappointed to see some of those folks leave some of them are really great legislators but Darin LaHood who entered I should say spoke to be about running early on as a great role model, great example, of someone who can work with everyone and uh the China select committee is an example where you have to do that.” [Greg and Dan Interviews, Republican Candidate for the IL 17th Congressional District Preps for Primary Election, 8:24, [3/5/24](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Grateful To Converse With [LaHood] Today In Rockford About His Ongoing Work In Congress, And The Path Ahead For Our Nation On A Variety Of Meaningful Issues.” “Grateful to converse with @DarinLaHoodIL today in Rockford about his ongoing work in Congress, and the path ahead for our nation on a variety of meaningful issues. Looking forward to serving the families of Northwest and Central Illinois with Congressman LaHood! #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]

November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood

November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood. “REMINDER: If you have not been able to sign a petition for our campaign or other Republicans, please stop by tomorrow at the following locations to do so! We need your help to ensure good candidates get their name on the ballot! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/17/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/17/23](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act, An Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Grant Equal Protection Under The 14th Amendment To Fetuses, Effectively Banning Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Health Of The Mother. “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. ‘Human person’ is defined as: [...] each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. The bill would grant constitutional rights to

fertilized eggs, embryos, fetuses, and clones. It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization. The bill would not allow for prosecution of any pregnant person for the ‘death’ of their ‘unborn child.’” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored Anti-Abortion Legislation

LaHood Cosponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion At 20 Weeks. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Amends the US Code to prohibit any person from performing an abortion on an unborn child who is 20 weeks or older.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored Legislation “Declar[ing] That Life Begins At The Moment Of Conception” And A Bill To Prohibit Taxpayer Funding For Abortion. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: [...] No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Would make the Hyde Amendment and other current abortion funding prohibitions permanent and government-wide [...] Life at Conception Act – Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV) [...] This legislation declares that life begins at the moment of conception, therefore entitling the unborn to legal protection.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate”

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate.” “Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18) released the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization: ‘As a father of three and Pro-Life advocate, I applaud the Supreme Court's decision in the Dobbs case, returning the question of abortion to the states and to the people.’” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [6/24/22](#)]

LaHood Pushed For Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers

LaHood Opposed Limiting Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers, Calling The Centers A “Vital Alternative For Expectant Mothers.” “In a new twist to the fight over abortion access, congressional Republicans are trying to block a Biden administration spending rule that they say will cut off millions of dollars to anti-abortion counseling centers. [...] Congressional Republicans this week introduced legislation that would block the Health and Human Services Agency from restricting the funds from the centers. The bill has no chance of becoming law this year. ‘Pregnancy centers are an important and vital alternative for expectant mothers,’ Republican Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois said Thursday during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing to mark up the legislation.” [Spectrum News NY 1, [1/13/24](#)]

Tony McCombie, Illinois State House Minority Leader

McGraw Started Off His Campaign With Significant Support From State House Minority Leader Tony McCombie And Other Elected Republicans In The District. “The 17th is one of the most competitive congressional districts in Illinois. The seat is held by Democratic Rep. Eric Sorensen. The first-time lawmaker defeated Republican Esther Joy King 52% to 48% in 2022. The district includes Rockford, the Illinois Quad-Cities, Peoria and Bloomington-Normal along with swaths of rural northwestern and central Illinois. McGraw is being aided by the National Republican Congressional Committee. Lee Enterprise reporter Brenden Moore reported that McGraw is starting with significant support from elected Republicans in the district, including state House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savana, 10 other state legislator who represent areas throughout the district and local officials.” [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

October 2023: McGraw Was Endorsed By Tony McCombie. “Our campaign is honored to have the trust, support, and guidance of many state leaders who represent the voters across #IL17. We’ll be working with each of them to take our message directly to the hard-working people in every town throughout this district. Visit judgejoeforcongress.com to see the full list of endorsements, and to learn how you can get involved today! Tony McCombie John M. Cabello Rep Norine K Hammond State Rep. Bill Hauter Rep. Joe Sosnowski Ryan Spain Travis Weaver Neil Anderson for Senate Andrew Chesney Win Stoller for State Senate Syverson for Senate Friends of Dan Brady Elect Brian Stewart” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [10/16/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [10/16/23](#)]

Val Gunnarsson, Mayor Of Savanna Illinois

January 2024: McGraw Posted A Photo With His “Friend” Mayor Val Gunnarsson. “I had a great time in Carroll County tonight with my friend, Mayor Val Gunnarsson. I’m grateful for his endorsement and friendship!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/18/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/18/24](#)]

Travis Weaver, Illinois State Representative District 93

Illinois State Rep Travis Weaver Helped McGraw Announce His Candidacy For Congress. “Today I was honored to help Judge Joe McGraw announce his candidacy for United States Congress. Judge Joe has dedicated his life to public service and protecting families. He is a family man of faith whose conservative values are resolute. At a time when our streets aren’t safe, our border isn’t secure, and our world is quite literally under siege, Judge Joe is the man for the moment. I’m proud to endorse him and cannot wait to celebrate his victory in 390 days! Once elected, he will represent several major communities including Peoria, Kewanee, Bloomington, Galesburg, Quad Cities, Canton, Sterling, Freeport, and Rockford. Please join me in supporting #JudgeJoe for Congress!” [Travis Weaver, Facebook, [10/11/23](#)]



[Travis Weaver, Facebook, [10/11/23](#)]

John C. Ackerman, Tazewell County Clerk

John C. Ackerman Said He Was Proud To Join McGraw To Announce His Campaign. “Proud to join Judge Joe McGraw as he announced his campaign for the 17th Illinois Congressional District. He was introduced by State Representative Travis Weaver. In Tazewell County, the 17th Congressional District includes all of Spring Lake Township, Sand Prairie Township, Dillon Township, Malone Township, Delavan Township, Boynton Township, and Hittle Township as well as parts of Pekin Township, Cincinnati Township, Hopedale Township, and Little Mackinaw Township. Joe McGraw has spent his career in law enforcement and has served as a prosecutor, private attorney, and judge. He retired in July as a Circuit Judge at the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center. He was appointed to the bench as a circuit judge in January 2002, elected to the position in November 2002, and served as chief judge from 2012 to 2017.” [John C. Ackerman – Tazewell County Clerk, Facebook, [10/11/23](#)]



[John C. Ackerman – Tazewell County Clerk, Facebook, [10/11/23](https://www.facebook.com/JohnC.Ackerman)]

Joe Chiarelli, Winnebago County Board Chairman

McGraw Attended An Event In Support Of Joe Chiarelli For Winnebago County Board Chairman.

“Honored to join so many friends and colleagues in support of Joe Chiarelli Winnebago County Board Chairman this evening. Another busy week on the campaign trail has me energized for what is ahead! Thanks to all who continue to support our campaign to send a new voice to Washington who will stand for common sense! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/16/23](https://www.facebook.com/judgejoeforcongress)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/16/23](https://www.facebook.com/judgejoeforcongress)]

Andrew Chesney, Illinois State Senator District 45

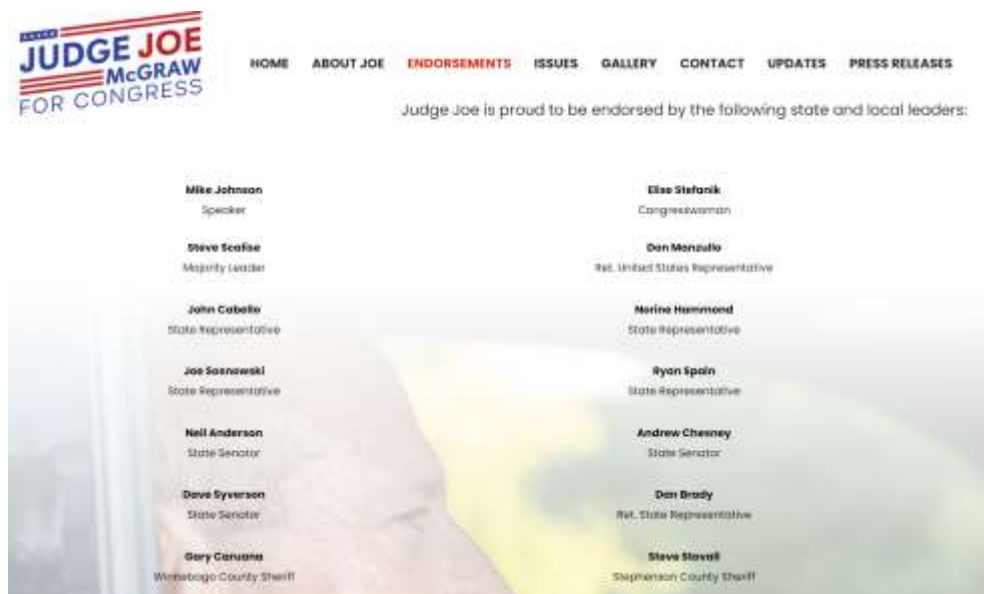
McGraw Attended A Reception For Senator Andrew Chesney And Called Him A “Friend.” “Great energy in Freeport this morning at a breakfast reception for my friend, Senator Andrew Chesney. Stephenson County is fired up and ready for change in #IL17. Together, we will restore the rule of law and bring common sense back to Washington.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/22/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/22/24](#)]

Gary Caruana, Winnebago County Sheriff

McGraw Was Endorsed By Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/30/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

McGraw: “It’s An Honor To Call Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana Not Just A Supporter But A Friend.” “It’s an honor to call Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana not just a supporter but a friend. Tonight we gathered to talk about what it’s going to take to restore law and order in our communities and keep Illinois families safe. We can do it -- and flipping #IL17 will be a huge step!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/11/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/11/24](#)]

McGraw Held A Public Safety Town Hall With His “Friend” Sheriff Gary Caruana. “Public Safety Town Hall #2 is in the books. Grateful to be joined by my friend, Sheriff Gary Caruana. I want to thank everyone that came out tonight. [...] I share your concerns about the chaos, the drugs, and the crime taking over our communities. I give you my word in Congress I will fight every single day to restore the rule of law and keep Illinoisans safe.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]

- **McGraw Promoted His Public Safety Town Hall With Sheriff Gary Caruana.** “Holding our second Public Safety Town Hall meeting TONIGHT! I will be joined by Winnebago County Sheriff, Gary Caruana. Looking forward to answering your questions. See you soon!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]

April 2024: McGraw Attended The Annual Bond Dinner With Sheriff Caruana. “Enjoyed the annual bond dinner at the Verdi Club with Sheriff Caruana, former county board colleague, John Terranova and many others today in Rockford!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]

Dave Carlson, Former Will County Circuit Court Judge

April 2024: McGraw Thanked His “Friend” Dave Carlson For Inviting Him To Speak To His Bible Study Group. “It want to thank my friend, Dave Carlson, for inviting me to speak at his bible study group this afternoon. It’s so cool to see civic engagement from so many young people!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/21/24](#)]

Organizations

January 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police

January 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. “Our support in the law enforcement community continues to grow! I’m proud to be endorsed by the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots

Jan 2024: McGraw Spoke At An Event For The Peoria Patriots, Who Had Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The World Health Organization’s Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event

January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event And Said It Was “A Pleasure” To Speak With The Group. “It was a pleasure speaking with the Peoria Patriots last night. Voters across #IL17 are fired up and ready to put an end to the out of touch Biden-Sorensen agenda that has left our southern border wide open and families with less money in their pocket. In Congress, I’ll stand strong to secure our border and ensure Illinois families have every opportunity to live out their dreams.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

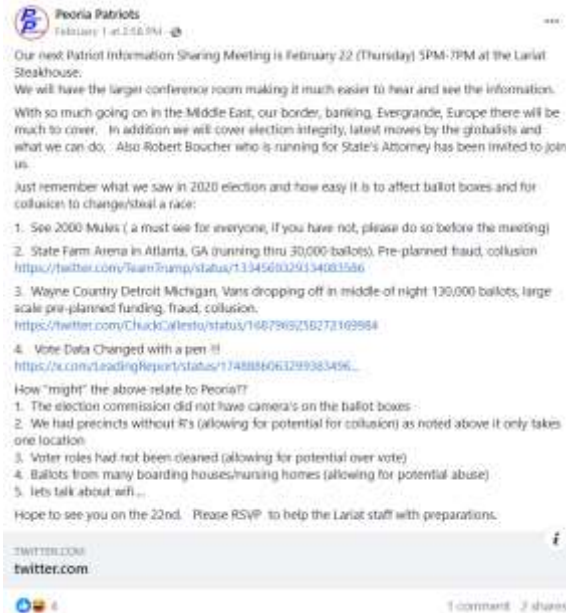


[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The WHO Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

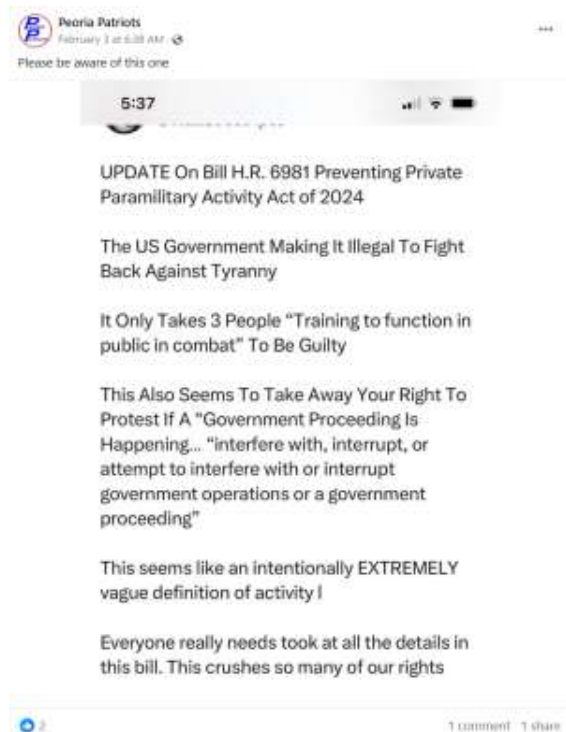
Peoria Patriots Reminded Its Followers To “Remember What We Saw In 2020 Election And How Easy It Is To Affect Ballot Boxes And For Collusion To Change/Steal A Race” And Pushed Election Conspiracies. “Our next Patriot Information Sharing Meeting is February 22 (Thursday) 5PM-7PM at the Lariat Steakhouse. We will have the larger conference room making it much easier to hear and see the information. With so much going on in the Middle East, our border, banking, Evergrande, Europe there will be much to cover. In addition we will cover election integrity, latest moves by the globalists and what we can do. Also Robert Boucher who is running for State's Attorney has been invited to join us. Just remember what we saw in 2020 election and how easy it is to affect ballot boxes and for collusion to change/steal a race: 1. See 2000 Mules (a must see for everyone, if you have not, please do so before the meeting) 2. State Farm Arena in Atlanta, GA (running thru 30,000 ballots). Pre-planned fraud, collusion <https://twitter.com/TeamTrump/status/1334569329334083586> 3. Wayne Country Detroit Michigan, Vans dropping off in middle of night 130,000 ballots, large scale pre-planned funding, fraud, collusion. <https://twitter.com/ChuckCallesto/status/1687969258272169984> 4. Vote Data Changed with a pen!!! <https://x.com/LeadingReport/status/1748886063299383496> ... How ‘might’ the above relate to Peoria?? 1. The

election commission did not have camera's on the ballot boxes 2. We had precincts without R's (allowing for potential for collusion) as noted above it only takes one location 3. Voter roles had not been cleaned (allowing for potential over vote) 4. Ballots from many boarding houses/nursing homes (allowing for potential abuse) 5. lets talk about wifi.... Hope to see you on the 22nd. Please RSVP to help the Lariat staff with preparations.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots Posted To Be Aware Of A Federal Bill That They Said Would Make It “Illegal To Fight Back Against Tyranny.” “Please be aware of this one.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]

A Peoria Patriots Post That Claimed The World Health Organization's Agenda Was To Sexualize Children Was Flagged For Containing False Information. "Hope everyone is now aware of this." [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]



Peoria Patriots
January 31 at 1:12 PM · 48

Hope everyone is now aware of this.

 **Expose the WHO agenda to
SEXUALIZE Children!**

The agenda to ensure that little children have sexual partners is being further developed by the World Health Organization. Their document, "Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe"² contains the following instructions for kindergartens and elementary schools:

- ✓ Children between 0 and 4 years must learn about masturbation and develop an interest in their own and others' bodies.
- ✓ Children between 4 and 6 years must learn about masturbation and be encouraged to express their sexual needs and wishes.
- ✓ Children between 6 and 9 years must learn about sexual intercourse, online pornography, having a secret love and self-stimulation.
- ✓ Children between 9 and 12 years should have their first sexual experience and learn to use online pornography.

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[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]

Donald Trump

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2024 Presidential Election: McGraw said he was waiting to see the outcome of Trump's criminal charges to make "an informed decision" on his 2024 vote, but just four months later flip-flopped and said he was voting for Trump.
- ✓ 2020 Presidential Election: McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020.
- ✓ April 2024: When asked about the Trump lawsuits and the state of the Country, McGraw said, "do not lose hope" and said, "we are really at a turning point in our Country."
- ✓ October 2023: McGraw said the legal process needed to play out in the felony indictments brought against Trump and declined to say whether a potential criminal conviction should preclude him from taking office.
- ✓ October 2023: After Trump's legal problems, McGraw said he would "have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is" before deciding on whether to vote for him in 2024.

Trump's Presidential Campaigns

McGraw Said He Was Waiting To See The Outcome Of Trump's Criminal Charges To Make "An Informed Decision" On His 2024 Vote, But Just Four Months Later Flip-Flopped And Said He Was Voting For Trump

October 2023: McGraw Said, "We Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is, And Only Then Can We Make An Informed Decision," On Voting For Donald Trump In The 2024 Election

McGraw Said, "We Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is, And Only Then Can We Make An Informed Decision," On Voting For Donald Trump In The 2024 Election. "The possible presence of former President Donald Trump, currently the frontrunner for the GOP presidential nomination despite facing 91 felony charges across four criminal cases, at the top of the ballot also presents a wild card. McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had 'no reason to doubt' that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president's legal troubles, McGraw said 'we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.'" [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was "Voting For Donald Trump"

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was "Voting For Donald Trump." "What's happening at the border is a disaster. Joe Biden caused this crisis and refuses to do anything to stop it. It's time to get serious about securing this border. That's why I'm voting for Donald Trump. He'll put America First and keep our country safe." [Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/20/24](#)]



[Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/20/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Would Vote For Trump Despite None Of His Legal Problems Being Resolved

March 2024: Trump Won A Series Of Delays As He Sought To Avoid Going To Trial On Any Of Four Criminal Indictments Before The Election. “Donald Trump has won a series of delays as he seeks to avoid going to trial on any of four criminal indictments before the Nov. 5 U.S. election, when the Republican former president aims to unseat Democratic President Joe Biden. Trump denies any wrongdoing. The U.S. Supreme Court will on April 25 hear Trump's claim of presidential immunity from prosecution on charges he conspired to prevent Congress from certifying his 2020 election loss to Biden and deprive voters of a fair election.” [Reuters, [3/15/24](#)]

- **Trump Faced 91 Felony Counts Connected To Four Different Criminal Cases Related To Subverting Democracy, Risking National Security, And A Hush Money Payment.** “In total, Mr. Trump faces 91 felony counts, charged with an array of crimes: trying to subvert democracy, risking national security secrets and falsifying business records in connection with a hush money payment to a porn actress.” [New York Times, [8/23/23](#)]

2020 Presidential Election: McGraw Confirmed That He Voted For Trump In 2020

The Pantagraph: McGraw Confirmed He Voted For Trump In 2020, But Said He Had “No Reason To Doubt” That Biden Was Legitimately Elected In That Race. “McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had ‘no reason to doubt’ that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president's legal troubles, McGraw said ‘we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.’ It also remains to be seen how much outside support will flow into the district after Republican groups spent more than \$7 million in an unsuccessful attempt to win the seat in 2022. Though Sorensen is among three-dozen Democrats being targeted for defeat by House Republicans, they only have a slim five-seat majority and will be tasked with defending 18 Republican-held seats won by Biden in 2020. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his law degree from Northern Illinois University. He and his wife live in Rockford and have five children.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Trump Indictments

April 2024: When Asked About The Trump Lawsuits And The State Of The Country, McGraw Said “Do Not Lose Hope” And Said “We Are Really At A Turning Point In Our Country”

April 2024: When Asked About The Trump Lawsuits And The State Of The Country, McGraw Said “Do Not Lose Hope” And Said “We Are Really At A Turning Point In Our Country. That Is One Of The Reasons I Am Running. People Are Sick To Death With The Overreach Of The Federal Government.” QUESTION: “I don’t wanna monopolize everything here but those who find it and I gotta tell you it scares me to see what has happened to this country and things like what I just asked about the governors, and the people not uh and other politicians disregarding the law but also what it has been allowed to happen to Donald Trump. I think they are bogus bogus lawsuits against him and they stand. I pray that everyone is so deep I don’t think if we dig our way out.” MCGRAW: “Yeah do not lose hope. You know I make calls everyday to voters around the district. Also making fundraising calls some of you have probably heard from me. I do not apologize for it because you know money is media. Media is message. Okay? In order to contrast Joe McGraw with the Rock Island weather man, okay. In order to make that contrast you need to be able to get that message out. [...] We are at an inflection point in this country. We are really at a turning point in our country. That is one of the reasons I am running. People are sick to death with the overreach of the federal government. They are sick to death of the policies. They are sick to death over what is happening at the border. They are sick to death of inflation. They are sick to death of the government trying to tell them how to raise their kids or what their values should be.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 37:38, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

October 2023: McGraw Said The Legal Process Needed To Play Out In The Felony Indictments Brought Against Trump And Declined To Say Whether A Potential Criminal Conviction Should Preclude Him From Taking Office

October 2023: McGraw Said The Legal Process Needed To Play Out In The Felony Indictments Brought Against Trump And Declined To Say Whether A Potential Criminal Conviction Should Preclude Him From Taking Office. “The former judge also said the legal process needs to play out in all the felony indictments brought against former President Donald Trump. He declined to say whether a potential criminal conviction should preclude Trump from returning to the Oval Office. ‘You’re asking me to speculate about an outcome that’s not yet before us. What I’m doing is remaining objective until we have all evidence before us,’ McGraw said. ‘When that happens, I’ll make a decision.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

October 2023: After Trump’s Legal Problems, McGraw Said He Would “Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is” Before Making A Decision On Whether To Vote For Him In 2024

After Trump’s Legal Problems, McGraw Said He Would “Have To See What The Charge Is And What The Outcome Is, And Only Then Can We Make An Informed Decision” About Voting For Him Again. “McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had ‘no reason to doubt’ that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president’s legal troubles, McGraw said ‘we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.’ It also remains to be seen how much outside support will flow into the district after Republican groups spent more than \$7 million in an unsuccessful attempt to win the seat in 2022. Though Sorensen is among three-dozen Democrats being targeted for defeat by House Republicans, they only have a slim five-seat majority and will be tasked with defending 18 Republican-held seats won by Biden in 2020. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his law degree from Northern Illinois University. He and his wife live in Rockford and have five children.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Issues

Abortion & Women's Health Issues

Significant Findings

McGraw Was A Danger To Women's Reproductive Rights; McGraw Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation, Represented An Anti-Abortion Protestor In Court, And Showed Up To Support Anti-Abortion Events

- ✓ McGraw supported anti-abortion legislation which “could subject some abortion doctors to prosecution” and supported overturning a Pentagon policy that guaranteed abortion access to service members regardless of where they were stationed.
- ✓ McGraw supported a bill could subject doctors to prosecution for providing reproductive services, including a fine, jail time, or both.
- ✓ McGraw supported an amendment overturning Pentagon policy that guaranteed abortion access to service members regardless of where they [were] stationed.
- ✓ McGraw supported a resolution that recognized the “sanctity of life.”
- ✓ 1991: McGraw represented a defendant in a case that sought to limit disruptive protests at an Illinois abortion provider after protestors physically blocked entrances.
- ✓ 1991: McGraw represented defendant Donald Lyon in the case Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, until Lyon was terminated with stipulations from the case in 1992.
 - ✓ Donald Lyon ran for Congress in 1978 and was a “trailblazer” for the Religious Right Movement, McGraw said Lyon was a “spiritual father” to him.
- ✓ The case was brought by the landlord and patients of the Northern Illinois women's center to limit disruptive protests at the health center after protestors repeatedly physically blocked entrances.
- ✓ The Northern Illinois Women's center provided abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years and was a frequent victim of violent attacks and protests before and after the lawsuit was filed.
- ✓ July 1994: Plaintiffs in Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al voluntarily dismissed the case without prejudice, meaning they could refile the dismissed claim at any time.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event sponsored by an anti-abortion pregnancy crisis center in Rockford, Illinois that provided a dangerous, medically-questioned procedure called abortion pill reversal.

McGraw Received More Than \$124,000 From Members Of Congress Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions And Donated To An Anti-Abortion Illinois Supreme Court Justice

- ✓ As of May 2024, McGraw has taken \$124,725 from anti-abortion extremists who supported a full abortion ban with no exceptions.
- ✓ McGraw donated to an Illinois Supreme Court Justice who “skirt[ed] the edge of ethical campaigning” by running on an anti-abortion platform and who went on to help revive a Illinois law that prohibited minors from receiving an abortion without parental permission.

- ✓ March 2000: McGraw donated \$250 to committee to elect Justice Bob Thomas.
- ✓ 2000: Thomas was accused of “skirting the edge of ethical campaigning” by running on an anti-abortion platform despite court rules that barred judicial candidates from publicly stating their views on issues they might rule on.
- ✓ While serving as the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Thomas “spearheaded” a push to revive a state law that prohibited minors from receiving an abortion without parental permission.

McGraw Received Endorsements, Contributions, And Support From Notoriously Anti-Abortion Leaders

- ✓ McGraw said he was endorsed by Illinois Family Institute, an extremist anti-abortion group which opposed Roe v. Wade and espoused a sanctity of life amendment, which said they believed in “the right to life from conception.”
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Mike Johnson, who was an anti-abortion extremist who co-sponsored legislation to ban abortion and defund planned parenthood and called abortion “a holocaust.”
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$7,000 and an endorsement from Steve Scalise, who supported a national abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest and cosponsored, and repeatedly voted for, legislation to ban abortion.
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$10,000 and an endorsement from Elise Stefanik, who cosponsored a 15-week federal abortion ban, and cosponsored and voted for a 20-week abortion ban with criminal penalties for doctors and without full exceptions for rape, incest or life of the women.
- ✓ McGraw fundraised with and accepted \$2,000 and an endorsement from his “friend” Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood, who cosponsored a national abortion ban without exceptions and described himself as a “pro-life advocate.”
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, who repeatedly voted against legislation and resolutions protecting reproductive rights in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access, and cosponsored anti-abortion bills.
- ✓ McGraw accepted \$1,500 and an endorsement from Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and said he would “work towards ending pro-abortion policies” in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and bills which protected physicians and nurses.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Dan Brady, who voted against legislation protecting reproductive rights and IVF access and bills which protected physicians and nurses.
- ✓ McGraw’s congressional campaign was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie, who co-sponsored the Ultrasound Opportunity Act, which served as a barrier to abortion care.

- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter, who was “heavily involved” in crisis pregnancy centers.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, who voted against a bill which would protect abortion in Illinois and reinforce protections for physicians and patients.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Nebraska Senator Pete Ricketts, who favored banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

McGraw Repeatedly Supported And Defended Men Accused Of Domestic Abuse And Sexual Misconduct And Refused To Allow A Murder Trial Jury To Hear Testimony Of Domestic Violence Allegations, Saying “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence”

- ✓ McGraw refused to allow a jury to hear testimony of domestic violence allegations in a murder trial where a man killed his ex-girlfriend’s daughter, saying “I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,” using air quotes for ‘domestic violence.’
- ✓ McGraw touted the endorsement of By Zach Oyler, a Peoria City Council Member who was accused of domestic abuse but took a “rarely used” plea agreement to resolve the charges which conceded there was likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt.
 - ✓ February 2024: McGraw bragged about an endorsement from Zach Oyler, a Peoria City Council member.
 - ✓ Councilman Zach Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.
 - ✓ Oyler entered a rarely used plea to resolve the charges. The plea allowed him to maintain his innocence but conceded there was likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt.
- ✓ McGraw stood as a character witness to defend an attorney and former county prosecutor whose law license was suspended after a state commission found that he “engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three women” including battery and sexual harassment.
 - ✓ March 2007: Five women came forward to allege Dennis Schumacher engaged in a pattern of misconduct involving sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery.
 - ✓ December 2009: McGraw stood as a character witness in defense of Dennis Schumacher during an Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) investigation into his potential sexual misconduct.
 - ✓ December 2009: The ARDC panel recommended Dennis Schumacher lose his law license for at least a year after finding he “engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three different women.”
 - ✓ March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court affirmed ARDC’s findings and ruled that Dennis Schumacher be unable to practice law for a year.
 - ✓ 1990: Dennis Schumacher was found to have engaged in misconduct after he failed to recuse himself from a case involving an alleged act of child abuse at a school where he had a conflict of interest.

McGraw Consistently Omitted From His Biography His Time As An Assistant State’s Attorney, Where He Defended A High School Where A Teacher Had Engaged In Sexual Abuse Of A Student

- ✓ McGraw’s various biographies said he graduated law school in 1985 and became a circuit judge in 2002, but did not account for the 17-year time period in between.
- ✓ Between 1990 and 2001, McGraw was an Assistant State’s Attorney in Winnebago County, Illinois.
- ✓ 1993: McGraw represented a Rockton, Illinois, high school in a case where a female student accused teachers at the school of sexual abuse, and said the high school did little to stop it.

Federal Abortion Regulation

McGraw Said He Did Not Believe That Abortion Was A Federal Issue, Which Would Enable States To Ban Abortion

February 2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Federal Government Had A Role In Regulating Abortion After The Supreme Court Overturned Roe v. Wade In 2022 And Said It Should Be Left To The States. “McGraw broadly laid out some of his policy positions, calling for the building of a border wall to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, but also expressing openness to a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package. On abortion, McGraw said he did not believe the federal government had a role in its regulation following the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. He said it should be left to the states.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

- **McGraw: “It’s [Abortion] Not A Federal Issue. And These Are Decision That Have To Be Made Between A Woman And Her Physician, Between A Woman And Her Partner, Between Family Members. And If Anything I Learned On The Bench, It’s Compassion, Because So Many People Are In Extremely Stressed Situations Where They Don’t Need Feel Like They’ve Got Anywhere Else To Turn.”** “On abortion, McGraw said he did not believe the federal government had a role in its regulation following the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. He said it should be left to the states. ‘It’s not a federal issue,’ McGraw said. ‘And these are decisions that have to be made between a woman and her physician, between a woman and her partner, between family members. And if anything I learned on the bench, it’s compassion, because so many people are in extremely stressed situations where they don’t feel like they’ve got anywhere else to turn.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

When Roe Was Overturned, “The Legality Of Abortion Was Left To Individual States.” “Once the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the legality of abortion was left to individual states. A few states have amended their constitution to declare that it does not contain any protection for abortion rights or allow public funds to be used for abortion.” [Guttmacher Institute, [4/24/23](#)]

- **Twenty-One States Banned Abortion Or Restricted The Procedure Following Roe V. Wade Being Overturned.** “Twenty-one states ban abortion or restrict the procedure earlier in pregnancy than the standard set by Roe v. Wade, which governed reproductive rights for nearly half a century until the Supreme Court overturned the decision last year.” [New York Times, [1/8/24](#)]

Anti-Abortion Legislation

McGraw Supported Anti-Abortion Legislation Which “Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors to Prosecution” And Supported Overturning A Pentagon Policy That Guaranteed Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They Were Stationed

McGraw Supported A Bill, Which Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors To Prosecution, For Providing Reproductive Services, Including A Fine, Jail Time, Or Both

McGraw Supported House Resolution 26, The “Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act” Of 2023. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “1 | H.R. 26 Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act (2023) requires the same medical care be provided to an infant born alive after surviving an attempted abortion as any other baby at that gestational age.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

The Bill Would Establish Criminal Penalties For Doctors Who Did Not Follow Existing Federal Law Requiring Medical Care Be Given To Infants In The Very Unlikely Event Of A Failed Abortion. “Live births during an abortion procedure are exceedingly rare, experts said, and federal law already requires that a baby who survives an attempted abortion receive emergency medical care. The new bill would clarify the standard of care to which doctors are held and lay out penalties for violators. Policy organizations supporting abortion rights said the measure was an effort to discourage women from seeking abortions and doctors from performing them.” [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

The So-Called “Born-Alive” Bill Would Penalize Doctors Who Violated It With A Fine And/Or Up To Five Years In Prison. “(b) Penalties.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.” [Congress.gov, HR 26, Text, introduced [1/9/23](#)]

- **New York Times Headline: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors To Prosecution”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

HuffPost: The Bill Could Deprive Parents Of Holding Infants Who May Not Live Much Longer Or Limit Their Options For Medical Interventions. “This legislation could take away a pregnant person’s power to decide what medical interventions they want to receive during an already-emotional time, possibly forcing physicians to prolong an infant’s life for a short period of time before it dies. In certain cases, this could take away parents’ opportunities to hold their infants.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

HuffPost Reported The Bill Was “Chock-Full Of Misinformation And Creates More Barriers To Care.” “The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which passed 220-210 on Wednesday, would require physicians to provide life-sustaining care to infants born after an attempted abortion and threatens doctors with criminal penalties if they don’t comply. [...] But similar to other anti-choice legislation, the bill is chock-full of misinformation and creates more barriers to care. Reproductive rights advocates and physicians critical of the bill argue that it’s nearly impossible for infants to be born alive during abortions later in pregnancy. Bills like this are also redundant: Murder is already illegal in the U.S. If that’s not enough, the rights of an infant or newborn are already protected by a 2002 law that codified that infants have the same rights as any other human.” [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

- **The Majority Of Abortions Performed Later In Pregnancy Were “Due To Medical Necessity, Not Elective, As The Bill Suggested.** “But similar to other anti-choice legislation, the bill is chock-full of misinformation and creates more barriers to care. Reproductive rights advocates and physicians critical of the bill argue that it’s nearly impossible for infants to be born alive during abortions later in pregnancy. Bills like this are also redundant: Murder is already illegal in the U.S. If that’s not enough, the rights of an infant or newborn are already protected by a 2002 law that codified that infants have the same rights as any other human. These bills promote inaccurate ideas about why people get abortions later in pregnancy. The majority of abortions performed later in pregnancy are medically necessary to save the life of the pregnant person or

necessary because of a fatal fetal abnormality; they're not elective." [HuffPost, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Supported An Amendment Overturning Pentagon Policy That Guaranteed Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They [Were] Stationed

McGraw Supported House Resolution 2670, Am. No. 5 Which Prohibited The U.S. Department Of Defense From Paying For Or Reimbursing Expenses Related To Abortion. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute's Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: "4 | H.R. 2670, Am. No. 5 (2023) prohibits the U.S. Department of Defense from paying for or reimbursing expenses related to abortion." McGraw answered: "Support." [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

- **The Amendment Overturned A Pentagon Policy "Guaranteeing Abortion Access To Service Members Regardless Of Where They [Were] Stationed."** "A divided House voted on Thursday to restrict abortion access, bar transgender health services and limit diversity training for military personnel, potentially imperiling passage of the annual defense bill as Republicans, goaded by their right flank, loaded the measure with conservative policy dictates. The House voted 221 to 213 to overturn a Pentagon policy guaranteeing abortion access to service members regardless of where they are stationed, with Republicans propelling it to passage over near-unanimous Democratic opposition." [New York Times, [7/13/23](#)]
- **Republicans Voted To Undo The Pentagon's Policy That Allowed Service Members To Be Reimbursed If They Had To Travel For Abortion Care.** "The Republican push to pare back military abortion policies was added to the must-pass Pentagon policy bill in a narrow vote Thursday afternoon, including a proposal that is certain to imperil Democratic support. In a 221-213 vote, lawmakers adopted an amendment to the annual National Defense Authorization Act to undo the Pentagon's policy of reimbursing service members who travel to receive abortions." [Politico, [7/13/23](#)]

McGraw Supported A Resolution That Recognized The "Sanctity Of Life"

McGraw Supported House Continuing Resolution 3 Which Condemned Attacks And Vandalism Against Pro-Life Organizations And Churches. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute's Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: "2 | H. Con. Res. 3 (2023) condemns attacks and vandalism against pro-life organizations and churches." McGraw answered: "Support." [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

- **The Resolution Recognized "The Sanctity Of Life."** In January 2023, Lawler voted for: "Agreement to the concurrent resolution that would state that Congress condemns attacks of vandalism, violence and destruction against pro-life facilities, groups and churches and recognizes 'the sanctity of life and the important role that [such entities] play in supporting pregnant women, infants and families.' It would also call on the Biden administration to use all appropriate law enforcement authorities to protect the rights of such entities." The bill passed by a vote of 222-209. [H.Con.Res. 3, [Vote #30](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

Support For Anti-Abortion Protestor

1991: McGraw Represented A Defendant In A Case That Sought To Limit Disruptive Protests At An Illinois Abortion Provider After Protestors Physically Blocked Entrances

1991: McGraw Represented Defendant Donald Lyon In The Case Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al, Until Lyon Was Terminated With Stipulations From The Case In 1992

May 1991: McGraw Represented Defendant Donald Lyon In A Lawsuit Brought By Gerald W Webster And Patients Of The Northern Illinois Women’s Center. Joseph Gerard McGraw represented a defendant, Donald Lyon, in Gerald W Webster and Patients of the Northern Illinois Women’s Center’s lawsuit against Lyon, Operation Rescue, City of Rockford, Marion Ott, Helen Doyle, Curtis C Johnson, Bishops Council of the Knights of Columbus #470, Alfred Penniman, Judy Penniman, Daniel Holman, David Holman, Daniel McCarty, Michael Lewis And Kathy Lewis. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

November 1992: Defendant Donald Lyon Was Terminated With Prejudice From The Case With Stipulations. According to the Civil Docket, On November 20th, 1992, Defendant Donald Lyon was terminated with prejudice pursuant to stipulations from plaintiffs in Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et A. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

NOTE: Court records from PACER did not include documents clarifying what stipulations were made for Lyon to be terminated from the case.

Donald Lyon Ran For Congress In 1978 And Was A “Trailblazer” For The Religious Right Movement, McGraw Said Lyon Was A “Spiritual Father” To Him

February 2024: McGraw Called Don Lyon, The Defendant He Represented In Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al A “Spiritual Father” To Him

February 2024: McGraw Said Apostle Lyon Was A “Spiritual Father” To Him In Many Ways And “Set An Example For All Those Who Sought To Go Into Government Service” That “There Was No Separation Between Church And State.” McGraw: “And it’s great being here this morning and before the service, I was with Apostle Marla, Prophet Michelle, and back in the office and we were remembering days gone by. And one of the things I was remembering was Apostle Lyon, who’s gone home to be with the Lord. And he was a spiritual father to me in so many ways, in that he set an example for all those who sought to go into government service, that everything was under the Lordship of Christ, including government, and there was no separation between church and state. That’s not a biblical concept. It’s an unbiblical concept. This deceived many people over the years and so it’s great to be welcomed so warmly this morning.” [Faith Center, YouTube, 40:41, [2/11/24](#)]

Donald Lyon, Who McGraw Defended, Was A “Trailblazer” For The Religious Right Movement During His 1978 Run For Congress

Newsmax: During Donald Lyon’s 1978 Run For Congress He Was “Looked Upon By The National Media As Something Of A Trailblazer For The Embryonic Religious Right.” “Before Baptist pastor Mike Huckabee appeared on the political scene as governor of Arkansas in the 1990’s and presidential candidate a decade later, and before Rev. Pat Robertson ran for president in 1988, there was Rev. Don Lyon. When Lyon (who died last week at age 89), founder and head of the Rockford Faith Center in Rockford, Illinois decided to take on liberal Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., in 1978, he was looked upon by the national media as something of a trailblazer for the embryonic ‘religious right.’” [Newsmax, [10/18/20](#)]

- **Donald Lyon Claimed IL Congressman Anderson “Moved Liberal” And Ran Against Him With Support From The Moral Majority.** “Rated 88 percent for his first six years in Congress, Anderson opposed Medicare and federal aid to education, supported the House Committee on Un-American Activities and, on three occasions, he proposed a constitutional amendment to characterize America as ‘devoutly recognizing the authority of Jesus Christ, Savior and ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God.’ ‘John B. was conservative, all right, and the church community liked him,’ Lyon recalled to Newsmax following Anderson’s death in 2017, ‘But in the ‘60s, he changed. Like a lot of ambitious Republicans, he wanted The Washington Post and The New York Times to like him. And, he wanted the money of the Rockefellers behind him. So he moved liberal.’ By 1978, Anderson had changed from supporter to opponent of

the Vietnam War, backed Richard Nixon's resignation, and supported the Equal Rights Amendment. So the silver-haired Lyon took on the nine-term congressman. Fledgling groups of evangelical conservatives such as the Moral Majority mobilized volunteers on his behalf, and Jim Martin, future head of the SixtyPlus Seniors Association, oversaw a direct mail campaign that raised funds nationwide for Lyon." [Newsmax, [10/18/20](#)]

The Case Was Brought By The Landlord And Patients Of The Northern Illinois Women's Center To Limit Disruptive Protests At The Health Center After Protestors Repeatedly Physically Blocked Entrances

1991: The Landlord Of The Northern Illinois Women's Center Filed A Federal Lawsuit Aimed At Limiting Demonstrations By Anti-Abortion Activists After Protestors Physically Blocked Entrances

HEADLINE: "Abortion Clinic's Landlord Suing To Limit Protests." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

1991: Wayne Webster, The Landlord Of The Building That Housed The Northern Illinois Women's Center Filed A Federal Lawsuit Aimed At Limiting Demonstrations And Picketing By Anti-Abortion Activists. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

Anti-Abortion Protestors Attempted To Physically Block Access To The Clinic On Feb. 17, 1989, And April 28, 1989; Webster Alleged The Protestors Conspire To Deny Women Access To Legal Abortions. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

Wayne Webster Sought Injunctions To Prevent Blocking The Clinic Entrance, Demonstrating Within 15 Feet Of Patients, Sidewalk Counseling Of Patients And Loud Chanting At Patients And Clinic Employees. "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000." [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

- **Wayne Webster Also Sought From Each Defendant Compensatory Damages Of No Less Than \$50,000 And Punitive Damages Of No Less Than \$50,000.** "The landlord of Rockford's only abortion clinic has filed a federal lawsuit aimed at limiting demonstrations and picketing by anti-abortion activists. The lawsuit filed by Wayne Webster, owner of the building that houses the Northern Illinois Women's Center, names Operation

Rescue, as well as other anti-abortion groups, activists, church pastors and the city of Rockford. Anti-abortion activists attempted to physically block access to the clinic Feb. 17, 1989, and April 28, 1989. The class action lawsuit, filed Tuesday on behalf of clinic patients, alleges that anti-abortion activists conspire to deny women access to legal abortions. Webster is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent blocking the clinic entrance, demonstrating within 15 feet of patients, sidewalk counseling of patients and loud chanting at patients and clinic employees. He also seeks from each defendant compensatory damages of no less than \$50,000 and punitive damages of no less than \$50,000.” [Chicago Tribune, 5/10/91]

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services In Rockford For Nearly 40 Years And Was A Frequent Victim Of Violent Attacks And Protests Before And After The Lawsuit Was Filed

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services In Rockford, Illinois And Was The Region’s Sole Abortion Clinic

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Provided Abortion Services For Nearly 40 Years In Rockford Illinois. “The Northern Illinois Women’s Center, which has been providing abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years, is closing permanently. According to an email sent to the Rockford Register Star, the clinic’s owners have decided to voluntarily shut their doors for good. Clinic officials state their decision is based on lack of support from the community, the political climate surrounding the abortion issue and the challenge the clinic would face in rebuilding staff.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/12](#)]

The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Was The Region’s Sole Abortion Clinic, And Was The Site Of Weekly Protests From Anti-Abortion Advocates. “The Northern Illinois Women’s Center, which has been providing abortion services in Rockford for nearly 40 years, is closing permanently. [...] The clinic at 1400 Broadway was the region’s sole abortion clinic. The closest clinics to the Rockford area are in Madison, Wis., 70 miles north, or about 70 miles to the east in the Chicago suburbs. The clinic has been the site of weekly protests from anti-abortion advocates who often carry signs with anti-abortion messages on the sidewalks outside the Broadway building, praying for the end of abortion and encouraging patients to change their minds about getting an abortion.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/12](#)]

1987-1989: The Northern Illinois Women’s Center Faced Five Incidents Of Arson, And Protests Resulting In 180 Arrests In The Years Leading Up To Webster’s Lawsuit

1989: Two Years Prior, Named Defendant And Anti-Abortion Group “Operation Rescue” Staged Several Protests at the Northern Illinois Women’s Center Resulting In 180 Arrests. “Key dates for the Northern Illinois Women’s Center [...] 1989: Anti-abortion group Operation Rescue stages a protest outside the Northern Illinois Women’s Center. Police make 108 arrests. The group protests a second time, and police make 72 arrests.” [Rockford Register Star, [1/13/12](#)]

1987: Northern Illinois Women’s Center Was The Victim Of Five Incidents Of Arson. “A 56-year-old Rockford high school janitor has been charged with setting a fire at an abortion clinic in that city while a camera, installed nearby by federal agents, videotaped the incident. Agents said they had placed the camera in a nearby building after four previous arson fires at the clinic. The suspect, David Holman, a janitor at Rockford’s Guilford High School, was ordered held without bond after his arrest Monday afternoon on federal arson charges. Holman is accused of setting fire to the Northern Illinois Women’s Center last Tuesday. The clinic rents quarters in the former Turner School, where Holman once was a janitor. ‘This is the first and only abortion clinic in Illinois where threats of violence by people opposed to abortion went beyond just threats,’ said James Reeves, special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which investigated the fires. Officials said last week’s fire, like the previous ones, caused only minor damage. During the last 11 months the clinic has been picketed several times by abortion opponents, but representatives of the picketing groups said their organizations had nothing to do with the fires.” [Chicago Tribune, 1/14/87]

2000: The Northern Illinois Women's Center Continued To Face Violence After The Lawsuit, In 2000 A Priest Smashed His Car Into The Center And Chopped At The Building With An Ax

2000: A Catholic Priest Smashed His Car Into Northern Illinois Women's Center And Chopped At The Building With An Ax Until The Owner Fired Two Shotgun Blasts, No One Was Injured In The Attack. “A Catholic priest smashed his car into an abortion clinic this morning, then chopped at the building with an ax until the owner fired two shotgun blasts to stop him, police said. The clinic was closed and no one was injured in the attack, which came two days after federal approval of the abortion pill RU-486. The man drove through a door at the Abortion Access Northern Illinois Women's Center about 8:15 a.m. He was swinging an ax when the clinic's owner twice fired a 12-gauge shotgun. He did not hit the man. The Rev. John Earl, 32, was arrested and charged with burglary and felony criminal damage to property, said Deputy Police Chief Dominic Iasparro. Earl was released later on \$10,000 bond.” [Washington Post, [9/30/00](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Priest Attacks Ill. Abortion Clinic With Car and Ax.”** [Washington Post, [9/30/00](#)]

NOTE: The Northern Illinois Women's Center was particularly a location for protest because staff physician [Dr. Richard Ragsdale](#) was the plaintiff in an abortions rights case that almost went to the Supreme Court.

July 1994: Plaintiffs In Webster, Et Al V. Operation Rescue, Et Al Voluntarily Dismissed The Case Without Prejudice, Meaning They Could Refile The Dismissed Claim At Any Time

July 1994: Plaintiffs In Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al Voluntarily Dismissed The Case Without Prejudice. According to the civil docket, on July 14th 1994 Plaintiffs' oral motion to voluntarily dismiss the case without prejudice was granted by Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski. Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al was dismissed on July 21st, 1994. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al, Case # 3:91-cv-20138, Civil Docket, filed 5/8/91]

Dismissal Without Prejudice Allows A Court To Dismiss A Claim But Leaves The Plaintiff Free To Bring Up A Subsequent Suit Based On The Same Grounds As The Dismissed Claim. “Dismissal without prejudice: When a court dismisses a claim but leaves the plaintiff free to bring a subsequent suit based on the same grounds as the dismissed claim. In *Semtek Intern. Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.*, the Supreme Court pointed out that one of the main features of dismissal without prejudice is that it does not prevent refiling of the claim in the same court.” [Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, accessed [2/29/24](#)]

Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Crisis Center

McGraw Attended An Event Sponsored By An Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Crisis Center In Rockford, Illinois That Provided A Dangerous, Medically-Questioned Procedure Called Abortion Pill Reversal

2023: McGraw Attended A “Hike For Life” Event With The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford

September 2023: Jermarrion Simmons Posted A Picture On Facebook Of McGraw On A Hike And Said, hike for life “‘Hiked For Life’ Today With Judge Joe McGraw Hosed By The, Pregnancy Center Of Rockford, At First Free Church.” Simmons wrote, “‘Hiked for Life’ today with Judge Joe McGraw hosed by the, Pregnancy Center of Rockford, at First Free Church. Judge McGraw is making a big announcement on October 10th. You don't wanna miss it.” [Jermarrion Simmons, Facebook, [9/30/23](#)]



[Jermarrion Simmons, Facebook, [9/30/23](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Was A Pregnancy Crisis Center That Did Not Refer For Or Perform Abortions

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Was A Pregnancy Crisis Center. According to the Crisis Pregnancy Center map, the pregnancy care center of Rockford was listed as a crisis pregnancy center. [Crisis Pregnancy Center Map, Identify CPCs, accessed [12/11/23](#)]

Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Website: “The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Does Not Refer For Or Perform Abortions.” “The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford does not refer for or perform abortions.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Abortion, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Of Held An Annual Event Called “Celebrate Life Annual Banquet”

The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Held An Annual “Celebrate Life Banquet.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Events, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

STORIES OF ABUNDANCE

WHEN AN ABUNDANT GOD WRITES YOUR STORY

CELEBRATE LIFE ANNUAL BANQUET 2024

Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at Embassy Suites Rockford (416 E Main St, 12th Floor, Rockford, IL 61101)

Brunch at 11am | Doors open at 10:30am | Tickets \$55 each

Dinner at 6pm | Doors open at 5:30pm | Tickets \$55 each

More information to come soon!

[Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Events, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford Provided A Potentially Dangerous Procedure Called “Abortion Pill Reversal,” Which The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Called “Unproven And Unethical” After A 2019 Study Had To Be Stopped For The Safety Of The Pregnant Women Participating

Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford Provided A Potentially Dangerous Procedure Called “Abortion Pill Reversal

2024: The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Had A Page On Its Website About Abortion Pill Reversal, Which Read, “Would You Like To Reverse Your Abortion?” “WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVERSE YOUR ABORTION? If you have begun a Medication/Chemical Abortion within the last 72 hours, and now wish to make a different choice, there is a chance to reverse the effects of the first abortion pill and safely continue your pregnancy.” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, APR Services, accessed [1/16/24](#)]

October 2023: The Pregnancy Care Center Of Rockford Posted A Graphic On Instagram With The Word “Abortion Pill Reversal” And The Caption, “Did You Know, It May Not Be Too Late To Save Your Pregnancy?” [Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Instagram, [10/4/23](#)]



[Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, Instagram, [10/4/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Called Abortion Pill Reversal “Unproven And Unethical” After A 2019 Study Had To Be Stopped For The Safety Of The Pregnant Women Participating

Women’s Choice Network Had Abortion Pill Reversal Listed As One Of Their Services. “After you take the first pill, it's like the lights go out and Satan says, ‘Gotcha!’ Many women immediately regret their abortion decision. Within a three-day window of time, women can reverse their abortion pill affects with this safe, simple protocol.” [Women’s Choice Network, accessed [7/28/23](#)]

ABC News: “Experts Say This So-Called ‘[Abortion Pill] Reversal’ Is Unfounded And Could Be Potentially Dangerous.” “Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade this past summer, some states had enacted laws requiring doctors to inform patients that medical abortions could be reversed. Experts say this so-called ‘reversal’ is unfounded and could be potentially dangerous. ‘It's not just that [patients are] being sold snake oil, that somebody is giving them something in bad faith in an effort to somehow persuade them that they can save their pregnancy,’ Dr. Spencer McClelland, an OBGYN at Denver Health, told ABC News. ‘It's actually that the best data we have has raised enough concerns about it.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

Dr. Spencer McClelland, OBGYN At Denver Health: “It's Not Just That [Patients Are] Being Sold Snake Oil. [...] It's Actually That The Best Data We Have Has Raised Enough Concerns About It.” “Even before the

Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade this past summer, some states had enacted laws requiring doctors to inform patients that medical abortions could be reversed. Experts say this so-called ‘reversal’ is unfounded and could be potentially dangerous. ‘It’s not just that [patients are] being sold snake oil, that somebody is giving them something in bad faith in an effort to somehow persuade them that they can save their pregnancy,’ Dr. Spencer McClelland, an OBGYN at Denver Health, told ABC News. ‘It’s actually that the best data we have has raised enough concerns about it.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

- **Dr. Spencer McClelland, OBGYN At Denver Health: “As Opposed To Mifepristone, Which Has An Amazing Amount Of Studies About Its Usage, Showing Its Safety And Efficacy, The High-Dose Progesterone For The Purpose Of Abortion Reversal Has A Real Paucity Of Evidence.”** “The ACOG has spoken against so-called ‘reversal,’ calling the treatment ‘not backed by science’ as well as ‘unproven and unethical.’ ‘As opposed to mifepristone, which has an amazing amount of studies about its usage, showing its safety and efficacy, the high-dose progesterone for the purpose of abortion reversal has a real paucity of evidence,’ McClelland said.” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Has Spoken Against So-Called “Reversal,” Calling The Treatment “Not Backed By Science” As Well As “Unproven And Unethical.” “The ACOG has spoken against so-called ‘reversal,’ calling the treatment ‘not backed by science’ as well as ‘unproven and unethical.’ ‘As opposed to mifepristone, which has an amazing amount of studies about its usage, showing its safety and efficacy, the high-dose progesterone for the purpose of abortion reversal has a real paucity of evidence,’ McClelland said.” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

The American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Said One Study On Abortion Pill “Reversal” Was Designed Poorly, Since The Women Participating Had Not Taken Misoprostol, A Crucial Part Of The Abortion Pill Process. “The ACOG referenced a 2012 case study that proponents of abortion pill reversal have used, in which six women took mifepristone to end their pregnancies and then took varying doses of an injection of progesterone. However, the ACOG says this is not evidence that giving progesterone allowed the pregnancies to continue because it is well-documented that mifepristone is effective with misoprostol, not on its own. McClelland said this type a case study is different from a randomized controlled trial, in which something -- in this case, a medication -- is compared against a placebo to show that what scientists are seeing is in fact a result of this medication. [...] Another study, in 2019, examining medication abortion reversal was ended early due to safety concerns. ‘A really surprising number of women experienced threatening hemorrhage and having to come to the hospital for emergency care after they were enrolled in this,’ McClelland said. ‘What we can say for sure is they terminated the study early because they didn’t feel comfortable continuing the study.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

A 2019 Study On Abortion Pill “Reversal” Had To Be Ended Early Amid Safety Concerns After A “Really Surprising Number Of Women Experienced Threatening Hemorrhage And [Had] To Come To The Hospital For Emergency Care.” “The ACOG referenced a 2012 case study that proponents of abortion pill reversal have used, in which six women took mifepristone to end their pregnancies and then took varying doses of an injection of progesterone. However, the ACOG says this is not evidence that giving progesterone allowed the pregnancies to continue because it is well-documented that mifepristone is effective with misoprostol, not on its own. McClelland said this type a case study is different from a randomized controlled trial, in which something -- in this case, a medication -- is compared against a placebo to show that what scientists are seeing is in fact a result of this medication. [...] Another study, in 2019, examining medication abortion reversal was ended early due to safety concerns. ‘A really surprising number of women experienced threatening hemorrhage and having to come to the hospital for emergency care after they were enrolled in this,’ McClelland said. ‘What we can say for sure is they terminated the study early because they didn’t feel comfortable continuing the study.’” [ABC News, [4/20/23](#)]

McGraw Received More Than \$124,000 From Members Of Congress Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

As Of May 15th, 2024 McGraw Has Taken \$124,725 From Anti-Abortion Extremists Who Supported A Full Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act			
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Amount(s)	Congressional Session(s) Member Cosponsored Life at Conception Act
Building America's Republican Representation PAC	Andy Barr (KY-06)	\$1,500	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	\$4,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Fight On PAC	Ashley Hinson (IA-02)	\$1,000	118th , 117th
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	\$2,000	118th , 117th
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Upper Hand Fund	Bill Huizenga (MI-02)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Guthrie for Congress	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	\$1,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Bringing Republican Excellence to Town PAC	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	\$3,300	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$3,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th
CMR Political Action Committee	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	\$1,000	117th , 116th
LaHood for Congress	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Abraham Lincoln PAC	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	\$5,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	\$3,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th

David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Vitoria PAC	David Valadao (CA-21)	<u>\$2,500</u>	117th
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th
Buddy PAC	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	<u>\$1,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	<u>\$1,500</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th
Bilirakis for Congress	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	<u>\$3,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th
Jake Ellzey for Congress	Jake Ellzey (TX-06)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	<u>\$4,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th
Volunteers for Shimkus	John Shimkus (IL-15)	<u>\$2,500</u>	116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Armstrong for Congress	Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL)	<u>\$3,125</u>	117th , 116th
Bucshon for Congress	Larry Bucshon (IN-08)	<u>\$1,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	<u>\$3,300</u>	118th , 117th
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	<u>\$2,500</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Miller-Meeks for Congress	Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01)	<u>\$2,000</u>	117th
Support Taxfighters & Elect Effective Leaders PAC	Michelle Steel (CA-45)	<u>\$3,500</u>	117th
American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	<u>\$5,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	<u>\$2,500</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	<u>\$4,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 112th
Latta for Congress	Robert E. Latta (OH-05)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
America's First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	<u>\$3,000</u>	117th , 116th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	<u>\$2,000</u>	118th , 117th , 116th

Republicans United To Defend You PAC	Rudy Yakym (IN-02)	\$1,000	118th
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$2,000	113th , 112th
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$5,000	113th , 112th
Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	\$4,000	113th , 112th
Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	\$2,500	118th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Emmer for Congress	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	\$2,000	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans (EMMER PAC)	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	\$5,000	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	\$2,500	118th , 117th
TOTAL:		\$124,725	

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

McGraw Donated To An Anti-Abortion Illinois Supreme Court Justice

McGraw Donated To An Illinois Supreme Court Justice Who “Skirt[ed] The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” By Running On An Anti-Abortion Platform And Then Went On To Help Revive A Illinois Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

March 2000: McGraw Donated \$250 To The Committee To Elect Justice Bob Thomas

March 2000: McGraw Donated \$250 To The Committee To Elect Justice Bob Thomas. On March 10th 2000, Joseph McGraw donated \$250 to the Committee to Elect Justice Bob Thomas. [Illinois Secretary of State, Contribution Search, accessed [1/22/23](#)]

McGraw, Joseph Redaction Requested	\$250.00	3/10/2000	7/31/2000	Other Receipt Comm To Elect Justice Bob Thomas
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[Illinois Secretary of State, Contribution Search, accessed [1/22/23](#)]

2000: Thomas Was Accused Of “Skirting The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” By Running On An Anti-Abortion Platform Despite Court Rules That Barred Judicial Candidates From Publicly Stating Their Views On Issues They Might Rule On

HEADLINE: “HIGH COURT CANDIDATE TOUTS ‘PRO-LIFE’ STANCE.” [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

Thomas Was Accused Of “Skirting The Edge Of Ethical Campaigning” After He “Advertised His Anti-Abortion Views In A Mailer.” “For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban

district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. ‘Support those who support life,’ the flier reads. ‘Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.’ Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as ‘the only endorsed pro-life candidate.’ Thomas’ opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races.” [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

- **Court Rules Barred Judicial Candidates From Publicly Stating Their Views On Issues They Might Rule On.** “For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. ‘Support those who support life,’ the flier reads. ‘Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.’ Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as ‘the only endorsed pro-life candidate.’ Thomas’ opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races.” [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]
- **Thomas’ Opponents Said His Anti-Abortion Mailer Was A Flagrant Violation Of Rules That Governed Judicial Races.** “For the second time this week, a candidate for Illinois Supreme Court has been accused of skirting the edge of ethical campaigning. Though court rules bar judicial candidates from telegraphing their views on issues they might have to rule on, Bob Thomas, who is running for a high court seat in a suburban district, advertised his anti-abortion views in a mailer this week to 13,000 voters in northern Illinois. ‘Support those who support life,’ the flier reads. ‘Pro-life leaders endorse Justice Bob Thomas.’ Thomas, a former Bears kicker who is an Illinois Appellate Court judge, also is described in the flier as ‘the only endorsed pro-life candidate.’ Thomas’ opponents in the Republican primary in the 2nd Supreme Court District, which encompasses 13 northern Illinois counties, including DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry, said the flier is a flagrant violation of rules that govern judicial races.” [Chicago Tribune, [3/11/00](#)]

While Serving As The Chief Justice Of The Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Thomas “Spearheaded” A Push To Revive A State Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

Under His Leadership As Chief Justice The Illinois Supreme Court Decided To Revive A State Law That Prohibited Minors From Receiving An Abortion Without Parental Permission

The Illinois Supreme Court “Spearheaded By Chief Justice Thomas” Decided To Take Up The Issue Of Illinois’ 1995 Parental Notification Law. “Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court’s announcement comes less than 48 hours after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts’ refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state’s political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that’s where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion.” [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

- **The 1995 Illinois Parental Notification Law Required Anyone Under 18 To Tell Their Parents Before Seeking An Abortion.** “Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court’s announcement comes less than 48 hours

after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts' refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state's political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that's where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion." [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

- **The Parental Notification Law Was Not Implemented Because The Illinois Supreme Court Never Created Rules For A Legal Process That Would Allow A Minor To Receive An Abortion Without Notification.** "Illinois moved a step closer Wednesday to requiring that teenage girls tell their parents before seeking abortions. The Illinois Supreme Court cast aside 11 years of inaction and published a set of legal guidelines needed to enact a 1995 parental notification law. The court's announcement comes less than 48 hours after the justices announced they disagreed with earlier courts' refusal to issue those rules and had begun the process of authoring them. [...] Sparking all of this is a state law dating back to the mid-1990s when Republicans controlled the state's political scene. The law requires girls younger than 18 to tell their parents before getting abortions. But the law never took effect because the Illinois Supreme Court did not write rules spelling out the legal process a girl could take should she not want to tell her parents. A federal judge blocked the law based on this omission. And that's where things stood until earlier this week when the court suddenly announced it was taking up the issue, a move spearheaded by Chief Justice Bob Thomas, a Wheaton Republican and former kicker for the University of Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. Thomas has made no secret that he opposes abortion." [Chicago Daily Herald, 9/21/06]

Thomas Took An "Active Role" In Trying To Revive The 1995 Parental Notification Law And In A "Highly Uncommon" Move He Called The Attorney General To Dispute Assertions Her Office Made In Federal Court

HEADLINE: "Justices Gave Abortion Law Extra Push." [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Chicago Tribune: "Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas Took An "Active Role" In "Trying To Revive A Long-Dormant State Law That Prohibits Minors From Obtaining Abortions Without Notifying A Parent."

"Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas took an active role last year in trying to revive a long-dormant state law that prohibits minors from obtaining abortions without notifying a parent. Now new court filings show that Thomas and his fellow justices have given the controversial issue another nudge. In an unusual move, Thomas phoned Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan in February to dispute assertions her office had made in federal court. Lawyers for the attorney general had told a federal judge that Illinois' state courts were not ready to administer the 1995 notification law. But Thomas, as the top official overseeing the state courts, told Madigan he disagreed. Soon after, all seven state Supreme Court justices — including four Democrats — sent Madigan a follow-up letter saying her position was 'in error.' The phone call and letter apparently had the desired effect. Madigan's office has filed a second motion before U.S. District Judge David Coar, seeking permission to enforce the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. The ACLU of Illinois, which opposes the law, is set to file a response May 17." [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Thomas Called The Attorney General To Dispute Assertions Her Office Made In Federal Court And Said Her Position That The States Courts Were Not Ready To Administer The 1995 Law Was Wrong. "Illinois Chief Justice Robert Thomas took an active role last year in trying to revive a long-dormant state law that prohibits minors from obtaining abortions without notifying a parent. Now new court filings show that Thomas and his fellow justices have given the controversial issue another nudge. In an unusual move, Thomas phoned Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan in February to dispute assertions her office had made in federal court. Lawyers for the attorney general had told a federal judge that Illinois' state courts were not ready to administer the 1995 notification law. But Thomas, as the top official overseeing the state courts, told Madigan he disagreed. Soon after, all seven state Supreme Court justices — including four Democrats — sent Madigan a follow-up letter saying her position was 'in error.' The phone call and letter apparently had the desired effect. Madigan's office has filed a second motion

before U.S. District Judge David Coar, seeking permission to enforce the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. The ACLU of Illinois, which opposes the law, is set to file a response May 17.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

Legal Experts Said There Was Nothing Unethical About Thomas’ Actions But They Were Highly Uncommon And It Was “Pretty Clear That The Chief Justice” Was Pushing The Attorney General. “Legal experts said there’s nothing unethical about Thomas’ actions or the Supreme Court’s letter, but it’s highly uncommon — as is much of the history of the notification law. ‘It’s an extraordinary situation,’ said Lawrence Rosenthal, a former supervisor in Chicago’s Law Department and now a law professor at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. ‘The sense I certainly get is that the attorney general is doing everything she can to be sensitive to the ACLU’s concerns without actually winding up in a situation where she’s got the Supreme Court of Illinois accusing her of not discharging her constitutional duties. . . . It’s pretty clear that the chief justice is pushing her.’” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/24](#)]

The Illinois Parental Notification Act Took Effect In 2013 But Was Repealed In 2021

The 1995 Illinois Parental Notification Act Took Effect In 2013 After Extensive Litigation. “A new law signed Friday by Gov. J.B. Pritzker means Illinois minors will no longer legally have to tell their parents before having an abortion. Repeal of the Parental Notification Act (House Bill 370/ Public Act 102-0685) erases what has been described as Illinois’ last law restricting the procedure. Since 1995, Illinois has required pregnant individuals 17 years and younger to notify – but not get consent from – a parent or guardian before having an abortion, though court battles kept the requirement from taking effect until 2013.” [WTTW, [12/17/21](#)]

In 2021, The Parental Notification Act Was Repealed And Minors No Longer Legally Had To Tell Their Parents Before Having An Abortion In Illinois. “A new law signed Friday by Gov. J.B. Pritzker means Illinois minors will no longer legally have to tell their parents before having an abortion. Repeal of the Parental Notification Act (House Bill 370/ Public Act 102-0685) erases what has been described as Illinois’ last law restricting the procedure. Since 1995, Illinois has required pregnant individuals 17 years and younger to notify – but not get consent from – a parent or guardian before having an abortion, though court battles kept the requirement from taking effect until 2013.” [WTTW, [12/17/21](#)]

McGraw Received Endorsements, Contributions And Support From Notoriously Anti-Abortion Leaders

McGraw Said He Was Endorsed By An Extremist Anti-Abortion Group

McGraw Said He Was Endorsed By The Illinois Family Institute

McGraw Said He Had Been Endorsed By The Illinois Family Institute. MCGRAW: “I guess the IFI voter guide came out, and if you’ve looked at it, there’s a stunning omission. It says that I didn’t answer any of the questions. Well, when we started our campaign, we were learning how to build an airplane and fly it at the same time. As things were a little chaotic. We missed the deadline for answering those questions. We did answer them all online. And we’ve been assured by Illinois Family Institute that we would be endorsed by them.” [Faith Center, YouTube, 42:45-43:20, [2/11/24](#)] (VIDEO)

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, Which Said They Believed In “The Right To Life From Conception” And That They Opposed Roe V. Wade

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, That Said, “We Wholeheartedly Support The Right To Life From Conception Until Natural Death, Seeking Legislative And Judicial Protection Of That Right Against Those Who Perform Abortions, We Oppose The 1973 Roe V. Wade Ruling...”

The Illinois Family Institute Espoused A Sanctity Of Life Amendment, Which Said They Believed In “The Right To Life From Conception” And That They Opposed Roe V. Wade. “We wholeheartedly support the right to life from conception until natural death, seeking legislative and judicial protection of that right against those who perform abortions. We oppose the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court and believe it erred in granting a ‘privacy right’ to abortion that tragically overrode the right of unborn children to live, leading to the needless deaths of millions of innocent babies in the womb.” [Illinois Family Institute, Issues, accessed [3/14/24](#)]

Life At Conception, Also Known As So-Called “Fetal Personhood,” Would Eliminate All Or Most Exceptions For Abortions

So-Called “Fetal Personhood” Confers Legal Rights From Conception. “Fetal personhood, which confers legal rights from conception, is an effort to push beyond abortion bans and classify the procedure as murder. In Georgia, it also means a \$3,000 tax credit.” [New York Times, [6/21/23](#)]

So-Called “Fetal Personhood” Would Make Abortion Murder, And Rule Out All Or Most Exceptions For Abortion. “So-called fetal personhood laws would make abortion murder, ruling out all or most of the exceptions for abortion allowed in states that already ban it.” [New York Times, [6/21/23](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, Who Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Co-Sponsored Legislation To Ban Abortion And Defund Planned Parenthood And Called Abortion “A Holocaust”

McGraw Received \$5,000 From Mike Johnson’s PACs, Was Endorsed By Johnson And Appeared At An Event With Johnson Who Called Him “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

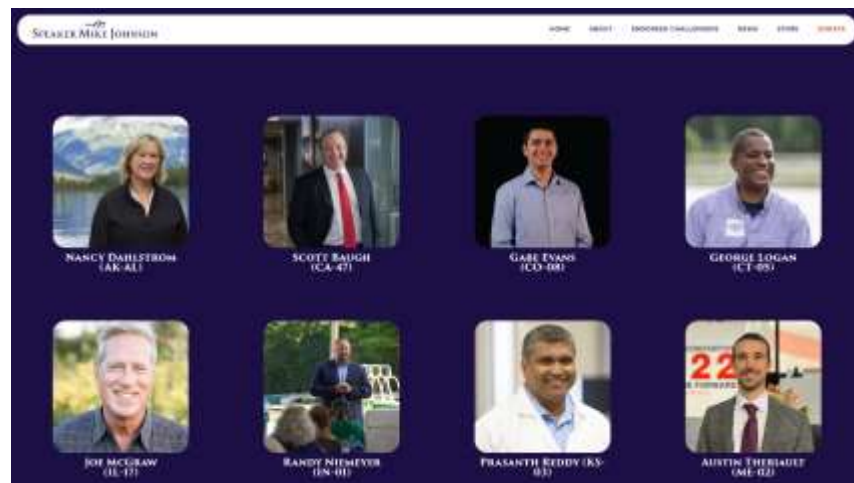
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AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

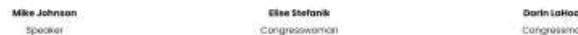
McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson’s Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen.” “McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we’ve ever seen.’ ‘He’s been a guy who’s stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas. He’s professional, he’s smart, he knows what he’s doing and he’s gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.’” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner. “Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman

Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

Johnson Was A Longtime Advocate Against Abortion Rights, Co-Sponsoring Legislation To Ban Abortion And Defund Planned Parenthood, And Called Abortion “A Holocaust”

HEADLINE: “House Speaker Mike Johnson Has Long Opposed Abortion And LGBTQ+ Rights.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [10/29/23](#)]

Johnson Co-Sponsored Legislation For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. “Before the newly elected U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson was in public office, the Louisiana Republican’s restrictive stances on gender identity, abortion and sexuality were honed at the conservative Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, where he served as a senior spokesperson and attorney. [...] Johnson, the former head of the conservative Republican Study Committee, argued before Dobbs that abortion access was a states rights issue — but he has also supported federal legislation setting gestational limits, cosponsoring a bill to establish a 20-week ban.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [10/29/23](#)]

Johnson Co-Sponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood. “House Republicans on Wednesday chose the previously little-known conservative Rep. Mike Johnson to be the next speaker on Thursday, and Democrats were quick to push forward with attack ads on Johnson’s record on abortion. [...] As a staunch abortion opponent he has also put forth multiple other pieces of legislation seeking to restrict the procedure, including co-sponsoring a bill to defund Planned Parenthood.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

Before Being Elected To Congress, Johnson Served As An Attorney And A Spokesperson For Anti-Abortion Group Alliance Defending Freedom, Then Alliance Defense Fund. “Speaker Mike Johnson, the little-known congressman from Louisiana who won the gavel on Wednesday, is deeply conservative on both fiscal and social issues, reflecting the G.O.P.’s sharp lurch to the right. [...] Before he was elected to Congress in 2017, Mr. Johnson served as an attorney and spokesman for the anti-abortion and anti-gay group Alliance Defense Fund — now called the Alliance Defending Freedom.” [New York Times, [10/26/23](#)]

- **Southern Poverty Law Center: Alliance Defending Freedom Worked To Outlaw Abortion.** “Founded by some 30 leaders of the Christian Right, the Alliance Defending Freedom is a legal advocacy and training group [...] Using its international platforms, ADF works with policymakers and other organizations to outlaw abortion, deny equality and marriage to LGBTQ people worldwide, and continue to push for a hard-right

Christian theocratic worldview that is reflected in legislation and policies.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, Alliance Defending Freedom, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

Johnson Called For The Supreme Court To Overturn Roe V. Wade. “House Republicans on Wednesday chose the previously little-known conservative Rep. Mike Johnson to be the next speaker on Thursday, and Democrats were quick to push forward with attack ads on Johnson's record on abortion. [...] He called for the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade long before the justices issued their decision in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization in June 2022.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

In A 2005 Op-Ed, Johnson Once Called Abortion “A Holocaust.” “In 2005, Johnson wrote an op-ed for a newspaper in his home state of Louisiana that compared the judicial philosophy that legalized the right to an abortion to Hitler's and called abortion ‘a holocaust.’ The op-ed came in response to the death of Terri Schiavo, the Florida woman whose vegetative state triggered a long legal battle and federal action from Congress.” [CBS News, [10/26/23](#)]

In Congress, Johnson Consistently Attacked A Woman’s Right To Choose

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act, Which Was A National Abortion Ban

Johnson Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Implement Equal Protection Of The Right To Life For “Each [...] Preborn Human Person.” “To implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person. [...] To implement equal protection for the right to life of each born and preborn human person, and pursuant to the duty and authority of the Congress, including Congress’ power under article I, section 8, to make necessary and proper laws, and Congress’ power under section 5 of the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress hereby declares that the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being.” [Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Did Not List Exceptions, Including Life Of Mother, Rape, Or Incest. [Congress.gov, [1/20/23](#)]

NARAL President: Life At Conception Act Could Be Used “To Really Attack Issues Like Contraception And Even Fertility Treatments Like IVF.” “Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL, sees Mooney’s bill as a slippery slope. ‘I think life starts at conception is a line that’s used by extremist right-wing folks to really attack issues like contraception and even fertility treatments like IVF (in vitro fertilization). So, look, we know that that’s not based on science. However, that rhetoric is used to go after a much broader range of reproductive rights and services. So it’s really important that Americans understand what that’s code for. That’s code for going after your fundamental, basic, everyday medication like birth control. It’s code for going after something that we know more and more American women rely on to expand their families and to have children, which is IVF. It’s very dangerous. And we’re going to do everything we can to block any efforts at legislation that tries to do that,’ said Timmaraju.” [Gray DC, [1/25/23](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Reinstating The Protections Offered By Roe V. Wade

Johnson Voted Against The Women’s Health Protection Act To Establish The Statutory Right For Patients To Receive And For Providers To Provide Abortions And To Prohibit Certain State Restrictions On Abortion. In July 2022 Johnson voted against: “Passage of the bill that would statutorily establish that health care providers have a right to provide and patients have a right to receive abortion services, and it would prohibit certain restrictions related to abortion services. The bill would specify that rights established by the bill may not be restricted by certain requirements or limitations related to abortion services, including prohibitions on abortion prior to fetal viability, or after fetal viability if a provider determines that continuation of a pregnancy would pose a risk

to a patient's life or health; requirements that patients disclose reasons for seeking an abortion or make medically unnecessary in-person appointments; requirements that providers provide medically inaccurate information or perform specific medical tests or procedures in connection with the provision of abortion services; limitations on providers' ability to prescribe drugs based on good-faith medical judgment, provide services via telemedicine or provide immediate services when a delay would pose a risk to a patient's health; and requirements for facilities and personnel that would not apply to facilities providing medically comparable procedures. It would also prohibit requirements or limitations that are similar to those established by the bill or that impede access to abortion services and expressly or implicitly single out abortion services, providers or facilities. It would specify factors that courts may consider to determine whether a requirement or limitation impedes access to abortion services, including whether it interferes with providers' ability to provide services; poses a risk to patients' health; is likely to delay or deter patients in accessing services or necessitate in-person visits that would not otherwise be required; is likely to result in a decreased availability of services in a state or region; is likely to result in increased costs of providing or obtaining services; or imposes penalties that are not imposed on other health care providers for comparable conduct. It would require a party defending a requirement or limitation to establish that it significantly advances the safety of abortion services or patient health and that such goals cannot be advanced by a less restrictive alternative measure. It would authorize the Justice Department, health care providers and private individuals and entities to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for injunctive relief against any state or government official charged with implementing or enforcing a requirement or limitation challenged as a violation of rights established by the bill. It would authorize district courts to award appropriate equitable relief, including temporary, preliminary or permanent injunctive relief, and to award costs of litigation to a prevailing plaintiff. It would require courts to 'liberally construe' provisions of the bill to effectuate its purposes. The bill is substantively identical to HR 3755, which the House passed in September 2021, but adds findings related to the June 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*." The bill passed by a vote of 219-210. [H.R. 8296, [Vote #360](#), 7/15/22; CQ, [7/15/22](#)]

- **The Women's Health Protection Act "Enshrine[d] The Protections Of Roe V. Wade Into Law."** "The House on Friday passed legislation that would protect access to reproductive health care, including the ability to travel across state lines for an abortion, as part of Democrats' efforts to minimize the consequences of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* last month. One bill, the Women's Health Protection Act, would enshrine the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law. The House already passed the bill last year, but it did not advance in a Senate vote in May. The House passed the bill, 219-210, prompting applause from Democrats in the chamber." [Washington Post, [7/15/22](#)]
- **The Women's Health Protection Act Prevented States From Prohibiting Abortions Before Fetal Viability Or After Fetal Viability When The Patient's Life Or Health Is At Risk.** "The bill would prevent state governments from limiting a health care provider's ability to prescribe certain drugs, offer abortion services via telemedicine, or immediately provide abortion services when the provider determines a delay risks the patient's health, according to CRS. It also prevents states from requiring patients to make medically unnecessary in-person visits before receiving abortion services or forcing women to disclose their reasons for obtaining abortions and related services. WHPA would ban states from prohibiting abortion services before or after fetal viability when a provider determines the pregnancy risks the patient's life or health." [ABC News, [3/7/22](#)]

2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill to Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Abortion Services, And Later Voted To Do The Same

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill to Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Abortion Services. "This bill prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from providing certain funding related to abortion services. Specifically, the bill prohibits DOD from paying or reimbursing any fees or expenses for a health care professional (who provides health care at a military medical treatment facility) to gain a license in a state if the purpose of gaining the license is to provide abortion services. The bill also repeals the DOD memorandum titled *Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care* (October 20, 2022). Such memo sets forth DOD policies and procedures in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Under the bill, DOD

may not obligate or expend funds to carry out the memo or any successor memo.” [H.R. 1297, Summary, [3/1/23](#); H.R. 1297, Cosponsors, [3/1/23](#)]

Johnson Voted For An Amendment To Prohibit The Defense Department From Paying For Expenses Related To Abortion Services. In July 2023, Johnson voted for: “Jackson, R-Texas, amendment no. 5 that would repeal a 2022 Defense Department memorandum regarding access to reproductive health care and prohibit the department from paying for or reimbursing expenses relating to abortion services.” The amendment was adopted by a vote of 221-213. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #300](#), 7/13/23; CQ, [7/13/23](#)]

Johnson Voted Against Instructing Members To Disagree With Repealing An Amendment In FY 2024 Defense Authorization That Ensured Reproductive Health Care Access For Military Members. In September 2023, Johnson voted against: “Houlahan, D-Pa., motion to instruct conferees on the part of the House to disagree to section 716, which would repeal an October 2022 Defense Department memorandum concerning traveling for reproductive health care.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 205-214. [H.R. 2670, [Vote #400](#), 9/20/23; CQ, [9/20/23](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Protecting People Who Assist Others In Receiving Out Of State Abortions And Shielded Transportation Of Abortion Drugs Between States

Johnson Voted Against The Ensuring Access To Abortion Act To Prohibit Individuals From Interfering With A Patient’s Ability To Cross State Lines To Obtain An Abortion In A State Where It Is Legal. In July 2022 Johnson voted against: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would prohibit individuals from interfering with patients’ ability to access to abortion services in another state where the services are legal. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from preventing, restricting or retaliating against health care providers’ ability to provide abortion services that are legal in the provider’s state to patients who do not reside in that state; a person’s ability to assist in providing such services; or a person’s ability to travel or assist another person traveling across state lines to obtain an abortion. It would also prohibit individuals from preventing, restricting or retaliating against the interstate movement of any drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the termination of a pregnancy. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates the prohibitions.” The bill passed by a vote of 223-205. [H.R. 8297, [Vote #362](#), 7/15/22; CQ, [7/15/22](#)]

- **The Ensuring Access To Abortion Act Protected People Who Assist Others In Receiving Out Of State Abortions And Shielded Transportation Of Abortion Drugs Between States.** “The legislation protects women who travel to another state to receive an abortion if their home state prohibits the medical procedure. And in states where abortion is lawful, the bill seeks to make it illegal for facilities to limit access to the medical procedure for individuals who arrived from out of state. Additionally, the measure includes a provision to protect people who assist others in receiving an abortion in a state where they do not reside. It also shields the state-to-state transportation of abortion drugs that have received approval from the Food and Drug Administration.” [The Hill, [7/15/22](#)]

July 2022: Johnson Voted Against Protecting Women’s Right To Access Contraception

Johnson Voted Against The Right To Contraception Act To Establish A Statutory Right For Individuals To Obtain And Health Care Providers To Provide Contraceptives. In July 2022 Johnson voted against “Passage of the bill that would establish that individuals have a statutory right to obtain contraceptives and health care providers have a right to provide contraceptives, contraception and related information. It would prohibit any limitation or infringement of these rights that impedes access to or singles out the provision or providers of contraceptives, contraception or related information. It would supersede any federal and state law that conflicts with its provisions. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for equitable relief against an individual who violates these provisions. It would allow health care providers to bring action on behalf of themselves, their staff or their patients.” The bill passed by a vote of 228-195. [H.R. 8373, [Vote #385](#), 7/21/22; CQ, [7/21/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Passes Bill To Protect Access To Birth Control In Latest Answer To Supreme Court.”** [CBS News, [7/22/22](#)]
- **June 2022: Justice Thomas Wrote The U.S. Supreme Court Should “Reconsider” To “Correct The Error” In All “Substantive Due Process Precedents, Including Griswold, Lawrence, And Obergefell.”** “For that reason, in future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court’s substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell. Because any substantive due process decision is ‘demonstrably erroneous,’ *Ramos v. Louisiana*, 590 U. S. ___, ___ (2020) (THOMAS, J., concurring in judgment) (slip op., at 7), we have a duty to ‘correct the error’ established in those precedents, *Gamble v. United States*, 587 U. S. ___, ___ (2019) (THOMAS, J., concurring) (slip op., at 9). After overruling these demonstrably erroneous decisions, the question would remain whether other constitutional provisions guarantee the myriad rights that our substantive due process cases have generated. For example, we could consider whether any of the rights announced in this Court’s substantive due process cases are ‘privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States’ protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.” [U.S. Supreme Court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, Justice Thomas Concurring, [6/24/22](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Voted For Legislation That Would Punish Doctors For Providing Abortion Care To Patients

Johnson Voted For The Born Alive-Survivors Protection Act. In January 2023 Johnson voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to provide the same care to a child that is ‘born alive’ after an abortion or attempted abortion as they would for a child born at the same gestational age and to ensure the child is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital; require hospital and clinic practitioners and employees to report any knowledge of failures to provide such care; and impose criminal fines and penalties for failures to meet these requirements. It would state that a child born alive under these conditions is a legal person under U.S. law, entitled to the protections of U.S. law, and it would specifically make any act that kills or attempts to kill such a child punishable as murder or attempted murder. The bill would also prohibit the prosecution of the mother of a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion and permit such mothers to seek relief through civil action against any person who violates the bill’s requirements, including monetary and punitive damages.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-210. [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

- **The Born Alive Bill Would Punish Doctors For Providing Care To Patients.** “The offensively named ‘born-alive’ legislation is another cruel and misguided attempt to interfere with evidence-based medical decision making between patients and their physicians...Laws that ban or criminalize evidence-based care and rely on medically unsupported theories and misinformation are dangerous to families and their clinicians. This bill negatively affects all obstetric and gynecologic care.” [The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [6/26/23](#)]
- **Pro-Choice Advocates Said That The Bill Was “Deliberately Misleading And Offensive To Pregnant People.”** ““This bill is deliberately misleading and offensive to pregnant people and the doctors and nurses who provide their care. It is yet another attempt by anti-abortion politicians to spread misinformation as a means to their warped political end: to ban safe and legal abortion,’ Jacqueline Ayers, the senior vice president of policy, organizing, and campaigns at Planned Parenthood Federation of America said in a statement about the bill.” [ABC News, [1/12/23](#)]
- **Born Alive Legislation Would Take Away Power Over Medical Interventions From Families And Physicians.** ““The 2002 Born-Alive Infants Protection Act gives absolutely every protection that you would ever want or need for an infant who was born at any stage of development. In that situation, you want parents to be able to decide what the care for their child looks like,’ said Dr. Lauren Wilson, a hospital pediatrician and the president of the Montana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics....Live births after an attempted abortion are exceedingly rare, and the proposed measure would take away power over medical interventions from families and physicians.” [19th, [1/6/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors to Prosecution.”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]

February 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Allow States To Exclude Abortion Providers From Their Medicaid Program

The Women’s Public Health And Safety Act Would Allow A State To Exclude Abortion Providers From The State’s Medicaid Program. “This bill allows a state to exclude from participation in the state's Medicaid program a provider that performs an abortion, unless (1) the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or (2) the woman suffers from a physical issue that would place her in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Under current law, a state plan for medical assistance must provide that any individual eligible for medical assistance may obtain required services from any provider qualified to perform them.” [H.R. 1074, Summary, [2/17/23](#); H.R. 1074, Cosponsors, [2/17/23](#)]

- **The Women’s Public Health And Safety Act Would Negate Current Federal Law Requiring States To Allow Any Legitimate Medical Provider To Participate In The Medicaid Program.** “The bill could give states the ability to exclude abortion providers from receiving state Medicaid funds unless an abortion is deemed necessary due to rape, incest or a life-threatening situation. It will negate current federal law, which requires states to allow any legitimate medical provider to participate in a state’s Medicaid program.” [Daily Tarheel, [3/21/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Banning Telehealth Appointments To Prescribe Medication Abortion

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Banning Telehealth Appointments To Prescribe Medication Abortion. “This bill restricts the use of telehealth for chemical abortions (also known as medication abortions). Specifically, it requires a provider who dispenses or prescribes medication for a chemical abortion to physically examine the patient, be physically present at the location of the chemical abortion, and schedule a follow-up visit for the patient. The bill provides an exception for a chemical abortion that is necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, injury, or condition. The bill establishes criminal penalties—a fine, a prison term of up to two years, or both—for a provider who does not comply with the requirements. A patient who undergoes a chemical abortion may not be prosecuted.” [H.R. 421, Summary, [1/20/23](#); H.R. 421, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood

Johnson Cosponsored A Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood. “This bill restricts federal funding for Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. or any of its affiliates or clinics for one year. Specifically, it prohibits funding those entities unless they certify that the affiliates and clinics will not perform, and will not provide funds to entities that perform, abortions during that year. If the certification requirement is not met, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture must recoup any federal assistance received by those entities. However, the bill's funding restriction does not apply to abortions performed in cases of rape or incest or when necessary to resolve a physical condition that endangers a woman's life. The bill also provides additional funding for community health centers for the one-year period. These funds are subject to the same abortion-related restrictions and exceptions.” [H.R. 371, Summary, [1/17/23](#); H.R. 371, Cosponsors, [1/17/23](#)]

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortions Or Health Coverage That Includes Abortions

January 2023: Johnson Cosponsored A Bill Prohibiting The Use Of Federal Funds For Abortions Or Health Coverage That Includes Abortions. “This bill modifies provisions relating to federal funding for, and health insurance coverage of, abortions. Specifically, the bill prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions or for health coverage that includes abortions. Such restrictions extend to the use of funds in the budget of the District of

Columbia. Additionally, abortions may not be provided in a federal health care facility or by a federal employee. Historically, language has been included in annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions—such language is commonly referred to as the Hyde Amendment. Similar language is also frequently included in appropriations bills for other federal agencies and the District of Columbia. The bill makes these restrictions permanent and extends the restrictions to all federal funds (rather than specific agencies). The bill's restrictions regarding the use of federal funds do not apply in cases of rape, incest, or where a physical disorder, injury, or illness endangers a woman's life unless an abortion is performed. The Hyde Amendment provides the same exceptions. The bill also prohibits qualified health plans from including coverage for abortions. Currently, qualified health plans may cover abortion, but the portion of the premium attributable to abortion coverage is not eligible for subsidies.” [H.R. 7, Summary, [1/9/23](#); H.R. 7, Cosponsors, [1/9/23](#)]

September 2023: Johnson Voted For Legislation That Would Restrict Access To The Abortion Medication Mifepristone – One Of The Most Common Methods For An Abortion

September 2023: Johnson Voted To Pass The Fiscal 2024 Agriculture Appropriations Including Republican Riders. In September 2023, Johnson voted for: “Passage of the bill that would provide roughly \$22 billion in discretionary funding in fiscal 2024 for the Agriculture Department and related agencies. The bill would provide \$6.2 billion to the Food and Drug Administration, including \$3 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$3.2 billion in user fees; \$3.4 billion for Agriculture Department rural development activities; \$1.5 billion for the Agricultural Research Service; and \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. It would provide \$122 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, \$32 billion for child nutrition programs, and \$6 billion for the Women, Infants, and Children program. It would direct the USDA to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of U.S. agricultural land by non-resident aliens and foreign businesses associated with Russia, North Korea, Iran and China; nullify the FDA’s January 2023 rule allowing medical providers to dispense the abortion drug mifepristone without an in-person consultation; prohibit the use of funds for programs that promote critical race theory; and prohibit the use of funds to establish any office of diversity, equity and inclusion, among other policy provisions. As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of funds for carrying out various Biden administration executive orders related to climate change and sex discrimination, finalizing regulations that result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, implementing the USDA COVID-19 workplace safety policy, or for any operations of the Civilian Climate Corps, among other restrictions. It also would reduce the salary of Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Service Stacy Dean to \$1.” The bill was rejected by a vote of 191-237. [H.R. 4368, Vote #507, [9/28/23](#); CQ, [9/28/23](#)]

- **The Agriculture Appropriations Bill Included A Provision To Ban Mifepristone From Being Sold In Retail Pharmacies Or By Mail.** “A provision in the legislation would nullify a Biden administration rule allowing mifepristone to be sold in retail pharmacies and by mail with prescriptions from a certified health care provider.” [Fox 59, [9/27/23](#)]
- **Abortion Pills Accounted For The Majority Of Abortions.** “The pills may be taken in a doctor’s office or clinic, where patients sometimes have an ultrasound or lab tests beforehand. Some providers also offer the pills through telehealth visits and then send patients the medication by mail. Use of the pills has been increasing in recent years. As of 2020, they accounted for 54% of all U.S. abortions, according to preliminary data from the Guttmacher Institute. The group’s final estimate is due later this year.” [Associated Press, [7/2/22](#)]

Johnson Consistently Received A+ Ratings On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard

117th Congress: Johnson Received An A+ On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard. [Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Scorecard, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

116th Congress: Johnson Received An A+ On The Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Legislative Scorecard. [Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Scorecard, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

As The Chair Of The Republican Study Committee (RSC), Johnson Released The RSC Conservative Playbook, Which Included Multiple Provisions To Prohibit Funding Abortions Under Healthcare Plans

Johnson Promoted His Work Helping Publish The Conservative Playbook. “I was honored to serve as chairman of the Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus of conservatives in Congress, known as ‘the intellectual arsenal of conservatism in the House,’ during the 116th Congress. Here is some of the important work our committee published under my chairmanship, including The Conservative Playbook, a publication of over 400 policy proposals aimed at improving health care, national security, access to the American Dream, government efficiency and accountability, and the U.S. budget.” [U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson, Republican Study Committee Chairmanship, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC’s Healthcare Plan Included Guaranteed Coverage Pools To Supplement Medical Costs For High-Risk Individuals. “The RSC plan would provide federal funding for states to supplement the medical costs of eligible high-risk individuals. The RSC plan refers to this mechanism as a Guaranteed Coverage Pool. These federally-funded, state-administered pools would provide premium stability in the individual marketplace, ensure that individuals with high-cost illnesses have access to affordable health coverage, and serve as a means of providing portability protections for individuals who have maintained continuous coverage.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

- **Guaranteed Coverage Pools Could Not Be Used To Subsidize Abortion Benefits.** “It should be noted that although states would be given maximum flexibility in utilizing Guaranteed Coverage Pool funds to lower costs for high-risk individuals, under the RSC plan, such funding could not be used to subsidize abortion benefits.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC Plan Would Ban Subsidized Abortions And Medical Abortions. “Critically, while the RSC plan would unleash health savings accounts, it would ensure that these accounts are pro-life and do not inadvertently allow a back-door method of subsidizing abortion procedures. Accordingly, the RSC plan would ensure these accounts cannot be linked to a plan that provides abortions, nor would abortions or abortion drugs be an eligible expense.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

The RSC Plan Proposed “Health Care Sharing Ministries” Where Faith-Based Nonprofits Could Opt Into Health Plans “Tailored To Those Who Have Specific Beliefs, Values, Or Faiths,” To Prevent Abortion From Being Covered Under Those Plans. “Health Care Sharing Ministries Health care sharing ministries (HSMs) are faith-based nonprofit organizations whose members share a common set of ethical and religious beliefs and share medical expenses among themselves in accordance with those beliefs. Funds come from monthly share amounts paid by members to other members. This model is based on long held faith based traditions of helping others when in need. HSM’s are tailored to those who have specific beliefs, values or faiths, or do not want certain benefits provided. For example, if a group of a particular religious faith does not want something like abortion covered, the group could join an HSM and provide health care dollars to participants without participating in insurance models that cover abortion.” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

April 27, 2020: Johnson Signed A Letter From The RSC’s Health Care Task Force Requesting That New Health Laws In Response To The Pandemic Did Not Include Access To Elective Abortions. “Ensure that new funding, subsidies, tax credits, and reforms cannot be used to provide access to elective abortions” [Republican Study Committee Conservative Playbook, 116th Congress, accessed [10/25/23](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$7,000 And An Endorsement From Steve Scalise, Who Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, And Cosponsored, And Repeatedly Voted For, Legislation To Ban Abortion

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” To Receive An Endorsement From Majority Leader Steve Scalise

McGraw Said He Was “Sincerely Grateful” For Majority Leader Steve Scalise’s Endorsement. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/11/24](#)]

McGraw Received \$7,000 From PACs And Committees Affiliated With Steve Scalise

March 2024: McGraw Received \$2,000 From Scalise For Congress. According to FEC Receipts, Scalise for Congress gave \$2,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on March 19th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
SCALISE FOR CONGRESS	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	LA	03/19/2024	\$2,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Received \$5,000 From Eye Of The Tiger PAC. According to FEC Receipts, Eye of the Tiger Political Action Committee gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on March 19th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
THE EYE OF THE TIGER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	VA	03/19/2024	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

- **The Eye Of The Tiger Political Action Committee Was Steve Scalise’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profile, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Scalise Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, Cosponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ban Abortion, And Said The Overturning Of Roe Was A “Huge Victory”

Scalise Said The Overturning Of Roe Was A “Huge Victory” And Praised Anti-Abortion Bills Passed By The Republican House

Scalise Referred To The Overturning Of Roe As A “Huge Victory” And Said It Was “Only The End Of The First Phase Of This Battle” And Praised Anti-Abortion Bills Passed By The Republican House “But the guests lacked some of the political wattage of past years, when top Republicans, including former President Donald J. Trump, former Vice President Mike Pence and former Speaker Paul Ryan, addressed the crowd. This year, the speakers included just two lawmakers: Representative Steve Scalise, the Republican majority leader, and Representative Chris Smith, one of the leaders of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. ‘Boy, did we get a huge victory just a few months ago when Roe was overturned, but as you all know, that’s only the end of the first phase of this battle,’ Mr. Scalise told the crowd, highlighting the package of abortion bills already passed by the new Republican majority in the House. Those measures include legislation that could subject doctors who perform abortions to criminal penalties.” [New York Times, [1/20/23](#)]

Scalise Supported A National Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women, The Life At Conception Act Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exceptions

112th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 374, Introduced [1/20/11](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Grant Equal Protection Under The 14th Amendment To Fetuses, Effectively Banning Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Health Of The Mother. “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. ‘Human person’ is defined as: [...] each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. The bill would grant constitutional rights to fertilized eggs, embryos, fetuses, and clones. It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization. The bill would not allow for prosecution of any pregnant person for the ‘death’ of their ‘unborn child.’” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Scalise Cosponsored And Voted For Legislation To Ban Abortion, The Pain-Capable Unborn Protection Act Was A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Health Of The Women

117th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 1080, Introduced [2/15/21](#)]

116th Congress: Scalise Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 784, Introduced [1/24/19](#)]

2017: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Imposing Criminal Penalties On Doctors, With Exceptions For Rape And Incest Only If It Had Been Reported To Law Enforcement. In October 2017, Scalise voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, if the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. The bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the ‘potential’ to survive outside the womb.” The bill passed, 237-189. [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

- **Abortion Rights Groups Said The Legislation Had No Exception If The Pregnancy Threatened The Mother’s Health, And The Rape And Incest Exceptions Were Too Narrow.** “Abortion rights groups and Democratic lawmakers panned the legislation ahead of its passage, arguing it is based on faulty science and contains no exception if a pregnancy would threaten a mother’s health. They also said the rape and incest exceptions are too narrow and that the bill is likely unconstitutional under existing Supreme Court rulings.” [Washington Post, [10/3/17](#)]

2015: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. In May 2015, Scalise voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman’s life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape if, as amended, for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. As amended, the bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the "potential" to survive outside the womb, and, if the fetus is born alive, the bill would require that the infant be provided medical care and immediately be transported and admitted to a hospital. As amended, women wishing to have abortions under the bill’s exceptions would need to sign (along with the doctor and a witness) an informed consent authorization form detailing the age of the fetus and stating that, if born alive, would be given medical assistance and transported to a hospital.” The bill passed by a vote of 242-184. [HR 36, [Vote #223](#), 5/13/15; CQ, [5/13/15](#)]

2013: Scalise Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban, Including A Requirement For Women To Prove Rape Before Accessing An Abortion. In 2013, Scalise voted for: “Prohibits the abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater, except: (1) where necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, excluding psychological or emotional conditions; or (2) where the pregnancy is the result of rape, or the result of incest against a minor, if the rape has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency, or if the incest has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency or to a government agency legally authorized to act on reports of child abuse or neglect. Permits a physician to terminate a pregnancy under such an exception only in the manner that provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive, unless that manner would pose a greater risk than other available methods would pose of the death or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, excluding psychological or emotional conditions, of the pregnant woman.” The bill passed, 228-196. [HR 1797, [Vote #251](#), 6/18/13; Congress.gov, [6/18/13](#)]

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Would Ban Abortions At 20 Weeks Post-Fertilization. “By banning abortions beginning at 20 weeks post-fertilization—a pre-viability stage of pregnancy—H.R. 36 directly contradicts longstanding precedent holding that a woman should ‘be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion’ when deciding whether to continue or terminate a pre-viability pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

ACLU: The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act “Fail[ed] To Protect Women’s Health.” “H.R. 36 also fails to protect women’s health. It includes a narrow exception to preserve a woman’s life only—not her health, as longstanding precedent requires. Many things can go wrong during a pregnancy and a woman’s health could be at risk in complex ways that require urgent care. This bill would effectively force a woman and her doctor to wait until her condition is life threatening to finally act to protect her health, and she may suffer serious health consequences as a result.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

ACLU: The Mandatory Delay On Abortions For Rape Survivors “Would Completely Deny Care To Many Women.” “Further, the exceedingly narrow exceptions for survivors of rape and incest erect barriers to care that may be impossible for some women to meet. The bill would impose a 48-hour mandatory delay on adult survivors of rape, requiring them to seek medical care or counseling from a separate provider at least two days prior to an abortion. This burdensome requirement would completely deny care to many women as a result of the limited availability of abortions at this stage of pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

Minors Who Are Pregnant As A Result Of Rape Or Incest Would Have To Report The Assault To Authorities. “Minors who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest would be required to report the assault to authorities in order to access care after 20 weeks. These callous requirements clearly demonstrate both serious insensitivity towards survivors and an appalling lack of trust in women.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$10,000 And An Endorsement From Elise Stefanik, Who Cosponsored A 15-Week Federal Abortion Ban, And Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban With Criminal Penalties For Doctors And Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women

February 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Chairwoman Stefanik, And Said He Was “Honored” To Receive Her Endorsement Calling Her A “Bold, Conservative Leader In The House”

February 2024: Stefanik Endorsed McGraw. “I’m proud to endorse @judgejoemcgraw in #IL17. Judge Joe has dedicated his entire career to upholding the rule of law. As a former prosecutor and judge, he understands the impact of soft-on-crime policies on communities and the importance of enforcing the law. Joe is the type of leader we need in Washington, and I’m looking forward to serving with him in the 119th Congress.” [Elise Stefanik, Twitter, [2/7/24](#)]



[Elise Stefanik, Twitter, [2/7/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Was “Honored” To Have The Support Of Chairwoman Stefanik And Called Her A “Bold, Conservative Leader In The House.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/6/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/6/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Received \$10,000 From E-PAC, Elise Stefanik’s Leadership PAC

2024: McGraw Received \$10,000 From E-PAC. On February 12th, 2024 E-PAC donated \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. On March 31st 2024, E-PAC donated \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. [FEC.gov, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
E-PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	NY	03/31/2024	\$5,000.00
E-PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	NY	02/12/2024	\$5,000.00

[FEC.gov, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

- **E-PAC Was Elise Stefanik’s Leadership PAC.** E-PAC was the leadership PAC associated with New York Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. [FEC Committee Profiles, E-PAC, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

March 2024: Stefanik Congratulated McGraw On Winning The Republican Primary

March 2024: Stefanik Congratulated McGraw On Winning The Republican Primary. “Congratulations Judge Joe McGraw for winning the IL-17 Republican Nomination! Judge Joe is the law and order candidate who will FLIP this district from BLUE to RED this November to help grow our GOP majority and Save America.

👉👉👉 [Elise Stefanik, Facebook, [3/20/24](#)]



[Elise Stefanik, Facebook, [3/20/24](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored A Federal Abortion Ban After 15 Weeks And Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest Or Life Of The Women

Stefanik Cosponsored The Protecting Pain Capable Unborn Children From Late Term Abortions Act

Stefanik Cosponsored The Protecting Pain Capable Unborn Children From Late-Term Abortions Act. [H.R. 8814, Introduced [9/13/22](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored A Bill That Would Ban Abortions Nationwide After The 15th Week Of Pregnancy With Exceptions For Rape, Incest And The Life Of The Woman. “Congresswoman Elise Stefanik is a co-sponsor of a new bill that would ban abortions nationwide after the 15th week of pregnancy. Republicans introduced the bill on Tuesday. It contains exceptions for rape, incest, and life-threatening physical conditions, but does not make exceptions for ‘psychological or emotional conditions.’ At a press conference in Washington, Republican leaders did not commit to bringing the bill to a vote if they take over the House majority. According to The Hill, Stefanik said the bill is ‘something that we’ll discuss with a majority.’” [NCPR, [9/16/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE:** “Stefanik Backs Federal Ban On Most Abortions After 15 Weeks.” [7 News WNYTV, [9/15/22](#)]

Stefanik Cosponsored And Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Without Full Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Life Of The Women And With Criminal Penalties For Doctors

117th Congress: Stefanik Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 1080, Introduced [2/15/21](#)]

116th Congress: Stefanik Cosponsored The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. [H.R. 784, Introduced [1/24/19](#)]

Stefanik Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Imposing Criminal Penalties On Doctors, With Exceptions For Rape And Incest Only If It Had Been Reported To Law Enforcement. In October 2017, Stefanik voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, if the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to

act on reports of child abuse. The bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the ‘potential’ to survive outside the womb.” The bill passed, 237-189. [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

- **Abortion Rights Groups Said The Legislation Had No Exception If The Pregnancy Threatened The Mother’s Health, And The Rape And Incest Exceptions Were Too Narrow.** “Abortion rights groups and Democratic lawmakers panned the legislation ahead of its passage, arguing it is based on faulty science and contains no exception if a pregnancy would threaten a mother’s health. They also said the rape and incest exceptions are too narrow and that the bill is likely unconstitutional under existing Supreme Court rulings.” [Washington Post, [10/3/17](#)]
- **The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Would Ban Abortions At 20 Weeks Post-Fertilization.** “By banning abortions beginning at 20 weeks post-fertilization—a pre-viability stage of pregnancy—H.R. 36 directly contradicts longstanding precedent holding that a woman should ‘be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion’ when deciding whether to continue or terminate a pre-viability pregnancy.” [ACLU, [10/2/17](#)]

Stefanik Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban. In May 2015, Stefanik voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman’s life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape if, as amended, for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. As amended, the bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the "potential" to survive outside the womb, and, if the fetus is born alive, the bill would require that the infant be provided medical care and immediately be transported and admitted to a hospital. As amended, women wishing to have abortions under the bill’s exceptions would need to sign (along with the doctor and a witness) an informed consent authorization form detailing the age of the fetus and stating that, if born alive, would be given medical assistance and transported to a hospital.” The bill passed by a vote of 242-184. [HR 36, [Vote #223](#), 5/13/15; CQ, [5/13/15](#)]

McGraw Fundraised With And Accepted \$2,000 And An Endorsement From His “Friend” Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood, Who Cosponsored A National Abortion Ban Without Exceptions And Described Himself As A “Pro-Life Advocate”

February 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Accepted \$2,000 From His Campaign Committee

February 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Proud” To Be Endorsed By Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood. “Proud to have the endorsement of @DarinLaHoodIL in our fight to flip #IL17. Darin knows how to get things done and I look forward to working with him in Congress to deliver results for the people of Illinois.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/8/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Received \$2,000 From LaHood For Congress. According to FEC Receipts, LaHood for Congress gave \$2,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on February 1st 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
LAHOOD FOR CONGRESS	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/01/2024	\$2,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser With Illinois Congressman Darin LaHood And Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Helped McGraw “Each Step Of The Way”

January 2024: McGraw Held A Fundraiser Where Congressman Darin LaHood Was The Special Guest. [Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]



[Tazewell County Republicans, [1/13/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Encouraged Him To Run For Congress And Said He “Help[d] Me Each Step Of The Way.” HOST: “So you have probably been making your way up around the district. Do you have any specific locations and dates coming up?” MCGRAW: “Well we are gonna be in Peoria Thursday and the district is um well let's just say it is irregularly shaped.” HOST: “Hahaha.” MCGRAW: “If there was a uh picture in a dictionary that defined gerrymandering, the 17th congressional district would be an illustration of that point. It goes from Rockford on the east NE of IL to Rock Island on NW and down the Mississippi to Peoria area and across to Bloomington so as I said it is part of 14 counties so yeah we will be, I will be formally endorsed Thursday

evening by Congressman Darin LaHood. He is the congressman in the 16th congressional district and he is one of the good friends and people who encouraged me to run and he has been helping me each step of the way because our districts are completely interlocked.” [Regional Media Podcast, 17th Congressional District Candidate Judge Joe McGraw, 9:37, [1/24/24](#)] (AUDIO)

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support Congressman LaHood And Called Him A “Friend”

May 2024: McGraw Attended An Event To Support His “Friend” Congressman LaHood. “Happy to be in Peoria today supporting my friend, Congressman Darin LaHood. He was joined by former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe. It's reassuring to know that we have great Americans like John & Darin looking out for the safety & security of our nation.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/10/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Said LaHood Was “A Great Role Model” And Said He Was Grateful To Talk With LaHood About His Ongoing Work In Congress

March 2024: McGraw Said Darin LaHood Was “A Great Role Model, Great Example, Of Someone Who Can Work With Everyone.” HOST: “To wrap things up um there is some conservative ball work Republicans that are retiring because they just cannot take the decisiveness in politics. They do wanna work across the aisle, it is just happening. One of them, Ken Buck CO, Mike Gallagher Wisconsin who works with one of our friends of the show, Roger Christian Murphy in the China select committee, they are working well together across the aisle. It just seems to be so divisive in trying to get these things done. Uh how will it affect you if elected?” MCGRAW: “You know I am a disappointed to see some of those folks leave some of them are really great legislators but Darin LaHood who entered I should say spoke to be about running early on as a great role model, great example, of someone who can work with everyone and uh the China select committee is an example where you have to do that.” [Greg and Dan Interviews, Republican Candidate for the IL 17th Congressional District Preps for Primary Election, 8:24, [3/5/24](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2024: McGraw Said He Was “Grateful To Converse With [LaHood] Today In Rockford About His Ongoing Work In Congress, And The Path Ahead For Our Nation On A Variety Of Meaningful Issues.” “Grateful to converse with @DarinLaHoodIL today in Rockford about his ongoing work in Congress, and the path

ahead for our nation on a variety of meaningful issues. Looking forward to serving the families of Northwest and Central Illinois with Congressman LaHood! #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/28/24](#)]

November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood

November 2023: McGraw Posted About A Petition Signing Event Sponsored By Congressman Darin LaHood. “REMINDER: If you have not been able to sign a petition for our campaign or other Republicans, please stop by tomorrow at the following locations to do so! We need your help to ensure good candidates get their name on the ballot! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/17/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/17/23](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act, An Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

LaHood Cosponsored The Life At Conception Act. [H.R. 431, Cosponsors, [1/20/23](#)]

Rewire: The Life At Conception Act “Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person.” “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person.

[...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization.” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members “Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion.” “Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), and the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion.” [Washington Post, [5/2/22](#)]

The Life At Conception Act Would Grant Equal Protection Under The 14th Amendment To Fetuses, Effectively Banning Abortion With No Exceptions For Rape, Incest, Or Health Of The Mother. “H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and ‘preborn’ human person. ‘Human person’ is defined as: [...] each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being. The bill would grant constitutional rights to fertilized eggs, embryos, fetuses, and clones. It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization. The bill would not allow for prosecution of any pregnant person for the ‘death’ of their ‘unborn child.’” [Rewire, [9/28/19](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored Anti-Abortion Legislation

LaHood Cosponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion At 20 Weeks. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Amends the US Code to prohibit any person from performing an abortion on an unborn child who is 20 weeks or older.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Cosponsored Legislation “Declar[ing] That Life Begins At The Moment Of Conception” And A Bill To Prohibit Taxpayer Funding For Abortion. “Rep. LaHood Signed onto the Following Bills as an Original Cosponsor: [...] No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act – Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) [...] Would make the Hyde Amendment and other current abortion funding prohibitions permanent and government-wide [...] Life at Conception Act – Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV) [...] This legislation declares that life begins at the moment of conception, therefore entitling the unborn to legal protection.” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [1/18/19](#)]

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate”

LaHood Called Himself A “Pro-Life Advocate.” “Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18) released the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization: ‘As a father of three and Pro-Life advocate, I applaud the Supreme Court's decision in the Dobbs case, returning the question of abortion to the states and to the people.’” [Congressman Darin LaHood, Press Release, [6/24/22](#)]

LaHood Pushed For Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers

LaHood Opposed Limiting Federal Funds For Anti-Abortion Counseling Centers, Calling The Centers A “Vital Alternative For Expectant Mothers.” “In a new twist to the fight over abortion access, congressional Republicans are trying to block a Biden administration spending rule that they say will cut off millions of dollars to anti-abortion counseling centers. [...] Congressional Republicans this week introduced legislation that would block the Health and Human Services Agency from restricting the funds from the centers. The bill has no chance of

becoming law this year. ‘Pregnancy centers are an important and vital alternative for expectant mothers,’ Republican Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois said Thursday during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing to mark up the legislation.” [Spectrum News NY 1, [1/13/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond, Who Repeatedly Voted Against Legislation And Resolutions Protecting Reproductive Rights In Illinois

Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Norine Hammond endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2019: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One’s Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Hammond voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

State Rep. Norine Hammond Opposed Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act And Said It Was “Tragic” Governor Pritzker Signed The Legislation Into Law. “Moments ago, Governor Pritzker signed into law legislation expanding abortion in Illinois. State Representative Norine Hammond (R-Macomb) publicly voiced her opposition to the legislation when the Illinois House of Representatives voted on it this past May 28. ‘The governor’s signing of legislation expanding abortions in Illinois is tragic,’ said Rep, Hammond. ‘This legislation represents a radical expansion of abortion in Illinois, on top of our state’s extremely-permissive abortion laws. The people of our communities strongly believe that the unborn deserve protection in law. As your State Representative, I will continue to oppose these radical abortion laws and advocate for the unborn.’ The legislation, Senate Bill 25 (SB 25), referred to by proponents as the ‘Reproductive Health Act,’ eliminates legal protections for the unborn currently in state statute.” [State Rep. Norine Hammond, Press Release, [6/12/19](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Hammond Opposes Governor Pritzker’s Signing of Abortion Expansion Legislation.”** [State Rep. Norine Hammond, Press Release, [6/12/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood

has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That's not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared 'IVF is protected.' That's outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It 'sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health.' Because of the RHA, 'there won't be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,' said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with Roe v. Wade, the focus of Illinois' RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. 'A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,' the original law declared. 'Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.'" [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights."** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

2022: Hammond Voted Against A Reproductive Rights Resolution In The Illinois General Assembly

2022: Hammond Voted Against The Reproductive Rights Resolution, Which Declared "A Commitment To Ensuring Access To Quality Health Care, Including Reproductive Health Care, For Women In Illinois." In 2022, Hammond voted against; "House Resolution 789, Declares a commitment to ensuring access to quality health care, including reproductive health care, for women in Illinois. Urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation and other efforts to ensure women's health and reproductive rights continue to be protected and upheld to the fullest extent. Opposes any effort to punish those who seek a constitutionally protected abortion. Condemns the efforts of those in Illinois and in other states, including Missouri, Texas, and Florida, to undermine women and their reproductive health. Calls on states across the nation to join Illinois in its commitment to women's health." The motion passed by a vote of 68-38. [Illinois General Assembly, [HR 789](#), passed [3/31/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access, And Cosponsored Anti-Abortion Bills
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Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2021-2023: Rep. Spain Cosponsored Five Anti-Abortion Bills, Including One To Reinstate The Requirement That An Abortion Provider Notify The Parent Of A Minor Child After An Abortion Has Been Conducted

2021-2023: Rep. Ryan Spain Co-Sponsored Five Anti-Abortion Bills During The 102nd General Assembly. "Rep. Ryan Spain- Standing Strong for LIFE Without Life, nothing else matters. A bipartisan group of 52 legislators opposed House Bill 370 to fight the repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion (PNA) Act in Illinois. Rep. Ryan Spain opposed repeal of Parental Notification and co-sponsored legislation to reinstate the requirement that an abortion provider notify the parent of a minor child after an abortion has been conducted. During the 102nd General Assembly, Rep. Spain has co-sponsored the following 'Pro-Life' bills to protect the sanctity of Life, even when faced with fierce opposition to his principled stand. Partial Birth Abortion Ban (House Bill 827) Audit of Taxpayer-funded Abortions (House Bill 3041) Ultrasound Opportunity Act (House Bill 3049) Infant Born Alive Protection (House Bill 3050) Reinstate Parental Notification of Abortion (House Bill 4378)." [Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, accessed [3/12/24](#)]

Rep. Ryan Spain Co-Sponsored Legislation To Reinstate The Requirement That An Abortion Provider Notify The Parent Of A Minor Child After An Abortion Has Been Conducted. “Rep. Ryan Spain- Standing Strong for LIFE Without Life, nothing else matters. A bipartisan group of 52 legislators opposed House Bill 370 to fight the repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion (PNA) Act in Illinois. Rep. Ryan Spain opposed repeal of Parental Notification and co-sponsored legislation to reinstate the requirement that an abortion provider notify the parent of a minor child after an abortion has been conducted.” [Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain, accessed [3/12/24](#)]

May 2019: Spain Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Spain Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One's Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Spain voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark Dobbs decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with Roe v. Wade, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.’” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$1,500 And An Endorsement From Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access

Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

- **Chesney Was A State Senator Representing Illinois's 45th District.** “On November 8, 2022, Andrew Chesney was elected to serve as Senator for the 45th District of the State of Illinois.” [Senator Andrew Chesney, Biography, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw's Congressional Campaign

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw's Congressional Campaign. According to FEC records, Andrw Chesney donated \$1,000 on November 13th, 2023 And \$500 on February 19th, 2024 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. Both FEC receipts listed Chesney's occupation as “IL State Senator.” [FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/19/2024	\$500.00
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/13/2023	\$1,000.00

[FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

2022: State Rep. Chesney Said He Was He Was “Pleased” With The Supreme Court's Decision To Overturn Roe V. Wade And Said He Would “Work Towards Ending Pro-Abortion Policies Here In Illinois”

June 2022: Chesney Said He Was “Pleased With The Supreme Court's Decision On Roe V. Wade” And Said He Would “Work Towards Ending Pro-Abortion Policies Here In Illinois.” “Local Democrats on Friday denounced a U.S. Supreme Court decision that eliminated the right of Americans to access abortion while Republicans praised it. [...] State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, agreed. ‘I am pleased with the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade that returns the debate about abortion to the states where it belongs,’ Chesney said. ‘State legislatures will now be tasked with setting the direction for abortion. I will continue to defend life and work towards ending pro-abortion policies here in Illinois.’” [Rockford Register Star, [6/24/22](#)]

May 2019: Chesney Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Chesney Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One's Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Chesney voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

Chesney Said The Signing Of The Reproductive Health Act Was A “Sad Day For Illinois.” “Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Wednesday signed a bill in to law that expands abortion access in the state. The controversial Reproductive Health Act removes restrictions on both abortions later in pregnancy and any criminal penalties for doctors that perform them. It also repeals the state’s Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act and the Illinois Abortion Act of 1975. Under the new law, insurance coverage for the procedures and contraception will be expanded. [...] Republican Rep. Andrew Chesney said in a release, ‘This is a sad day for Illinois. Making good on distinguishing Illinois as an abortion destination is a sad distinction for a state plagued by so many sad distinctions, both fiscal and social.’” [27 WKOW, [6/13/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

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- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access And Bills Which Protected Physicians And Nurses

Illinois State Representative Brian Stewart Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

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May 2019: Stewart Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law And Protected IVF Access

May 2019: Stewart Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One's Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Stewart voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental

rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one's own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 34-20. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/31/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law. “On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology. “The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Dobbs* decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.’” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Dan Brady, Who Voted Against Legislation Protecting Reproductive Rights And IVF Access And Bills Which Protected Physicians And Nurses

Illinois State Representative Dan Brady Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress And Donated \$50

Illinois State Representative Dan Brady Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Dan Brady endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

November 2023: Friends Of Dan Brady Donated \$50 To Judge Joe McGraw For Congress. According to FEC documents, Friends of Dan Brady donated \$50 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on November 27th, 2023. [FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount	
FRIENDS OF DAN BRADY	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/27/2023	\$50.00	

[FEC, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

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May 2019: Brady Voted Against The Reproductive Health Act, Which Set “Forth The Fundamental Rights Of Individuals To Make Autonomous Decisions About One’s Own Reproductive Health” In Illinois. In May 2019, Brady voted against: “Senate Bill 25, “The Reproductive Health Act. This Act sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care. This includes the fundamental right of an individual to use or refuse contraception or sterilization, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right; and the fundamental right of an individual who becomes pregnant to continue the pregnancy and give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right. This Act restricts the ability of the State to deny, interfere with, or discriminate against these fundamental rights.” The motion was passed by a vote of 64-50. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 25](#), passed [5/28/19](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Act Declared Access To Reproductive Health Care Including Abortion Services Was A “Fundamental Right” Under State Law.

“On the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the supermajority approved a vast expansion of abortion rights through a bill known as the Reproductive Health Act, Senate Bill 25. Among other things, that bill declared that access to reproductive health care, including abortion services, is a ‘fundamental right’ under state law. At the time of that law’s adoption, many other states were passing more restrictive abortion laws, some of them as part of a concerted effort to get them before the U.S. Supreme Court in hopes of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.” [Capitol News Illinois, [5/3/24](#)]

Illinois’ Reproductive Health Care Act Protected Access To IVF And Other Forms Of Assisted Reproductive Technology.

“The Alabama Supreme Court last month declared that frozen embryos created via IVF are people, stoking the already-fueled national debate over reproductive rights. The increasingly popular path to parenthood has itself been put on thin ice, at least in Alabama, where some clinics paused IVF treatment for fear of legal repercussions. That’s not so in Illinois, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently declared ‘IVF is protected.’ That’s outlined in the Reproductive Health Act, or RHA, a law (Public Act 101-0013) Pritzker signed in 2019 and added to in 2023 (Public Act 102-1117). It ‘sets forth the fundamental rights of individuals to make autonomous decisions about one’s own reproductive health.’ Because of the RHA, ‘there won’t be an Illinois Supreme Court that comes out and rules what Alabama did,’ said lobbyist Stephanie Vojas Taylor, who helped draft those portions of the law. [...] Even before the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Dobbs* decision in 2022 that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion established in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*, the focus of Illinois’ RHA was its protection of abortion. But the law goes further, explicitly granting protections to IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology, or ART. ‘A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State,’ the original law declared. ‘Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about how to exercise that right.’” [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “How an Illinois Law Protects IVF Access, Reproductive Health Care Rights.”** [WTTW, [3/5/24](#)]

April 2022: Brady Voted Against Four Abortion Rights Bills, Including One Which Protected Physicians And Nurses Who Practiced Reproductive Health Care In Multiple States

April 2022: Brady Voted Against Four Abortion Rights Bills. “House Speaker Emanuel ‘Chris’ Welch made an unplanned visit onto the House floor to speak in favor of one of the four abortion rights bills lawmakers passed

yesterday along party lines. ‘It’s pretty clear who stands with women in this state. Democrats stand with women in this state,’ Welch said, invoking Women’s History Month and referring to laws in Texas and other states that restrict abortions. Welch, gesturing to the Republican side of the chamber, added: ‘Clearly, by their votes today, they say women are on their own. ...Did you see those votes today? Did you see them?’ Oh, we saw: It was a political move as subtle as a lightning strike, meant to put Republicans on the record for legislation that was mostly symbolic but would solidify Illinois as a safe haven for women who find themselves needing an abortion should Roe v. Wade be overturned in a few months. [...] Rep. Dan Brady, who’s running for secretary of state in the Republican primary — without any help from Griffin — was a no on all four bills. The most substantive bill was House Bill 1464, which says physicians and nurses who find their licenses challenged in other states because they performed or assisted in an abortion can’t be punished in Illinois for doing so if they’re otherwise qualified to practice here. Three resolutions called for expressing ‘unwavering support’ and commitment for abortion rights, and support for the work of Planned Parenthood.” [Politico, [4/1/22](#)]

- **Brady Voted Against A Bill That Would Protect Physicians And Nurses Who Had Their Licenses Challenged In Other States For Performing Or Assisting In Abortions.** “Rep. Dan Brady, who’s running for secretary of state in the Republican primary — without any help from Griffin — was a no on all four bills. The most substantive bill was House Bill 1464, which says physicians and nurses who find their licenses challenged in other states because they performed or assisted in an abortion can’t be punished in Illinois for doing so if they’re otherwise qualified to practice here. Three resolutions called for expressing ‘unwavering support’ and commitment for abortion rights, and support for the work of Planned Parenthood.” [Politico, [4/1/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie, Who Co-Sponsored The Ultrasound Opportunity Act, Which Served As A Barrier To Abortion Care

Tony McCombie Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Tony McCombie endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed, [12/6/23](#)]

McCombie Cosponsored A Bill That Was A Barrier To Abortion Care

McCombie Cosponsored IL HB 1148, The Ultrasound Opportunity Act. McCombie co-sponsored IL HB 1148, The Ultrasound Opportunity Act. [Illinois General Assembly, H.B. 1148, cosponsored [1/24/23](#)]

- **The Ultrasound Opportunity Act Provided That Any Facility Where Abortions Were Performed, The Physician Performing The Abortion Would Offer Any Woman Seeking An Abortion After 8 Weeks Of Gestation An Opportunity To Receive And View An Active Ultrasound.** “Creates the Ultrasound Opportunity Act. Sets forth legislative findings and definitions. Provides that at any facility where abortions are performed, the physician who is to perform the abortion, the referring physician, or another qualified person working in conjunction with either physician shall offer any woman seeking an abortion after 8 weeks of gestation an opportunity to receive and view an active ultrasound of her unborn child by someone qualified to perform ultrasounds at the facility, or at a facility listed in a listing of local ultrasound providers provided by the facility, prior to the woman having any part of an abortion performed or induced and prior to the administration of any anesthesia or medication in preparation for the abortion. Provides that the requirements of the Act shall not apply when, in the medical judgment of the physician performing or inducing the abortion, there exists a medical emergency. Effective immediately.” [Illinois General Assembly, H.B. 1148, introduced [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter, Who Was “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Bill Hauter endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

Hauter Voted Against And Criticized Illinois Senate Bill 1909, Which Forbid Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Centers From Engaging In Deceptive Practices Meant To Discourage Women From Obtaining Abortions

May 2023: Hauter Voted Against The Deceptive Practices Of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act. In May 2023, Hauter voted against: “Senate Bill 1909, “the Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act. Prohibits a limited services pregnancy center from using or employing any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, or misrepresentation, or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact, with the intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact: to interfere with an individual seeking to gain entry or access to a provider of abortion or emergency contraception; to induce an individual to enter or access the limited services pregnancy center; in advertising, soliciting, or otherwise offering pregnancy-related services; or in conducting, providing, or performing pregnancy-related services. Allows the Attorney General to enforce the Act when: it appears to the Attorney General that a limited services pregnancy center has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in any practice declared to be unlawful by the Act; the Attorney General receives a written complaint of the commission of a practice declared to be unlawful under the Act; or the Attorney General believes it to be in the public interest that an investigation should be made to ascertain whether a limited services pregnancy center has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in, any practice declared to be unlawful by the Act. Establishes the remedies available under the Act for violation of the Act, including preliminary or permanent injunction and a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000. Allows any party aggrieved by a violation of the Act to bring an action against any limited services pregnancy center that has committed such a violation, in which the court may award actual damages and any other relief the court deems proper.” The motion was passed by a vote of 72-40. [Illinois General Assembly, [SB 1909](#), passed [5/10/23](#)]

Senate Bill 1909 Would Forbid Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Centers From Engaging In Deceptive Practices Meant To Discourage Women From Obtaining Abortions. “Hauter, a doctor who opposes abortion, said the passage of Senate Bill 1909, which would forbid anti-abortion pregnancy centers from engaging in deceptive practices meant to discourage women from obtaining abortions, was the biggest disappointment of session for him. ‘That bill, I think, was just a travesty. I don't think it's constitutional. It limits free speech, it treats pregnancy care centers with viewpoint discrimination ... I think it's going to be overturned,’ he said. ‘But that really doesn't matter to them. ‘I don't think the pro-abortion extremists really care if it's overturned — they want to be able to campaign on it, they want to be able to harass, and, in the end, it's not their money, it's not their time. It's the taxpayers' time in court.’” [Hearld & Review, [6/21/23](#)]

Hauter Was A Vocal Opponent Of Legislation To Protect Illinois Women From Crisis Pregnancy Centers. “Hauter, a doctor who opposes abortion, said the passage of Senate Bill 1909, which would forbid anti-abortion pregnancy centers from engaging in deceptive practices meant to discourage women from obtaining abortions, was the biggest disappointment of session for him. ‘That bill, I think, was just a travesty. I don't think it's constitutional. It limits free speech, it treats pregnancy care centers with viewpoint discrimination ... I think it's going to be overturned,’ he said. ‘But that really doesn't matter to them. ‘I don't think the pro-abortion extremists really care if it's overturned — they want to be able to campaign on it, they want to be able to harass, and, in the end, it's not their money, it's not their time. It's the taxpayers' time in court.’” [Hearld & Review, [6/21/23](#)]

Hauter Said He And His Wife Were “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Hauter’s Wife Was The Director Of A Crisis Pregnancy Center In Pekin, Illinois

Hauter Said He And His Wife Were “Heavily Involved” In Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Hauter’s Wife Was The Director Of A Crisis Pregnancy Center In Pekin, Illinois. “Illinois would become one of the first states to make so-called crisis pregnancy centers subject to the same consumer fraud standards as car dealerships, retailers and service-based businesses under a bill that will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker. Upon the measure becoming law, crisis pregnancy centers could be sued under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act if they engage in ‘unfair methods of competition’ or ‘deceptive acts or practices.’ Crisis pregnancy centers are facilities affiliated with anti-abortion, often religious, organizations designed to deter newly pregnant women from seeking an abortion. [...] ‘So Planned Parenthood of Chicago can rain down complaints as an ‘aggrieved party’ on a pregnancy center in Peoria, Illinois,’ Hauter said during debate on the bill. Hauter, whose wife is the director of the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Pekin, described the couple as ‘heavily involved’ in crisis pregnancy centers. Under SB 1909, Hauter’s wife could be sued under Illinois’ consumer fraud law, although as a licensed physician, Hauter could not. The bill exempts medical professionals with active licenses who work or volunteer at CPCs are exempted from the extended purview of the state’s consumer fraud law as they’re subject to other state regulations like medical malpractice laws. Hauter also characterized the bill as ‘viewpoint discrimination.’” [Rockford Register Star, [5/12/23](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Known For Being Misleading And Using Incorrect Information To Discourage People From Accessing Abortion Care And Contraceptives

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Known For Being Misleading And Using Incorrect Information To Discourage People From Accessing Abortion Care And Contraceptives. “The nonprofits known as crisis pregnancy centers are typically religiously affiliated and counsel clients against having an abortion as part of their free but limited services. [...] The centers have also been accused of providing misleading information about abortion and contraception — for example, suggesting that abortion leads to mental health problems or breast cancer.” [Associated Press, [2/5/22](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Often Placed Close To Abortion Clinics “With The Goal Of Luring Pregnant Women Away.” “The nonprofits known as crisis pregnancy centers are typically religiously affiliated and counsel clients against having an abortion as part of their free but limited services. [...] The pregnancy centers often pop up close to abortion clinics with the goal of luring pregnant women away.” [Associated Press, [2/5/22](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, Who Voted Against A Bill Which Would Protect Abortion In Illinois And Reinforce Protections For Physicians And Patients

Illinois State Senator Win Stoller Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Senator Win Stoller Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Win Stoller endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2023: Stoller Voted Against An Abortion Expansion Bill Which Prevented Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Physicians And Patients

2023: Stoller Voted Against An Abortion Expansion Bill Which Prevented Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Physicians And Patients. In January 2023, Stoller voted against: “Wholesale Drug License-Variou: [...] Amends the Wrongful Death Act. Provides that there shall be no cause of action against a health care professional, medical institution, or pregnant person (rather than a physician) for the wrongful death of a fetus caused by an abortion where the abortion was permitted by law and the requisite consent was lawfully given. Amends various licensing Acts to restrict the Department of

Financial and Professional Regulation from taking action against a license or permit issued under those Acts based solely upon the license of the person being revoked or the person otherwise being disciplined by any other state or territory for actions related to any health care, medical service, or procedure if the revocation or disciplinary action was based solely on a violation of the other state's law prohibiting such action performed in any state for any person and such conduct is permissible under State law. Amends the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987, the Medical Practice Act of 1987, and the Nurse Practice Act. Allows the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue temporary permits for health care to a person who is licensed to practice under Acts equivalent to those in another state. Amends the Reproductive Health Act. Allows an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant to perform abortion procedures that do not require general anesthesia. Requires a health care professional's report of each abortion to be transmitted to the Department of Public Health on a quarterly basis (rather than not later than 20 days following the end of the month in which the abortion is performed). Provides that such reports are not admissible as evidence or discoverable in any action of any kind. Allows the Department to make aggregate data derived from the reports publicly available so long as such disclosure does not reveal any identifying information about a patient or health care professional. Amends the Telehealth Act. Allows a health care professional with a temporary permit for health care to treat a patient located in the State through telehealth services. Creates the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to administer an Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. Sets forth Program administration and reporting, coordinating organization duties, and rules. Creates the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program Fund. Amends the Pharmacy Practice Act. Allows pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives without prior establishment of a relationship between the pharmacist and the person receiving hormonal contraception. Provides that no employee of the Department of Public Health shall be liable for injury caused by the pharmacist's or patient's use of the self-screening assessment or the dispensation of hormonal contraceptives. Amends various Acts to remove references to the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995. Amends the Illinois Parentage Act of 2015. Provides that the terms of the most recent informed consent governs the disposition of a fertilized ovum when the intended parent or parents no longer wish to use any remaining cryopreserved fertilized ovum. Amends the Illinois Insurance Code. Requires abortion care coverage to include medications prescribed for the purpose of producing an abortion with or without proof of pregnancy. Requires coverage for abortifacients, hormonal therapy, and human immunodeficiency virus pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis." Passed by a vote of 41-16. [Illinois General Assembly, [HB 4664](#), passed [1/10/23](#)]

Stoller Criticized Illinois House Bill 4664 And Said, "Illinois Already Had Extreme Pro-Abortion Laws, But This Is Beyond The Pale." "State Senator Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) released the following statement in response to the Senate passing an abortion expansion bill this evening. 'Illinois Democrats are in a race to pass the most extreme abortion laws in the nation so the Governor and his allies garner national publicity for being the most pro-abortion lawmakers in the entire country. 'Just a year and half ago, the Majority Party chose to remove parental notification for minors who seek an abortion, ignoring the will of nearly 72 percent of Illinois citizens who wanted to keep the law. Now, if all of that wasn't already bad enough, this new and last-minute amendment to House Bill 4664 will also require insurance companies to cover puberty blockers, even for minors. Illinois already had extreme pro-abortion laws, but this is beyond the pale.'" [Illinois State Senator Win Stoller, Press Release, [1/10/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Stoller: 'Illinois Democrats Are In A Race To Pass The Most Extreme Abortion Laws In The Nation.'" [Dupage Policy Journal, [1/19/23](#)]**

Illinois House Bill 4664 Built On Existing Law Protecting The Right Of Every Person In Illinois To Make Reproductive Healthcare Decisions Without Government Interference. "House Bill 4664 builds on existing Illinois law, including the fundamental right of every person in Illinois to make all reproductive health care decisions without governmental interference. States across the country continue to pass dangerous restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming health care. HB 4664 will prevent those states from imposing those restrictions in this state. It reinforces protections for Illinois health care providers and patients travelling here to access abortion or gender affirming health care." [ACLU of Illinois, [1/12/23](#)]

Illinois House Bill 4664 Would Prevent Other States From Imposing Restrictions On Abortion In Illinois And Reinforced Protections For Health Care Providers And Patients Traveling To Access Abortion. "House

Bill 4664 builds on existing Illinois law, including the fundamental right of every person in Illinois to make all reproductive health care decisions without governmental interference. States across the country continue to pass dangerous restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming health care. HB 4664 will prevent those states from imposing those restrictions in this state. It reinforces protections for Illinois health care providers and patients travelling here to access abortion or gender affirming health care.” [ACLU of Illinois, [1/12/23](#)]

June 2022: Stoller Said The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe Was “Welcome News” But Said It Was “Unfortunate” The Decision Would Not Impact Abortion Access In Illinois

June 2022: Stoller Said The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe Was “Welcome News” But Said It Was “Unfortunate” The Decision Would Not Impact Abortion Access In Illinois. ““As a strong supporter of life, today’s decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court is welcome news for those who seek to protect the most vulnerable among us. ‘That being said, this decision will unfortunately have no impact on the state of Illinois and our extreme abortion laws. It will not affect any of the wildly unpopular laws that the Majority Party have passed, which includes late-term abortions for any reason and allowing minors of any age to undergo surgical procedures without their parents ever knowing. ‘In reality, this court decision will only be used by our Governor and his allies as a means to justify and push for even more aggressive and unpopular abortions laws.’ — State Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills)” [1470 WMBD, [6/24/22](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event With Nebraska Senator Pete Ricketts, Who Favored Banning Abortion Even In Cases Of Rape And Incest

McGraw Attended An Event With Pete Ricketts

December 2023: McGraw Attended An Event Where Senator Pete Ricketts Was The Guest Speaker – And Praised Ricketts, Saying He “Shared An Inspirational Message.” “Enjoyed attending the Illinois GOP’s Holiday party over the weekend with fellow Republicans. The guest speaker, U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts shared an inspirational message about the fight we are in to restore common sense principles in Washington. Thanks to all who organized this opportunity to discuss the future of our state and nation! #judgejoecongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/3/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/3/23](#)]

Ricketts Favored Banning Abortion In Nebraska, Even In Cases Of Rape Or Incest

Ricketts, Who Was Formerly Governor Of Nebraska, Favored Banning Abortion In The State, Even In Cases Of Rape Or Incest. “Gov. Pete Ricketts voiced support Sunday for an abortion ban in Nebraska, including in cases of rape and incest, and repeated his intent to call a special legislative session to take up the matter if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. Speaking on CNN’s State of the Union on Sunday morning, Ricketts said Nebraska would take ‘further steps to protect those preborn babies’ if the court strikes down Roe, which the governor called “a horrible constitutional decision,” according to a transcript of the interview. Host Dana Bash then asked the Nebraska governor if that would apply to cases of rape or incest. ‘They’re still babies, too,’ Ricketts said. ‘Yes, they’re still babies.’” [Omaha World Herald, [5/16/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Rape Victims Should Be Forced to Have Rapist’s Baby, GOP Gov. Openly States.”** [Rolling Stone, [5/15/22](#)]

May 2022: As Governor Of Nebraska, Ricketts Said He Would Call A Special Session Of The State’s Legislature To Pass A Total Ban On Abortion If The Supreme Court Overturned Roe v. Wade. “Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts of Nebraska said Sunday that he will call a special session of his state’s legislature to pass a total ban on abortion if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade this term. ‘Nebraska is a pro-life state. I believe life begins at conception, and those are babies too,’ Ricketts told CNN’s Dana Bash on ‘State of the Union’ when asked if he thought the state should require a young girl who was raped to carry the pregnancy to term. ‘If Roe v. Wade, which is a horrible constitutional decision, gets overturned by the Supreme Court, which we’re hopeful of, here in Nebraska, we’re going to take further steps to protect those preborn babies.’ ‘Including in the case of rape or incest?’ Bash asked. To which the governor replied: ‘They’re still babies, too. Yes.’ Ricketts said that in case Roe falls, ‘I will work with our speaker of the legislature to work on a special session and do more to protect preborn babies. We’ll have to wait and see what that decision is before we can take further steps, but that would certainly be my intention.’” [CNN, [5/15/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Nebraska GOP Governor Says He Will Call A Special Session To Pass Total Abortion Ban If Roe Is Overturned.”** [CNN, [5/15/22](#)]

McGraw Repeatedly Supported And Defended Men Accused Of Domestic Abuse And Sexual Misconduct

McGraw Refused To Allow A Jury To Hear Testimony Of Domestic Violence Allegations In A Murder Trial Where A Man Killed His Ex-Girlfriend’s Daughter, Saying “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence,” Using Air Quotes For ‘Domestic Violence’

McGraw Heard A Case Where The Defendant Was Accused Of Shooting And Stabbing His Ex-Girlfriend’s Teenage Daughter To Death

Michael Mernack Was Accused Of Shooting And Stabbing His Ex-Girlfriend’s Teenage Daughter To Death. “Jurors won’t see certain pieces of evidence or hear key testimony when a Rockford man goes on trial next week over the slaying of his ex-girlfriend’s teenage daughter. Michael E. Mernack, 37, is accused in the death of Rebecca A. Finkenhofer, 16. The teen was shot and stabbed to death on Dec. 28, 2016, at her Machesney Park home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them off and on.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Did Not Let Jurors Hear About Domestic Violence Anecdotes In The Trial

McGraw Did Not Let Jurors Hear About Michael Mernack’s Threat To Make His Ex-Girlfriend’s “Face Like Hamburger” Or Mernach Threatening The Teenager’s Father With A Knife. “McGraw ruled Friday that

unless Mernack testifies, prosecutors cannot tell jurors about two calls he made to his mother from the Winnebago County Jail — a month before Finkenhofers slaying — after he was arrested in a domestic battery case involving Cabay. Assistant State’s Attorney Alison Meason said on Wednesday, while asking to use those recorded calls, that Mernack ‘indicates that he is going to kick in the door of Megan Cabay’s home and make her face like hamburger. He did stab Rebecca numerous times in the face.’ McGraw said he could reconsider that ruling if Mernack testifies. Jurors also won’t hear that Finkenhofers father, Tim Finkenhofers, sought an order of protection against Mernack, but didn’t receive one after Mernack allegedly threatened him with a knife on Oct. 27, 2016. Tim Finkenhofers had gone to pick up his daughter for school that day and wanted to introduce himself to Mernack, Meason said during Wednesday’s hearing. ‘I don’t find that relevant or probative,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Justified Not Discussing Domestic Violence Issues By Saying One Of the Anecdotes Was Not “Relevant Or Probative” And Saying He Did Not Want The Case “To Be A Referendum On Social Issues”

McGraw Said The Domestic Violence Anecdote Was Not “Relevant Or Probative.” “Jurors also won’t hear that Finkenhofers father, Tim Finkenhofers, sought an order of protection against Mernack, but didn’t receive one after Mernack allegedly threatened him with a knife on Oct. 27, 2016. Tim Finkenhofers had gone to pick up his daughter for school that day and wanted to introduce himself to Mernack, Meason said during Wednesday’s hearing. ‘I don’t find that relevant or probative,’ McGraw said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw: “I Don’t Want This Case To Be A Referendum On Social Issues, On Domestic Violence.” “Judge Joseph McGraw said during a hearing on Friday that he wants the trial to stick to ‘case-specific’ facts, ruling that jurors won’t be allowed to hear certain allegations of domestic violence and threats to Finkenhofers relatives. ‘I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,’ McGraw said, using air quotes as he said ‘domestic violence.’” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

- **McGraw Used Air Quotes As He Said “Domestic Violence.”** “Judge Joseph McGraw said during a hearing on Friday that he wants the trial to stick to ‘case-specific’ facts, ruling that jurors won’t be allowed to hear certain allegations of domestic violence and threats to Finkenhofers relatives. ‘I don’t want this case to be a referendum on social issues, on domestic violence,’ McGraw said, using air quotes as he said ‘domestic violence.’” [Rockford Register Star, [8/24/18](#)]

McGraw Allowed Photos Of The Teenager’s Injuries

McGraw Allowed Photos Of The Teenager’s Injuries, Including A Chest Wound And A Bullet Hole. “Jury selection concluded Monday, hours after McGraw ruled on the photos. None were shown Monday, but they are likely to be viewed by jurors at trial. Other photos that McGraw said will be admitted include images of a tooth Meason said was knocked out of Finkenhofers mouth, injuries to her face, a chest wound, a puncture wound to her brain and a bullet injury to her right arm. ‘There is a lot of blood, but that is the way it was,’ Meason told McGraw, who asked why one photo of Finkenhofers should be allowed at trial. ‘It shows her position in the doorway,’ she said.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/27/18](#)]

A Jury Found Michael Mernack Guilty On All Counts, And McGraw Sentenced Him To Life In Prison Plus 45 Years

A Jury Found Michael Mernack Guilty On All Counts. “A jury Thursday evening found Michael E. Mernack guilty on all counts in the 2016 murder of a Machesney Park teenager. Mernack, 37, killed Rebecca A. Finkenhofers, 16, and wounded her grandmother, Cheryl Puckett. The teen was attacked during the early morning hours of Dec. 28, 2016, at her Minns Drive home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them in Machesney Park until a November 2016 domestic altercation.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/18](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Michael Mernack To Life In Prison Plus 45 Years For The Murder of His Ex-Girlfriend's Teenage Daughter And Shooting Of The Girl's Grandmother In The Face. "Telling a Rockford man he had acted in 'a savage, cruel and violent manner,' a judge on Friday sentenced Michael E. Mernack to life plus 45 years behind bars for killing his ex-girlfriend's teenage daughter and shooting the girl's grandmother in the face. Mernack, 38, was convicted in August of killing Rebecca A. Finkenhofner, 16, and shooting her grandmother Cheryl Puckett. The teen was attacked during the early-morning hours of Dec. 28, 2016, at her Minns Drive home. Her mother, Megan Cabay, had dated Mernack, who lived with them in Machesney Park until a November 2016 domestic altercation. A month after Cabay kicked Mernack out of her home, he returned in the middle of the night, kicked in the door in a rage, and slashed and stabbed her teenage daughter to death, prosecutors have said. Finkenhofner also was shot. 'You brought great violence, great carnage,' Judge Joseph McGraw said slowly before handing down his sentence. 'That scene of carnage is indelibly etched in all of our memories.'" [Rockford Register Star, [10/26/18](#)]

McGraw Touted The Endorsement Of Zach Oyler, A Peoria City Council Member Who Was Accused Of Domestic Abuse But Took A "Rarely Used" Plea Agreement To Resolve The Charges Which Conceded There Was Likely Enough Evidence To Convince A Judge Or Jury Of His Guilt

February 2024: McGraw Bragged About An Endorsement From Zach Oyler, A Peoria City Council Member

February 2024: McGraw Received An Endorsement From Zach Oyler, Peoria City Council Member. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]

Councilman Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Battery, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint

Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Battery, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint

According To Police Reports, Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Aggravated Domestic Batter, Interfering With A Report Of Domestic Violence And Unlawful Restraint. "The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler's arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler's wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer 'stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.' An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had 'a little' to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather's neck and chest, he then saw several areas

that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Police Reports Reveal Details Of Night Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler Was Arrested For Domestic Battery.”** [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

According To Police Reports, Zach Oyler’s Wife Told A Peoria Police Officer “Stuff Had Gone On For A Long Time And He Came Home Drunk. Zachary Had Been Drinking All Day.” “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

An Officer Spoke With Zach Oyler And Reported Smelling The Strong Odor Of Alcohol. “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

- **Zach Oyler Told The Police Officer He Had Met A Friend Earlier And Had ‘A Little’ To Drink.** “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

Police Reports Stated An Officer Checked Zach Oyler’s Wife’s Neck And Saw Several Areas On Her Neck And Chest That Were Red And The Marks Looked Fresh And Appeared To Have Come From The Fight. “The wife of Peoria City Councilman Zach Oyler claims her husband was drunk when the two had an argument that lead to Zach Oyler’s arrest. According to police reports WMBD requested via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Oyler’s wife, Heather told a Peoria Police Department officer ‘stuff had gone on for a long time and he came home drunk. Zachary had been drinking all day and [Heather] denied any drinking on this date.’” An officer spoke with Oyler and reported smelling the strong odor of alcohol. The councilman told the officer he met a friend earlier in the evening and had ‘a little’ to drink. Police reports state an officer on scene used his flashlight to look at Heather’s neck and chest, he then saw several areas that were red, the marks looked fresh and appeared to have come from the fight. Oyler was arrested July 30. PPD police chief Loren Marion said Oyler was arrested for

aggravated domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence, and unlawful restraint.” [CI Proud, [8/7/19](#)]

Oyler’s Wife Claimed After An Argument, He Threw Her To The Ground And Wrapped His Arm Around Her Neck, She Obtained An Order Of Protection Against Him, But Later Tried To Recant Her Testimony

Oyler’s Wife Claimed Oyler Got Into An Argument With Her After Returning From A Bar, When She Tried To Leave She Claimed He Took Her Phone, Threw Her To The Ground And Wrapped His Arm Around Her Neck. “Under an Alford plea, Oyler maintains he is innocent, but concedes there is likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt. Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision on Friday, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and court fees. Charges of domestic battery and interfering in a report of domestic violence were dropped as part of the plea arrangement. Having a misdemeanor on his record doesn't require Oyler to give up his council seat. Oyler's wife claimed the councilman got into an argument with her after coming home from a bar last summer. When she tried to leave the house, she claimed Oyler took her phone, threw her to the ground, and wrapped an arm around her neck. Oyler was arrested after his wife managed to get her phone back and call 911. She obtained an order of protection against him, but later tried to recant her testimony. Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos refused to drop the case. Oyler has never commented publicly on the incident [sic], nor has any other member of the Peoria City Council.” [WCBU, [10/16/20](#)]

- **Oyler’s Wife Obtained An Order Of Protection Against Him But Later Tried To Recant Her Testimony, Peoria County’s State Attorney Refused To Drop The Case.** “Under an Alford plea, Oyler maintains he is innocent, but concedes there is likely enough evidence to convince a judge or jury of his guilt. Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision on Friday, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and court fees. Charges of domestic battery and interfering in a report of domestic violence were dropped as part of the plea arrangement. Having a misdemeanor on his record doesn't require Oyler to give up his council seat. Oyler's wife claimed the councilman got into an argument with her after coming home from a bar last summer. When she tried to leave the house, she claimed Oyler took her phone, threw her to the ground, and wrapped an arm around her neck. Oyler was arrested after his wife managed to get her phone back and call 911. She obtained an order of protection against him, but later tried to recant her testimony. Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos refused to drop the case. Oyler has never commented publicly on the incident [sic], nor has any other member of the Peoria City Council.” [WCBU, [10/16/20](#)]

Oyler Entered A Rarely Used Plea To Resolve The Charges, The Plea Allowed Him To Maintain His Innocence But Concede There Was Likely Enough Evidence To Convince A Judge Or Jury Of His Guilt

Oyler Entered An Alford Plea To Charges That He Acted Disorderly To Resolve The Domestic Battery Allegations

HEADLINE: “Councilman Zach Oyler Enters Rarely Used Plea To Disorderly Conduct Charge.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

Zach Oyler Entered An Alford Plea To Charges That He Acted Disorderly, Which Resolved A Domestic Battery Allegation Involving His Wife. “City Council member Zachary Oyler entered an Alford plea to charges that he acted disorderly last summer, resolving a domestic battery allegation involving his wife. Oyler, 36, appeared in Peoria County Circuit Court on Friday afternoon for a plea hearing, effectively ending the case brought against him last September. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision, which is a form of non-reporting probation and ordered to complete domestic violence counseling. [...] An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

- **As Part Of The Plea, Prosecutors Agreed To Drop Misdemeanor Counts Of Domestic Battery And Interfering With Reporting Of Domestic Violence And Oyler Was Ordered To Pay A \$400 Fine And State-Mandated Fees.** “An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday. The disorderly conduct charge alleges that Oyler acted in an alarming way on July 30, 2019. Prosecutors, as part of the plea, agreed to drop misdemeanor counts of domestic battery and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence. He was also ordered to pay a \$400 fine and state-mandated fees. Legally speaking, it does not affect his ability to serve on the council.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

An Alford Plea Allowed A Defendant To Avoid Admitting Guilt And Assert Innocence, While Agreeing That Sufficient Evidence Existed That Could Convince A Judge Or A Jury To Find The Defendant Guilty

An Alford Plea Was When A Defendant Does Not Admit The Act And Asserts Innocence But Agrees That Sufficient Evidence Exists That Could Convince A Judge Or Jury To Find The Defendant Guilty. “City Council member Zachary Oyler entered an Alford plea to charges that he acted disorderly last summer, resolving a domestic battery allegation involving his wife. Oyler, 36, appeared in Peoria County Circuit Court on Friday afternoon for a plea hearing, effectively ending the case brought against him last September. He was sentenced to nine months of court supervision, which is a form of non-reporting probation and ordered to complete domestic violence counseling. [...] An Alford plea is a plea when the defendant does not admit the act and asserts innocence but agrees that sufficient evidence exists that could convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty. Such pleas are not common in Peoria County, and it came the last day before Oyler was go to trial on Monday.” [Journal Star, [10/16/20](#)]

McGraw Stood As A Character Witness To Defend An Attorney And Former County Prosecutor Whose Law License Was Suspended After A State Commission Found That He “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Women” Including Battery And Sexual Harassment

March 2007: Five Women Came Forward To Allege Dennis Schumacher Engaged In A Pattern Of Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct And Battery

March 2007: Five Women Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct, And Battery

March 2007: Five Women Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Involving Sexual Harassment, Improper Conduct, And Battery. “A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State’s Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client’s buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

One Woman Alleged That Dennis Schumacher Grabbed Her Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2003

A Complaint Filed With The Attorney Registration And Disciplinary Commission Alleged Dennis Schumacher Grabbed A Female Client's Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2003. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

A Second Women Alleged That Dennis Schumacher Dennis Schumacher Grabbed Her Buttocks, Stuck His Tongue In Her Mouth And Made Lewd Comments In January 2005

A Second Female Client Alleged Dennis Schumacher Did The Same To Her In June 2005. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

Other Women Accused Dennis Schumacher Of Making Unwanted Sexual Advances, Battery And Improper Conduct

Other Complaints Included In The ARDC Report Included Allegations That Dennis Schumacher Made Unwanted Sexual Advances, Battery And Improper Conduct. "A prehearing conference with a state regulatory commission is scheduled next month for an Ogle County attorney who faces allegations of sexual harassment, improper conduct and battery. Five women, all clients of former Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumacher, allege misconduct by Schumacher since 2000. Accusations first came to light March 21 when a two-count complaint was filed with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint says that on Jan. 21, 2003, Schumacher, who is now in private practice in Mount Morris, grabbed a female client's buttocks, stuck his tongue in her mouth and made lewd comments. A second female client said Schumacher did the same thing to her in his office June 15, 2005. The complaint was amended last month to include three more former clients whose complaints date between 2000 and 2004 and contain similar accusations. The new complaints include unwanted sexual advances, battery and improper conduct while meeting with Schumacher or comments made by phone while talking with him, bringing to five the number of counts filed against Schumacher. On Aug. 1, the commission set the matter to be assigned to a panel of the Hearing Board." [Rockford Register Star, [8/15/07](#)]

December 2009: McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher During An Attorney Registration And Disciplinary Commission Investigation Into His Potential Sexual Misconduct

In December 2009, McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher

December 2009: McGraw Stood As A Character Witness In Defense Of Dennis Schumacher. “In his defense, Schumacher also had some of the Rock River Valley’s legal elite stand in as character witnesses, including retired Appeals Court Judge Dan Doyle, Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw and United Way CEO Paul Logli. But the commission was not swayed by their testimony. ‘We do not find (Schumacher’s) misconduct to be mitigated by the evidence of his good character,’ the report read. ‘He may have a good reputation for honesty, morality and chastity, but he was not forthright in connection with this case.’ The report now goes to the Illinois Supreme Court for a final decision.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

- **Character Witnesses Could Testify On Behalf Of A Defendant And Speak To That Person’s Positive Or Negative Character Traits And The Person’s Reputation In The Community.** “Character witnesses can testify on behalf of another as to that person’s positive or negative character traits and the person’s reputation in the community. Such character evidence is often used in criminal cases. Its usage is limited in civil cases. The testimony has to be within the scope of a federal rule of evidence or state rule of evidence. Under common law, the defendant is allowed to call character witnesses to testify for his or her character. Character witnesses can only testify for the defendant by introducing testimony about the defendant’s reputation or by relevant instances of the defendant’s conduct. The government can then cross-examine that witness regarding his/her knowledge of specific instances of the defendant’s misconduct in order to help the jury evaluate the quality of the character testimony.” [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [3/27/24](#)]

In McGraw’s Testimony With ARDC, He Said Schumacher Had A Reputation For Being An Honest And Moral Person

McGraw Said Based On Conversations With “Hundreds” Of Conversations With People In The Illinois Legal Community Schumacher Had A Reputation In The Community For Being An Honest Person. “Joe McGraw is a circuit court judge in Winnebago and Boone counties. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw is the presiding judge of the criminal division and handles major felonies. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw has known Respondent for 25 years and has observed him in both professional and social settings. (Tr. 673). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘hundreds’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being an honest person. (Tr. 673-75). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘dozens’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being a moral person because of his strong Christian beliefs. (Tr. 673-75).” [Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, In the Matter Of: Dennis R. Schumacher, Case Number: 2007PR00020, filed [12/2/09](#)]

McGraw Said Based On His Conversations With “Dozens” Of People In The Illinois Legal Community Schumacher Had A Reputation For Being A Moral Person Because Of His Strong Christian Beliefs. “Joe McGraw is a circuit court judge in Winnebago and Boone counties. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw is the presiding judge of the criminal division and handles major felonies. (Tr. 672). Judge McGraw has known Respondent for 25 years and has observed him in both professional and social settings. (Tr. 673). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘hundreds’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being an honest person. (Tr. 673-75). Based on Judge McGraw’s conversations with ‘dozens’ of people in the legal community in Illinois, Respondent has a reputation in the community for being a moral person because of his strong Christian beliefs. (Tr. 673-75).” [Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, In the Matter Of: Dennis R. Schumacher, Case Number: 2007PR00020, filed [12/2/09](#)]

December 2009: The ARDC Panel Recommended Dennis Schumacher Lose His Law License For At Least A Year After Finding He “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Different Women”

HEADLINE: “Panel Recommends Attorney Lose License For At Least 1 Year.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The Illinois ARDC, A State Commission That Investigated Attorney Misconduct Recommended That Dennis Schumacher, An Attorney And A Former County Prosecutor, Lose His License For At Least A Year For

Sexual Misconduct. “A state commission that investigates attorney misconduct has recommended that a Mount Morris attorney who was once Ogle County’s top prosecutor lose his license for at least a year for sexual misconduct. The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission wrote that Dennis Schumacher’s ‘actions were reprehensible and insulting’ to legal practitioners in its 76-page report filed Wednesday. Schumacher served as Ogle County State’s Attorney from 1980 to 1992 and opened a private practice after leaving public life. He also filed as a Republican candidate for Ogle County Board District 4 for the February primary.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The ARDC Panel Found Shumacher “Engaged In A Pattern Of Sexual Misconduct Involving Three Different Women” That “Could Not Have Been Reasonably Considered By Him To Be Acceptable Behavior Under The Ethical Rules Of Our Profession.” “A state commission that investigates attorney misconduct has recommended that a Mount Morris attorney who was once Ogle County’s top prosecutor lose his license for at least a year for sexual misconduct. The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission wrote that Dennis Schumacher’s ‘actions were reprehensible and insulting’ to legal practitioners in its 76-page report filed Wednesday. [...] The panel found that Schumacher ‘engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct involving three different women’ that ‘could not have been reasonably considered by him to be acceptable behavior under the ethical rules of our profession.’ The women in question were one-time clients, and in one case, the wife of a client, who had hired Schumacher for representation in their divorce cases. All the women alleged that Schumacher made unwanted sexual advances toward them which, in some cases, involved groping and kissing, or pressing his body against theirs.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

The ARDC Panel Found That Shumacher’s Misconduct Was Not “Mitigated By The Evidence Of His Good Character, He May Have A Good Reputation For Honesty, Morality And Chastity, But He Was Not Forthright In Connection With This Case.” “In his defense, Schumacher also had some of the Rock River Valley’s legal elite stand in as character witnesses, including retired Appeals Court Judge Dan Doyle, Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw and United Way CEO Paul Logli. But the commission was not swayed by their testimony. ‘We do not find (Schumacher’s) misconduct to be mitigated by the evidence of his good character,’ the report read. ‘He may have a good reputation for honesty, morality and chastity, but he was not forthright in connection with this case.’ The report now goes to the Illinois Supreme Court for a final decision.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/11/09](#)]

March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court Affirmed The ARDC Panel’s Findings And Ruled That Dennis Schumacher Be Unable To Practice Law For A Year

March 2010: The Illinois Supreme Court Affirmed The ARDC Panel’s Findings And Ruled That Dennis Schumacher Be Unable To Practice Law For A Year. “A local attorney accused of sexual misconduct with client and a client’s wife will be unable to practice law for a year, starting April 6, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled. The decision aligns with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission’s Dec. 9 recommendation that Dennis Schumacher be suspended. Three women testified at an IARDC hearing that Schumacher made inappropriate sexual comments and unwanted sexual advances in incidents dating back to 2003. Schumacher denied the allegations, but did not appeal the commission’s recommendation.” [Shaw Local News Network, [3/20/10](#)]

ARDC Found Dennis Schumacher “Engaged In Conduct Involving Battery When He Made Unsolicited And Improper Sexual Advances Toward Both A Female Client And The Wife Of A Second Client.” “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 07CH0020. Disposition: Suspension for a specified period. Effective Date of Disposition: 04/06/2010. End Date of Disposition: 04/06/2011 Case Summary: Mr. Schumacher, who was licensed in Illinois in 1979, was suspended for one year. He engaged in conduct involving battery when he made unsolicited and improper sexual advances toward both a female client and the wife of a second client. He then breached a fiduciary duty to both women clients and to a third client to whom he also made an unsolicited sexual advance over the telephone. The suspension is effective on April 6, 2010.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

- **ARDC Also Found Dennis Schumacher “Breached A Fiduciary Duty To Both Women Clients And To A Third Client To Whom He Also Made An Unsolicited Sexual Advance Over The Telephone.”** “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 07CH0020. Disposition: Suspension for a specified period. Effective Date of Disposition: 04/06/2010. End Date of Disposition: 04/06/2011 Case Summary: Mr. Schumacher, who was licensed in Illinois in 1979, was suspended for one year. He engaged in conduct involving battery when he made unsolicited and improper sexual advances toward both a female client and the wife of a second client. He then breached a fiduciary duty to both women clients and to a third client to whom he also made an unsolicited sexual advance over the telephone. The suspension is effective on April 6, 2010.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

August 1994: McGraw Had Previously Briefly Represented Dennis Schumacher In A Lawsuit

August 1994: McGraw Represented Defendant Schumacher In A Lawsuit Brought By Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, And Gail Crenshaw. Joseph Gerard McGraw Represented Defendant, Dennis Schumacher, in Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, and Gail Crenshaw v. Dennis Schumacher, Richard Witkowski, William Kozacek and Ogle County. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Civil Docket, filed 8/1/94]

- **The Lawsuit’s Cause Was Listed As “Violation Of Civil Rights.”** Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al ‘s cause was listed as “violation of civil rights.” [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Case Summary, filed 8/1/94]
- **January 1992 – April 1993: McGraw Represented Defendant Schumacher In Subacz, et al v. Schumacher Until Shumacher Was Terminated From The Case.** Joseph Gerard McGraw Represented Defendant, Dennis Schumacher, in Nancy Smith Subacz, Nancy Messenger, and Gail Crenshaw v. Dennis Schumacher, Richard Witkowski, William Kozacek and Ogle County from the lawsuit’s filing date on 1/23/92 until Schumacher was terminated from the case on 4/29/93. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al, Case #3:92-cv-20025, Civil Docket, filed 8/1/94]

1990: Dennis Schumacher Was Found To Have Engaged In Misconduct After He Failed To Recuse Himself From A Case Involving An Alleged Act Of Child Abuse Where He Had A Conflict Of Interest

According To A Petition Filed With The Illinois Supreme Court, Dennis Schumacher Failed To Recuse Himself From A Case Involving An Alleged Act Of Child Abuse At A School Where He Had Conflicts Of Interest. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State’s Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State’s Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State’s Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent’s professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent’s financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

Dennis Schumacher Had A Connection To The School Where The Child Abuse Allegedly Occurred But Did Not Recuse Himself From The Case. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal

Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

- **Dennis Schumacher Was A Member Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Church Affiliated With The School And A Personal Guarantor On The Church Note.** "As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

The Petition Also Alleged Dennis Schumacher Contacted The Mother Of The Child Who Was The Alleged Subject Of Abuse And Informed Her He Would Convene A Grand Jury And Subpoena The Minor Child To Appear. "As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State's Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State's Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State's Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent's professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent's financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility." [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

The Petition Alleged Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct Including: Accepting Employment When His Judgment May Have Been Affected By Financial And Personal Interest, Failure As A Lawyer To

Represent The People Of Illinois With Undivided Fidelity, And Conduct Prejudicial To The Administration Of Justice. “As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church and as a personal Guarantor on the Church Note, Respondent, as Ogle County State’s Attorney, failed to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of his client, the People of Illinois, by: a. Failing to timely recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special State’s Attorney to investigate the alleged act of child abuse at the school. b. Contacting the mother of the child who was the subject of an alleged act of physical abuse at the School and informing her that he would convene a Grand Jury and subpoena the minor child to appear. c. Issuing Grand Jury subpoenas relating to the said alleged incident. d. Opposing the Petition for a Special State’s Attorney. 18. By reason of the conduct outlined above, Respondent has engaged in the following misconduct: a. Conduct involving the acceptance of employment when the exercise of Respondent’s professional own judgment on behalf of the People of Illinois was or reasonably may have been affected by Respondent’s financial, business, property or personal interest, in violation of. Rule 5: 101 (a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Conduct. b. Failure as a lawyer to represent his client, the People of Illinois, with undivided fidelity, in violation of Rule 5-107(a) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility. c. Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 1-102(a) (5) of the Illinois Code of Professional Responsibility.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Case Research Document, Search: Dennis Schumacher, Petition To Impose Discipline, filed [4/20/90](#)]

May 1990: The Commission Found Dennis Schumacher Engaged In Misconduct And Censured Him. “In re Dennis R. Schumacher, 90CH0233. Disposition: Censure. Effective Date of Disposition: 05/30/1990. End Date of Disposition: Not Applicable. Censures and reprimands do not affect the authority of the lawyer to continue to practice law. Definition of Disposition: A censure reflects a determination that the lawyer has engaged in misconduct, but that the violation is not so serious to warrant a sanction that would affect the lawyer’s authority to continue to practice law. As a result, censure does not affect the authority of a lawyer to continue to practice law.” [Attorney Registration & Discipline Commission, Lawyer Search Results, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

Agriculture & Food Access Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2024: McGraw said he was proud to stand with Illinois family-owned farms and said in Congress he would work to “get government bureaucrats off their backs and to eliminate the death tax for good.”
- ✓ 2023: McGraw toured a John Deere Museum and said it was a great reminder of our reliance on farmers.

Illinois Farmers

2024: McGraw Said He Was Proud To Stand With Illinois Family-Owned Farms And Said In Congress He Would Work To “Get Government Bureaucrats Off Their Backs And To Eliminate The Death Tax For Good”

2024: McGraw Said He Was Proud To Stand With Family-Owned Illinois Farms And Said In Congress He Would “Work Overtime For Them To Get Government Bureaucrats Off Their Backs And To Eliminate The Death Tax For Good.” “96% of all farms in Illinois are family-owned. I'm proud to stand with the men & women working overtime to put food on our tables. In Congress, I'll work overtime for them to get government bureaucrats off their backs and to eliminate the death tax for good.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]

2023: McGraw Toured A John Deere Museum And Said It Was A Great Reminder Of Our Reliance On Farmers

2023: McGraw Toured The John Deere Pavilion In Downton Moline And Said It Was A Great Reminder Of Our Reliance On Farmers. “After another day of meetings on the campaign trail, we took a break to tour the recently renovated John Deere Pavillion in downtown Moline. Seeing the X9 1100 Combine up close and personal was a great reminder of how much we rely on the farmers across #IL17. As we approach the end of harvest season, please remember to #thankafarmer!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [10/31/23](#)]

 Judge Joe McGraw
October 31, 2023 · 🌐

After another day of meetings on the campaign trail, we took a break to tour the recently renovated John Deere Pavillion in downtown Moline. Seeing the X9 1100 Combine up close and personal was a great reminder of how much we rely on the farmers across #IL17. As we approach the end of harvest season, please remember to #thankafarmer!



👍 37

4 shares

[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [10/31/23](#)]

Big Lie, January 6th Insurrection, & Extremist Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2023-2024: McGraw received \$89,100 from Members of Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 election.
- ✓ McGraw said election security was a common issue that he heard while campaigning.
- ✓ McGraw said he had “no reason to doubt” that Joe Biden was legitimately elected in the 2020 race.
- ✓ 2024: McGraw told his supporters to train to be election judges because “if we want to have integrity in the system we have to ensure it by our participation.”

McGraw Spoke At An Event With A Group Who Posted Conspiracy Theories And Attended An Event With Someone Who Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

- ✓ January 2024: McGraw spoke at an event for the Peoria Patriots, who had posted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, warned about legislation that would prevent private paramilitary activity, and claimed the World Health Organization’s agenda was to sexualize children.
- ✓ McGraw attended an event with Jayne Lehman Raef. Raef supported false election conspiracies and suggested “civil war” as a solution to election fraud.
- ✓ 2023-2024: McGraw used talking points from the “great replacement theory,” a conspiracy theory that was one of the early incitements used by Adolf Hitler, was cited in manifestos of gunmen in four mass shootings, and was supported by QAnon and other extremist groups.
- ✓ On a podcast, Joe McGraw’s daughter, Margaret, described a supernatural experience she and her family blamed on manga comic books, and a video her father borrowed that claimed fallen angels became aliens.

McGraw Repeatedly Referenced A Book He Read While Deciding To Run For Congress; The Book Urged Readers To Fight Against Abortion And Same-Sex Marriage And Contained Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

- ✓ McGraw repeatedly said he read *Letter to the American Church* to help him make his decision to run for Congress and called it “important.”
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas warned the American church was committing the same mistakes today as the German church did in the 1930s by not speaking out against the rise of Nazism.
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* urged readers to fight against abortion, same-sex marriage, transgender rights, “critical race theory” and Black Lives Matter.
- ✓ *Letter to the American Church* warned about the radical “pro-abortion ideology” and said that “abortion is morally wrong” and “under no circumstance must we equivocate on it.”
- ✓ Several reviews warned about “subtle yet clear justification of violence for political ends” in the book and criticized its comparison of the current day to Nazi Germany.

- ✓ A review warned that *Letter to the American Church* contained “reckless and dangerous” implications that violence may be necessary to achieve political goals.
- ✓ One review criticized Metaxas’ comparison of American pastors who did not sign a declaration for Christian unity on abortion, marriage, and religious liberty to German pastors who didn’t sign a declaration calling for resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state.
- ✓ Eric Metaxas, the author of *Letter to the American Church*, made false election claims and told Trump he would “be happy to die in this fight” during a conversation about attempts to overturn the election result, and once punched a protestor.

Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election

2023-2024: McGraw Received \$89,100 From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election

2023-2024: McGraw Received \$89,100 From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); New York Times, [1/7/21](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election		
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Amount(s)
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	\$3,000
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	\$4,000
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	\$2,000
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	\$1,000
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	\$3,300
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$3,000
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$2,000
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	\$1,000
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	\$3,000
David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	\$2,000
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	\$2,000
Buddy PAC	Earl “Buddy” Carter (GA-01)	\$1,000
E-PAC	Elise Stefanik (NY-21)	\$10,000
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	\$1,500
Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	\$2,000
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	\$3,000
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	\$4,000
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	\$2,000
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	\$3,300
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	\$2,500

American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	\$5,000
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	\$2,500
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	\$4,000
America's First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	\$3,000
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	\$2,000
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	\$1,000
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$2,000
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$5,000
Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	\$4,000
Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	\$2,500
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	\$2,500
	Total:	\$89,100

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); New York Times, [1/7/21](#)]

NOTE: The above chart used a New York Times list of members of the House who voted to overturn the 2020 election, which was crosschecked with receipts from Judge Joe McGraw for Congress found on FEC.gov.

2020 Election Disinformation

McGraw Said Election Security Was A Common Issue That He Heard While Campaigning

McGraw: “Election Security Is A Common Issue That I Hear About, What’s Going To Be Different Next Time And So Forth.” “QUESTION: “I’m an election judge, and I want you all to know if you want to beat the democrats, vote early, vote by mail. You can tell people if they are not registered to vote, they can go to the polling place on voting day with two IDs and vote, so these people have no excuses. Realize the Democrats are doing that, we are not. You should vote early, you should vote by mail. Don’t pack the voting places with you, you should have those easy to go in for the last minute folks. Vote early, tell people if they are not registered they can still go to the polling place and vote on November 6th. They can still vote.” MCGRAW: “Yeah, let me add something to that. You know there’s some debate among some conservatives about whether we should bank our vote, vote early or show up on election day and election security is a common issue that I hear about, what’s going to be different next time and so forth. And you know each of you can get trained to be an election judge, you know my wife has done it. She can’t do it this time because I’m running but its something you can do where you sit there all day, it’s a 12 hour day, 13 hour day. And you sit and make sure that all the rules are being followed, and there are precincts where there is no Republican election judge and so there’s no republican poll watcher and so if we want to have integrity in the system we have to ensure it by our participation.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 43:10, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Said He Had “No Reason To Doubt” That Joe Biden Was Legitimately Elected In The 2020 Race

McGraw Said He Had “No Reason To Doubt” That Joe Biden Was Legitimately Elected In The 2020 Race. “McGraw confirmed that he voted for Trump in 2020, but unlike some Republicans who challenged the results, he said he had ‘no reason to doubt’ that Biden was legitimately elected in that race. When it comes to voting for Trump again next year amid the former president's legal troubles, McGraw said ‘we have to see what the charge is and what the outcome is, and only then can we make an informed decision.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Election Judge

2024: McGraw Told His Supporters To Train To Be Election Judges Because “If We Want To Have Integrity In The System We Have To Ensure It By Our Participation”

2024: McGraw Told His Supporters To Train To Be Election Judges Because “If We Want To Have Integrity In The System We Have To Ensure It By Our Participation.” “QUESTION: “I’m an election judge, and I want you all to know if you want to beat the democrats, vote early, vote by mail. You can tell people if they are not registered to vote, they can go to the polling place on voting day with two IDs and vote, so these people have no excuses. Realize the Democrats are doing that, we are not. You should vote early, you should vote by mail. Don’t pack the voting places with you, you should have those easy to go in for the last minute folks. Vote early, tell people if they are not registered they can still go to the polling place and vote on November 6th. They can still vote.” MCGRAW: “Yeah, let me add something to that. You know there’s some debate among some conservatives about whether we should bank our vote, vote early or show up on election day and election security is a common issue that I hear about, what’s going to be different next time and so forth. And you know each of you can get trained to be an election judge, you know my wife has done it. She can’t do it this time because I’m running but its something you can do where you sit there all day, it’s a 12 hour day, 13 hour day. And you sit and make sure that all the rules are being followed, and there are precincts where there is no Republican election judge and so there’s no republican poll watcher and so if we want to have integrity in the system we have to ensure it by our participation.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 43:10, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw: “There Are Precincts Where There Is No Republican Election Judge And So There’s No Republican Poll Watcher And So If We Want To Have Integrity In The System We Have To Ensure It By Our Participation.”** QUESTION: “I’m an election judge, and I want you all to know if you want to beat the democrats, vote early, vote by mail. You can tell people if they are not registered to vote, they can go to the polling place on voting day with two IDs and vote, so these people have no excuses. Realize the Democrats are doing that, we are not. You should vote early, you should vote by mail. Don’t pack the voting places with you, you should have those easy to go in for the last minute folks. Vote early, tell people if they are not registered they can still go to the polling place and vote on November 6th. They can still vote.” MCGRAW: “Yeah, let me add something to that. You know there’s some debate among some conservatives about whether we should bank our vote, vote early or show up on election day and election security is a common issue that I hear about, what’s going to be different next time and so forth. And you know each of you can get trained to be an election judge, you know my wife has done it. She can’t do it this time because I’m running but its something you can do where you sit there all day, it’s a 12 hour day, 13 hour day. And you sit and make sure that all the rules are being followed, and there are precincts where there is no Republican election judge and so there’s no republican poll watcher and so if we want to have integrity in the system we have to ensure it by our participation.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 43:10, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Connections To Extremists

Jan 2024: McGraw Spoke At An Event For The Peoria Patriots, Who Had Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The World Health Organization’s Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event

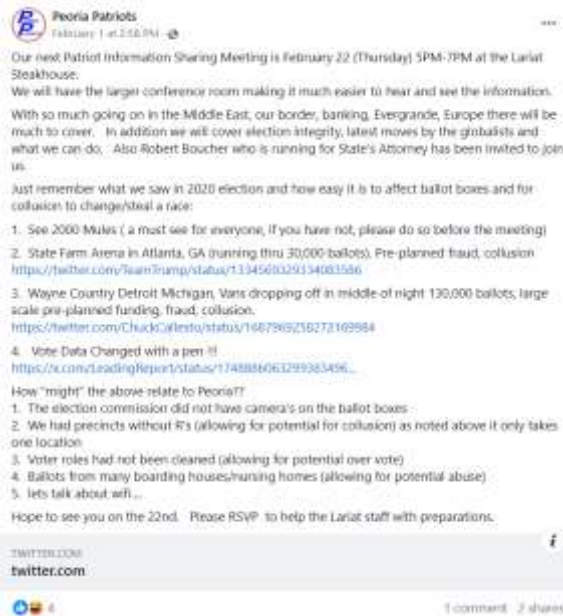
January 2024: McGraw Spoke At A Peoria Patriots Event And Said It Was “A Pleasure” To Speak With The Group. “It was a pleasure speaking with the Peoria Patriots last night. Voters across #IL17 are fired up and ready to put an end to the out of touch Biden-Sorensen agenda that has left our southern border wide open and families with less money in their pocket. In Congress, I’ll stand strong to secure our border and ensure Illinois families have every opportunity to live out their dreams.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/26/24](#)]

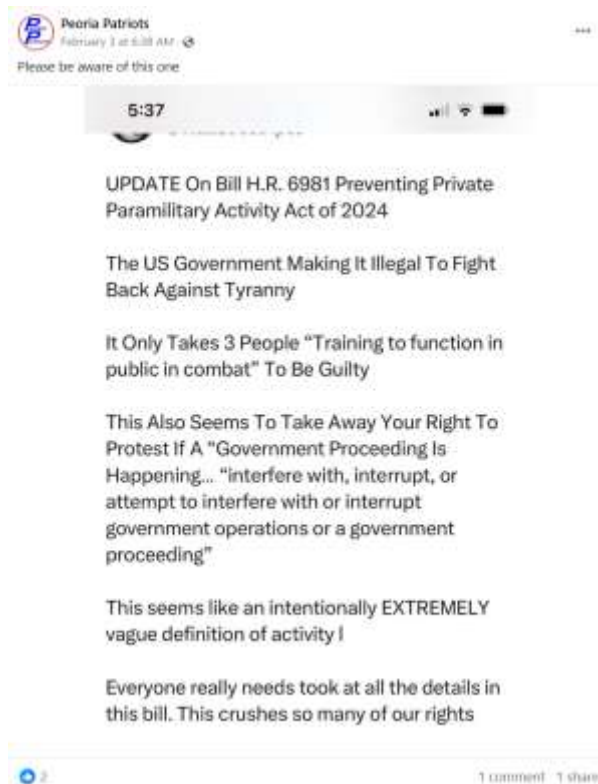
Peoria Patriots Posted Conspiracy Theories About The 2020 Election, Warned About Legislation That Would Prevent Private Paramilitary Activity, And Claimed The WHO Agenda Was To Sexualize Children

Peoria Patriots Reminded Its Followers To “Remember What We Saw In 2020 Election And How Easy It Is To Affect Ballot Boxes And For Collusion To Change/Steal A Race” And Pushed Election Conspiracies. “Our next Patriot Information Sharing Meeting is February 22 (Thursday) 5PM-7PM at the Lariat Steakhouse. We will have the larger conference room making it much easier to hear and see the information. With so much going on in the Middle East, our border, banking, Evergrande, Europe there will be much to cover. In addition we will cover election integrity, latest moves by the globalists and what we can do. Also Robert Boucher who is running for State's Attorney has been invited to join us. Just remember what we saw in 2020 election and how easy it is to affect ballot boxes and for collusion to change/steal a race: 1. See 2000 Mules (a must see for everyone, if you have not, please do so before the meeting) 2. State Farm Arena in Atlanta, GA (running thru 30,000 ballots). Pre-planned fraud, collusion <https://twitter.com/TeamTrump/status/1334569329334083586> 3. Wayne Country Detroit Michigan, Vans dropping off in middle of night 130,000 ballots, large scale pre-planned funding, fraud, collusion. <https://twitter.com/ChuckCallesto/status/1687969258272169984> 4. Vote Data Changed with a pen!!! <https://x.com/LeadingReport/status/1748886063299383496> ... How ‘might’ the above relate to Peoria?? 1. The election commission did not have camera's on the ballot boxes 2. We had precincts without R's (allowing for potential for collusion) as noted above it only takes one location 3. Voter roles had not been cleaned (allowing for potential over vote) 4. Ballots from many boarding houses/nursing homes (allowing for potential abuse) 5. lets talk about wifi.... Hope to see you on the 22nd. Please RSVP to help the Lariat staff with preparations.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/1/24](#)]

Peoria Patriots Posted To Be Aware Of A Federal Bill That They Said Would Make It “Illegal To Fight Back Against Tyranny.” “Please be aware of this one.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]

A Peoria Patriots Post That Claimed The World Health Organization’s Agenda Was To Sexualize Children Was Flagged For Containing False Information. “Hope everyone is now aware of this.” [Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]



[Peoria Patriots, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]

McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef; Raef Supported False Election Conspiracies And Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

November 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef And Offered Her A “Special Thanks” On Facebook For Sharing Her “Thoughts On The State Of Our Party”

November 2023: McGraw Attended An Event With Jayne Lehman Raef And The Republican Women Of Rock Island County. “A wonderful lunch spent with the Republican Women of Rock Island County. An honor to hear from them about the work they are doing, and to see their new Executive Board sworn in by outgoing Illinois Federation of Republican Women President Jayne Lehman Raef. Special thanks to Jeanne Ives for also coming to share her thoughts on the state of our party, and what each of us can do to elect more Republicans. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17 #republicanwomen” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]



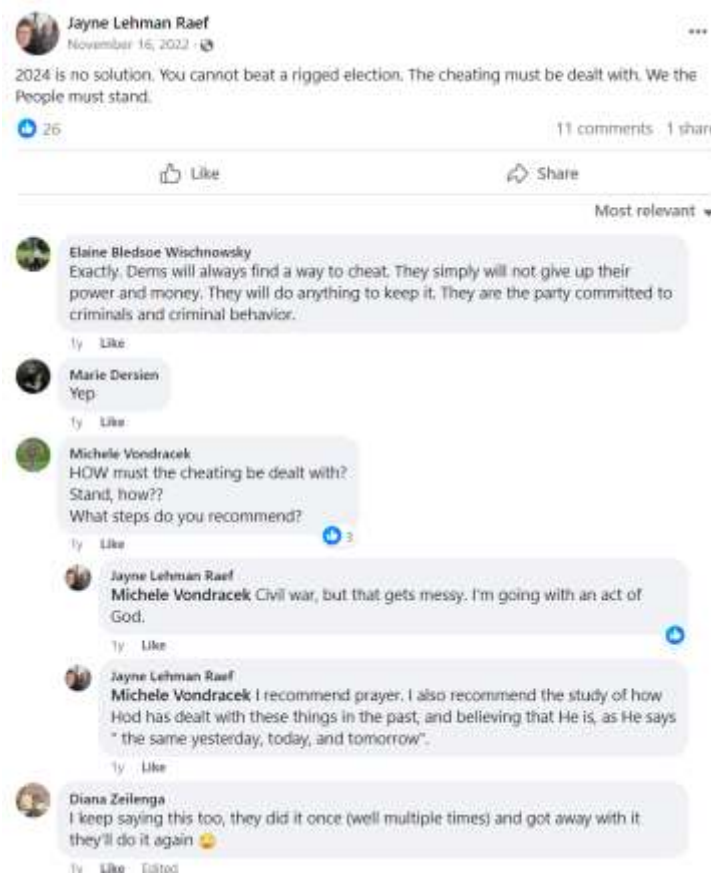
[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]

- **Jayne Lehman Raef Was The Outgoing Illinois Federation Of Republican Women President.** “A wonderful lunch spent with the Republican Women of Rock Island County. An honor to hear from them about the work they are doing, and to see their new Executive Board sworn in by outgoing Illinois Federation of Republican Women President Jayne Lehman Raef. Special thanks to Jeanne Ives for also coming to share her thoughts on the state of our party, and what each of us can do to elect more Republicans. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17 #republicanwomen” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/18/23](#)]

Jayne Raef Posted Supporting False Election Conspiracies, Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud, And Posted A Meme That Implied Bill Gates Created COVID-19 To Profit From The Vaccine

Jayne Raef Posted Supporting False Election Conspiracies And Suggested “Civil War” As A Solution To Election Fraud

One Commentor Asked Jane Raef What Steps She Recommended To Deal With Election Fraud, She Responded “Civil War, But That Gets Messy. I'm Going With An Act Of God.” Jayne Lehman Raef: “2024 is no solution. You cannot beat a rigged election. The cheating must be dealt with. We the People must stand.” [...] Michele Vondracek: “HOW must the cheating be dealt with? Stand, how?? What steps do you recommend?” [...] Jayne Lehman Raef: “Civil war, but that gets messy. I'm going with an act of God.” [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/16/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/16/22](#)]

Jane Raef Responded, “Cannot Agree More” To A Facebook Post Promoting False Election Claims And Calling For The Election To Be Immediately Called Off. “Cannot agree more.” [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/13/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/13/22](#)]

Jane Raef Posted A Meme That Seemed To Imply Bill Gates Created COVID-19 In Order To Profit From A Vaccine

Jane Raef Posted A Meme That Said “I Remember When This Guy Used To Create Viruses In Windows And Then Sell The Antivirus. I Wonder What He’s Doing Now...” With A Photo Of Bill Gates Holding A Medicine Vial In Front Of A WHO Seal. [Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/28/22](#)]



[Jayne Lehman Raef, Facebook, [11/28/22](#)]

Great Replacement Theory

2023-2024: McGraw Used Talking Points From The “Great Replacement Theory” A Conspiracy Theory That Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler, Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings, And Was Supported By QAnon And Other Extremist Groups

2023: McGraw Repeatedly Used Talking Points That Aligned With The Great Replacement Theory And Said “You Can See The Consequences Of This Huge Influx Of Immigration And Draw Your Own Conclusions As To Whether That’s By Design Or Despite This”

2024: McGraw Used Talking Points That Aligned With The Great Replacement Theory And Said “You Can See The Consequences Of This Huge Influx Of Immigration And Draw Your Own Conclusions As To Whether That’s By Design Or Despite This.” QUESTION: “The question that I wrestle with more and more, [indecipherable] why are they doing this? Why is the liberal [indecipherable] out there just [indecipherable]?” MCGRAW: “Well you know, I talk to a lot of people and there are a lot of theories on that, but one thing you can see for sure is its changing our country and so whether that’s being done consciously like we want to change our country, we want to change the demographics of our country, we want to change the culture of our country, or if for some reason we didn’t have that insight and for some reason it happened in spite of a lack of insight. These are facts, ok. I’m sure you’ve heard about census wide count of those who are here illegally and thereby gaining more congressional representation. Illinois lost a congressman last time, lost a congressional seat because you know everyone was leaving Illinois. [...] You can see the consequences of this huge influx of immigration and draw your own conclusions as to whether that’s by design or despite this.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall. 28:24, 30:22, 4/27/24] (AUDIO)

2023: When Asked If He Was Familiar With The “Replacement Theory For Voters” McGraw Said He Was Familiar In General Terms With The Concept. QUESTION: “Judge are you familiar with this new talking point that we seem to be coming up with called the replacement theory for voters. That the dems really just want to just flood the zone persay with a whole core of new voters, a voter base? So Paul Valles’ plea to have armouries open and secure these people is really going to fall on deaf ears with JB because JB’s out there parlaying Joe Biden for more federal bailout money for his sancuturay state which he obviously put in place via Bruce Rounder, former governor Rounder’s legislation to make us a sanctuary state.” MCGRAW: “I’m familiar in general terms with the concept, but I think the issue is the Democrats are realizing they are loosing their base. You know many of the people who come here illegally and become citizens including in the Hispanic community are very strong on having a secure border. Flooding the zone as you say with immigrants from who knows where has all kinds of consequences, it drives down wages as they are willing to compete for jobs that are unskilled jobs, low wages, take jobs away from Americans. They are being promised who knows what exactly but many many many who are here in the US who really cannot contribute in a meaningful way who are not necessarily asylum seekers and who can’t really contribute in a meaningful way and we have a right as a sovereign country to decide who gets to come in. So as far as the replacement theory goes, I think in general terms they assume these people become dependent on the Democratic Party, on the government, and will automatically vote to, vote for Democrats, but the bottom line is those that are here already that are Democrat constituents are already feeling the competition are already feeling the squeeze from this huge influx of migrants. I think they risk alienating their current base.” [Joe McGraw, Cities 92.9 Radio Show, 13:20, 11/7/23] (VIDEO)

- **McGraw: “As Far As The Replacement Theory Goes, I Think In General Terms They Assume These People Become Dependent On The Democratic Party, On The Government, And Will Automatically Vote To, Vote For Democrats, But The Bottom Line Is Those That Are Here Already That Are Democrat Constituents Are Already Feeling The Competition, Are Already Feeling The Squeeze From This Huge Influx Of Migrants.”** QUESTION: “Judge are you familiar with this new talking point that we seem to be coming up with called the replacement theory for voters. That the dems really just want to just flood the zone persay with a whole core of new voters, a voter base? So Paul Valles’ plea to have armouries open and secure these people is really going to fall on deaf ears with JB because JB’s out there parlaying Joe Biden for

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McGraw Said Illegal Immigrants Were "Being Cultivated As Future Democratic Voters, Teaching Them To Be On The Dole. They Are Also Getting Free Healthcare, Free Housing. The List Goes On And On And On."

MCGRAW: "And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?" AUDIENCE: "And veterans taken out of homes to." MCGRAW: "And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 20:01, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

The "Great Replacement" Was A Conspiracy Theory That Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler, Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings, And Was Supported By QAnon And Other Extremist Groups

Las Vegas Sun Editorial: The "Great Replacement" Theory Was "A Conspiracy Theory Whose Roots Go Back To The Late 18th Century And Was One Of The Early Incitements Used By Adolf Hitler That Climaxed In The Genocide Of Millions Of Jews During The Holocaust." "Billed as the 'Hearing on the Biden Border Crisis, Part 1,' Jordan opened the proceedings by asserting that the crisis of immigrants and asylum seekers at the nation's southern border is a plot by Biden and the Democrats. 'I think it's intentional. ... It seems deliberate, it seems premeditated, it seems intentional,' he said. Jordan went on to say more directly, 'Make no mistake about it, the Biden administration is carrying out its plan.' This sounds an awful lot like the 'great replacement' conspiracy theory that has been touted by neo-Nazis and KKK members in the United States for nearly half a century. It's a conspiracy theory whose roots go back to the late 18th century and was one of the early incitements used by Adolf Hitler that climaxed in the genocide of millions of Jews during the Holocaust." [Las Vegas Sun, Editorial, [2/3/23](#)]

"Great Replacement Theory" Was Cited In Manifestos Of Gunmen In Four Mass Shootings That Left A Total Of 86 Dead. "One unifying factor for many groups, investigators said, was belief in the great replacement theory, a white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely claims shadowy elites are intentionally displacing white Americans through immigration. The theory is tied to major white supremacist demonstrations, like the 2017 Charlottesville 'Unite the Right' march in Virginia, and was cited in the manifestos and online posts of four white supremacist mass shooters in 2018 and 2019 who left a total of 86 dead." [NBC, [2/8/22](#)]

January 6th Committee Investigators Found That QAnon Supporters United With Other Extremist Groups To Attack The Capitol Through Common Belief In The “Great Replacement Theory,” A White Nationalist Conspiracy That Immigrants Would Displace White Americans. “Investigators for the House Jan. 6 committee are scrutinizing rallies and events as far back as a year before the Capitol riot in an effort to identify a broader network of planning and the causes of the attack, according to a half-dozen people helping conduct the committee’s investigation who spoke with NBC News. [...] One wider goal is to determine how groups with seemingly disparate ideals — such as believers in broad conspiracy movements like QAnon, as well as more narrowly defined militias like the Oath Keepers — had what appeared to be a shared goal of storming the Capitol on Jan. 6. One unifying factor for many groups, investigators said, was belief in the great replacement theory, a white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely claims shadowy elites are intentionally displacing white Americans through immigration.” [NBC, [2/8/22](#)]

Marjorie Taylor Greene Shared A Video Claiming That There Was A Jewish Plan To Destroy Europe Through A Great Replacement Theory Style Takeover. “A 2015 video, which appeared to be the result of a collaboration between 4chan and 8chan users — both message forums which lean heavily toward fringe conspiracy theories — spliced Barbara Lerner Spectre, an Israeli-American academic, out of context so that she appeared to be discussing a Jewish plan to destroy Europe. The video also quoted Nick Griffin, a former leader of far-right British political party, warning about an “unholy alliance of leftists, capitalists and Zionist supremacists” plotting to destroy European society by ‘breeding us out of existence in our own homelands.’ Greene shared the video in 2018, complaining that she had been censored from speaking about the issue of ‘illegal invaders.’” [Haaretz, [2/4/21](#)]

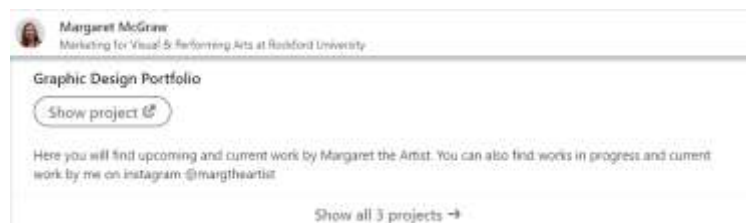
Conspiracy

On A Podcast, Joe McGraw’s Daughter, Margaret, Described A Supernatural Experience She And Her Family Blamed On Manga Comic Books, And A Video Her Father Borrowed That Claimed Fallen Angels Became Aliens

Joe McGraw’s Daughter, Margaret McGraw, Appeared On An Episode Of ‘Maybe It’s Spiritual’, A Podcast About Paranormal Experiences

Margaret McGraw Was Joe McGraw’s Daughter. “Retired Circuit Judge Joe McGraw, a former chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, announced on Wednesday that he will run for Congress in the 17th District. [...] McGraw said that he’ll work to end corruption by banning politicians from becoming lobbyists. He said he’ll also ensure that Congress passes a balanced budget before they get paid. McGraw and his wife, Gail, live in Rockford, where they raised their five children: Kathleen, Elizabeth, Victoria, Margaret and Joseph.” [Rock River Current, [10/11/23](#)]

According To Her LinkedIn, Margaret McGraw’s Instagram Was @Margheartist. [Margaret McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [1/18/24](#)]



[Margaret McGraw, LinkedIn, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Maybe It’s Spiritual Was A Podcast About Paranormal Experiences Where You Could “Tell Your Story Without The Fear Of Being Told You’re Crazy.” “Maybe it’s Spiritual. This podcast is about people: their stories, their experiences and the things they can’t explain. We listen to and explore the paranormal occurrences

that happen to people more often than we talk about. This is a place where you can tell your story without the fear of being told you're crazy." [Maybe it's Spiritual, Spotify, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Maybe It's Spiritual Posted That @Margheartist Appeared On An Episode To Discuss "Covid Dreams, Angels, Demons, Near Death Experiences Aliens And A Tinfoil Hat Style Theory." [Maybe Its Spiritual, Instagram, [2/16/21](#)]



[Maybe Its Spiritual, Instagram, [2/16/21](#)]

Margaret McGraw Watched A Video Her Father Borrowed, Which Claimed That Fallen Angels Did Not Die In The Biblical Flood And Instead Became What We Know Today As Aliens

As A Child, Margaret McGraw Watched A Video Her Father Borrowed, Which Claimed The Fallen Angels Did Not Die In The Flood And Instead Became What We Know Today As Aliens. MARGARET MCGRAW: "My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought." HOST: "I am" McGRAW: "So" HOST: "I may or may not entertain it as well." MCGRAW: "Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can't be possessed, or I don't know if you believe that but that's something I've grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn't watch, there's a reason I don't watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don't really." [Maybe it's Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw's Father, Joe McGraw, Lent The Video From A Friend Who "Had A Lot Of Conspiracy Theories" Who She Claimed Used To Be Part Of The CIA. MARGARET MCGRAW: "My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took

a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought.” HOST: “I am” McGraw: “So” HOST: “I may or may not entertain it as well.” MCGRAW: “Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can’t be possessed, or I don’t know if you believe that but that’s something I’ve grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn’t watch, there’s a reason I don’t watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don’t really.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Maragaret McGraw Seemed To Imply That Demons Were “Among Us And Around Us.” MARGARET MCGRAW: “My dad got this video from this guy who kinda, was kina weird, kinda had a lot of conspiracy theories. Like he used to be part of like the CIA like he was an interesting guy to say the least. And he lent my dad this video about how the fallen angels never actually died in the flood and they ended up living kind of cohabitating still and eventual became what we know today as extraterrestrials as aliens, flying saucers. And I saw that video as a kid and something like struck a chord with me like I knew sitting in front of the TV, I should not be watching this like this will literally effect my whole life even as a young child I thought that. After that I had a lot of like terrible nightmares, like there are like these demons out there in these spaceships they are gonna come and get me so um. That was really terrifying and it took a lot of, a long time for me to get over that but, I know obviously you are familiar with that train of thought.” HOST: “I am” McGraw: “So” HOST: “I may or may not entertain it as well.” MCGRAW: “Its like really scary, this like cosmic force that could take you at any time and you have no way of standing against it. And obviously if you are a Christian you believe that can’t be possessed, or I don’t know if you believe that but that’s something I’ve grown up thinking. You kind of have that in the back of your mind that protection, but just the fact that they are among us and around us its very scary. But obviously, I wouldn’t watch, there’s a reason I don’t watch movies that take place in space but yeah still to this day I don’t really.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 3:15-5:05, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw Said She Had A Supernatural Experience, Which She And Her Family Felt Was Due To Manga Comic Books; Her Father Removed The Books From Their Household

Margaret McGraw Had A Supernatural Experience, Which She And Her Family Felt Was Due To Manga Books. MARGARET MCGRAW: “So I’ll move forward to when I was in Highschool, so I hate to even say what the books were because I really don’t think there are anything inherently wrong with them but, so I don’t know should I?” HOST: “Yeah, go ahead, I mean” MCGRAW: “So back in the day I watched a lot of anime and I read a lot of manga, do you know what those are? Do you know what that is?” HOST: “Yeah, that’s how I learned to draw!” McGraw: “Yeah! So that’s how I learned or literally got into drawing. [...] So someone lent me these books and I literally don’t even remember what the series was called, but I kept them behind my bed.” HOST: “Yeah.” McGraw: “And I had them for a long time before anything weird happened, and one night I fell asleep like normal, it was a school night. And I woke up and my blanket was at my feet, obviously I put a blanket on when I went to bed and it was at my feet. I felt this incredible pressure on my chest like it wasn’t like an anxiety attack, it was something I had never felt before in my life and it was really really scary like I had no idea and I had nightmares before that. [...] MCGRAW: “I told my parents about it, because I was in high school at the time. And I told them like you know, I couldn’t sleep last night, I felt this weird pressure like I don’t know what it is and so the only new item in that room that I slept in was those books. So I’m thinking well, and I think they, we talked about it and came to the same conclusion it’s those books. I tried to fall asleep the following night, couldn’t the pressure was back, everything was off, so then eventually we got rid of those books. I have no idea where they are now, I don’t know if they got thrown away, I don’t know if they got burned but they are not in my house anymore.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 5:45, 6:26, 9:12, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Margaret McGraw’s Father, Joe McGraw, Removed The Manga Books From The House. HOST: “Let me ask you, so did you do anything over it? Besides just remove them?” MCGRAW: “I honestly left it up to my dad to remove them, I think I personally put them in a box. And then, cause my dad was aware of this whole situation and um was like, you know, there for me I guess during that time, so I have no idea what he did with them but they are, I’m assuming they aren’t in my house anymore yeah.” HOST “He’s not reading them somewhere.” MCGRAW: “I

would hope not.” HOST: “I just wonder if they prayed or blessed it or anything or just kind of, if just removing them fixed it?” MCGRAW: “Removing them fixed it, I mean I would say for the most part.” [Maybe it’s Spiritual, Scary As Heaven, Spotify, 12:10, [2/17/21](#)] (AUDIO)

Extremism: Letter To The American Church

McGraw Repeatedly Referenced A Book He Read While Deciding To Run For Congress, The Book Urged Readers To Fight Against Abortion And Same-Sex Marriage And Contained Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

McGraw Repeatedly Said He Read “Letter To The American Church” To Help Him Make His Decision To Run For Congress And Called It “Important”

March 3rd 2024: McGraw Said Part Of His Decision To Run For Congress Was Due To “Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas. Joe McGraw: “Part of making my decision, I did a lot of praying and getting counsel, and I read a book called the Letter to the American Church by Eric Metaxas. And some of you folks have probably read that. Yeah. And I love history, I’m a student of history. And the key theme of that book is focusing on the church in Germany in the 1930s, the state church, and how, as Hitler was in his ascendancy, was coming to power, gaining power, gaining more power. And there was no secret who he was. I mean, he’d written this book, Mein Kampf, my struggle, he told everybody what he believed. And so it wasn’t like he had to read tea leaves or something. He told them what he was all about. And so the German church, listened, and did nothing. And Hitler became more powerful, and they did nothing. And then the church became co opted by the Nazi Party. And the leadership became co opted. And in the end, the church was completely irrelevant. All right. So, I mean, I played sports growing up. So I mean, some of these analogies really resonate with me. Folks, we’re in the fourth quarter here in America. Okay. We’re not just in the fourth quarter. The two minute warning has already sounded. And I tell people and I believe this in my heart, that this election, this November, is really about the church. It’s really about the church. Are you going to rise up? Speak up and act up? Or are you just going to be silent and become irrelevant? So, I believe in my heart, God is at work all across the country and people I’ve met.” [Joe McGraw, Kingdom Center, 8:14, 3/3/24] (VIDEO)

February 11th, 2024: McGraw Said Part Of His Decision Making Process In Running For Congress Was To Read “Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas. Joe McGraw: “But the reason why I’m here this morning is because I felt God laid on my heart, a special insight for the church. The church is at a tipping point between making all the difference and becoming completely irrelevant. This is the moment. This is that tipping point. And part of the decision, part of my decision making process was I read a book by Eric Metaxas, you may have heard of him. And he wrote a book called Letter to the American church. And in that book, he spoke about all the parallels and similarities between the state church, the Lutheran Church in Nazi Germany, during the 30s, and the rise of Adolf Hitler, in the state church had numerous opportunities to rise up and stand against Adolf Hitler. But they didn’t do it. They didn’t do it. And so they sowed to the wind, and they reap the whirlwind. And I don’t want any of you to stand before the Lord on Judgement Day. Where all our deeds revealed. And say, you know, what, back in 2024, I decided to sit this one out. There’s no one that gets to sit this out. You know, we’ve heard the adage that the pendulum swings this way, and then it swings that way. And what is that’s a myth, okay. It’s the myth that things will always be as they’ve always been, that is not so God has written history, we are on his timeline for history.” [Joe McGraw, Rockford Faith Center, 4:58, 2/11/24] (VIDEO)

March 10th, 2024: McGraw Said “Letter To The American Church” Was “Important” To Him, And The Message Of The Book Was That “The Church Always Has An Obligation To Speak Light And Truth To The Culture.” Joe McGraw: “I’ll leave you with this final reference. When I was talking to Pastor, I found out that we had a book in common that was important to both of us. It was called Letter to the American church, by Eric Metaxas. Some of you read that. Yeah. And the message of that book, succinctly put, is that the church always has an obligation to speak light and truth to the culture. The truth always has a prophetic voice that it must speak to the culture. And in Germany in the 30s, the church abdicated that role during the ascendancy of Adolf Hitler. And the

message there was that because they didn't do their God ordained job, at the time that they could have made a difference. That window closed, they lost the opportunity, the church became co opted, and became completely irrelevant to the culture. Don't let that happen to you, don't let that happened to us. This is that inflection point. This is the turning point. And I encourage each of you to come before the Lord and say how do you want me to be involved in these historic times? How do you want me to intercede and act on behalf of candidates who love God and fear God? That's my request, that that same fire that burns in me, that made me decide to run for Congress in the 17th Congressional District in Illinois, that that same vision would burn each one of you." [Joe McGraw, River City Church, 6:08, 3/10/24] (VIDEO)

“Letter To The American Church” By Eric Metaxas Warned The American Church Was Committing The Same Mistakes Today As The German Church Did In The 1930s By Not Speaking Out Against The Rise Of Nazism

In “Letter To The American Church,” Author Eric Metaxas Warned That The American Church Was Committing The Same Mistakes In The 2020s As The German Church Did In The 1930s When The Institution Did Not Speak Out Against The Rise Of Nazism. “Eric Metaxas has written a provocative book for a large audience. In Letter to the American Church, he assumes a prophetic role—the American church, he warns, is committing the same mistakes in the 2020s as the German church did in the 1930s. If we continue course, similar catastrophic consequences await. By choosing silence, German pastors facilitated the rise of Nazism—and the innocent blood of millions is on their hands. The current complicity of the American church, especially its pastors, leads to similar red-handed guilt (45–46). As a best-selling Christian author and host of a nationally syndicated radio program, Metaxas has cultivated a wide influence and this book will be well received by his many fans.” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

“Letter To The American Church” Urged Christians To Fight Against Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, Transgender Rights, Critical Race Theory And Black Lives Matter

“Letter To The American Church” Urged Christians To Fight Against Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, Transgender Rights, Critical Race Theory And Black Lives Matter. “Eric Metaxas has written a provocative book for a large audience. In Letter to the American Church, he assumes a prophetic role—the American church, he warns, is committing the same mistakes in the 2020s as the German church did in the 1930s. [...] Letter urges Christians to fight against Marxist ideology, abortion, same-sex marriage, transgenderism, critical race theory, Black Lives Matter, and government policies that threaten religious liberty. These are indeed credible threats to the church in America. Metaxas wants to motivate pastors to raise their voices and lead their members to political activism (100).” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

“Letter To The American Church” Warned About The Radical “Pro-Abortion Ideology” And Said That “Abortion Is Morally Wrong” And “Under No Circumstance Must We Equivocate On It”

In “Letter To The American Church,” Metaxas Wrote That “Radical Transgender And Pro-Abortion Ideologies Are All Inescapably Anti-God And Anti-Human.” “These ideas seem to have emerged lately, but they have been growing quietly in our midst and we have not taken them seriously enough. Many have been fooled into thinking them essential harmless. We are today like the proverbial frog in the saucepan, simmering along and never realizing that unless we see our situation and leap out now, we are very soon to be booked and beyond all leaping. [...] But what we must dare to see is that these many ideas share a bitter taproot that leads all the way down to Hell. Critical Race Theory – which is atheistic and Marxist – and radical transgender and pro-abortion ideologies are all inescapably anti-God and anti-human. So they are dedicatedly at war with the ideas of family and marriage, and with the idea of American as a force for good – as a force for spreading the Gospel and Gospel values throughout the world.” [Letter To The American Church, Eric Metaxas, 10-11, published [9/20/22](#)]

Metaxas: “Are We Afraid To Say That Abortion Is Morally Wrong, And That Under No Circumstance Must We Equivocate On It?” “We must be honest and admit that much of the time we are not living out our faith but

are at least partially enslaved to public opinion over the truth. And this is the main reason we are silent when we should not be silent. Do we fear that someone will think less of us if we say that we believe sex is made by God for men and women in lifelong marriage? Have we perhaps halfway been persuaded that this idea is outdated enough that it's worth keeping silent about? Are we afraid that someone in a sexual relationship will feel judged by us, and will see us as religious legalists rather than as loving and compassionate followers of Jesus? At what point does our silence encourage someone along in their sin and in their path away from God? Are we afraid to say that abortion is morally wrong, and that under no circumstance must we equivocate on it? Would we have spoken against slavery in 1850? Would we have spoken against the monstrously antisemitic actions of the Nazis in 1933? We do we believe we would have spoken then if we are silent now?" [Letter To The American Church, Eric Metaxas, 137-128, published [9/20/22](#)]

Several Reviews Warned That “Letter To The American Church” Contained “Reckless And Dangerous” Implications That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals And Criticized It’s Comparison Of The Current Day To Nazi Germany

A Review Of “Letter To The American Church” Warned That The Book Was “Reckless And Dangerous” In Its Implication That Violence May Be Necessary To Achieve Political Goals

Gospel Coalition: Metaxas’ “Words [Were] Reckless And Dangerous In Our Polarized Cultural Moment” As He Briefly Debated Biblical Position On When, Where, And How To Deceive And Employ Violence. “Metaxas believes desperate times call for desperate measures. To put candidates in power who will ‘enact policies to help people’ (121), Christ-followers may need to ‘vote for someone whom others may criticize for being guilty of this or that’ (121). He intimates that Christians may even need to ‘tell a lie for the larger good’ (120). Christians can do these things because we serve ‘a God who has a wildness and unpredictability to him’ (123). And like Bonhoeffer in opposition to Hitler, violence may be necessary (78, 109). Metaxas has now ranged into the sophisticated discipline of moral theology and may be in over his head. Christian ethicists have long debated the biblical position on when, where, and how to deceive and employ violence. But his brief and selective tour of the subject provides unwarranted justification for Christians with a shallow understanding of biblical ethics to do sinful things. Metaxas unfortunately practices what he preaches, and his words are reckless and dangerous in our polarized cultural moment. Are we willing to sacrifice the church’s mandate to be a pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15) by trafficking in lies for political gain?” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

Metaxas’ Implication That Violence May Be Necessary Provided “Unwarranted Justification For Christians With A Shallow Understanding Of Biblical Ethics To Do Sinful Things.” “Metaxas believes desperate times call for desperate measures. To put candidates in power who will ‘enact policies to help people’ (121), Christ-followers may need to ‘vote for someone whom others may criticize for being guilty of this or that’ (121). He intimates that Christians may even need to ‘tell a lie for the larger good’ (120). Christians can do these things because we serve ‘a God who has a wildness and unpredictability to him’ (123). And like Bonhoeffer in opposition to Hitler, violence may be necessary (78, 109). Metaxas has now ranged into the sophisticated discipline of moral theology and may be in over his head. Christian ethicists have long debated the biblical position on when, where, and how to deceive and employ violence. But his brief and selective tour of the subject provides unwarranted justification for Christians with a shallow understanding of biblical ethics to do sinful things. Metaxas unfortunately practices what he preaches, and his words are reckless and dangerous in our polarized cultural moment. Are we willing to sacrifice the church’s mandate to be a pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15) by trafficking in lies for political gain?” [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

One Review Criticized Metaxas’ Comparison Of American Pastors Who Did Not Sign A Declaration For Christian Unity On Abortion, Marriage, And Religious Liberty, To German Pastors Who Didn’t Sign A Declaration Calling For Resistance Against The Theological Claims Of The Nazi State

The Gospel Coalition Criticized Metaxas’ Comparison Of American Pastors Who Did Not Sign The Manhattan Declaration To German Pastors Who Didn’t Sign The Barmen Declaration. “Of all the logical fallacies in Letter, the reductio ad Hitlerum fallacy is most prominent and is always in the background. By

comparing American pastors who didn't sign the Manhattan Declaration to German pastors who didn't sign the Barmen Declaration (40), Metaxas has played the Nazi card. Those German pastors enabled Hitler; therefore, these American pastors would have enabled Hitler. The insinuation is clear. If, as a matter of conscience, pastors choose doctrinal integrity over political solidarity? Well, you know, Hitler. If pastors don't publicly endorse candidates on the right? Well, Hitler. If pastors acknowledge nuance in political arguments? Hitler. This kind of lazy thinking and careless accusation (which may typify some conservative talk-show hosts) falls far short of the biblical standard for godly speech." [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

- **The Manhattan Declaration Was A Call For Christian Unity On The Issues Of Abortion, Marriage Between A Man And A Woman And Religious Liberty.** "Late last week, representatives from leading evangelical political advocacy groups unveiled 'The Manhattan Declaration,' a call for Christian unity on issues of life, marriage, and religious liberty. The coalition of advocacy groups and ministries cut across Christian traditions but did not include many leaders from what some consider the Christian Right's old guard. Chuck Colson, who led the declaration's creation, called it 'a wake-up call—a call to conscience—for the church' and a 'crystal-clear message to civil authorities that we will not, under any circumstances, stand idly by as our religious freedom comes under assault.' The declaration, which now has over 20,000 signatures, begins with a reminder of the church's non-cooperation with injustice, tyranny, and oppression. It then states that today, this non-cooperation must include the protection of life, marriage, and religious liberty." [Christianity Today, [11/24/09](#)]
- **The Barmen Declaration Was A Call To Resistance Against The Theological Claims Of The Nazi State.** "The Barmen Declaration, 1934, was a call to resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state. Almost immediately after Hitler's seizure of power in 1933, Protestant Christians faced pressure to 'aryanize' the Church, expel Jewish Christians from the ordained ministry and adopt the Nazi 'Führer Principle' as the organizing principle of church government. In general, the churches succumbed to these pressures, and some Christians embraced them willingly. The pro-Nazi 'German Christian' movement became a force in the church. They glorified Adolf Hitler as a 'German prophet' and preached that racial consciousness was a source of revelation alongside the Bible. But many Christians in Germany—including Lutheran and Reformed, liberal and neo-orthodox—opposed the encroachment of Nazi ideology on the Church's proclamation. At Barmen, this emerging 'Confessing Church' adopted a declaration drafted by Reformed theologian Karl Barth and Lutheran theologian Hans Asmussen, which expressly repudiated the claim that other powers apart from Christ could be sources of God's revelation. Not all Christians courageously resisted the regime, but many who did—like the Protestant pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Roman Catholic priest Bernhard Lichtenberg—were arrested and executed in concentration camps." [United Church of Christ, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

The Gospel Coalition Criticized Metaxas' Comparison Of Current Day And Nazi Germany And Said It Fell "Far Short Of The Biblical Standard For Godly Speech." "Of all the logical fallacies in Letter, the reductio ad Hitlerum fallacy is most prominent and is always in the background. By comparing American pastors who didn't sign the Manhattan Declaration to German pastors who didn't sign the Barmen Declaration (40), Metaxas has played the Nazi card. Those German pastors enabled Hitler; therefore, these American pastors would have enabled Hitler. The insinuation is clear. If, as a matter of conscience, pastors choose doctrinal integrity over political solidarity? Well, you know, Hitler. If pastors don't publicly endorse candidates on the right? Well, Hitler. If pastors acknowledge nuance in political arguments? Hitler. This kind of lazy thinking and careless accusation (which may typify some conservative talk-show hosts) falls far short of the biblical standard for godly speech." [The Gospel Coalition, [11/16/22](#)]

Eric Metaxas, The Author Of "Letter To The American Church," Made False Election Claims And Told Trump He Would "Be Happy To Die In This Fight" During A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Result, And Once Punched A Protestor

Eric Metaxas, The Author Of "Letter To The American Church," Was A Christian Writer And Radio Host

Eric Metaxas Was The Author Of “Letter To The American Church.” “LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH ‘Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. God will not hold us guiltless.’ [...] Can it really be God’s will that His children be silent at a time like this? Decrying the cowardice that masquerades as godly meekness, Eric Metaxas summons the Church to battle. The author of a bestselling biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Metaxas reveals the haunting similarities between today’s American Church and the German Church of the 1930s. Echoing the German martyr’s prophetic call, he exhorts his fellow Christians to repent of their silence in the face of evil.” [Eric Metaxas, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Metaxas Was A Christian Writer And Radio Host. “The PR pitch was brazen: Eric Metaxas, it declared, is ‘America’s #1 Bad Christian.’ The Christian writer and radio host has been promoting doubts about the legitimacy of the 2020 election, including at a prayer rally he emceed on the National Mall in December. Metaxas has tweeted ‘martial rhetoric’ in defense of former President Donald Trump, his publicist wrote cheerfully. He even appeared in a New York Times article about Christian extremism. Oh, and by the way, he has a new book out.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

Metaxas Repeatedly Made False Claims About the 2020 Election And Told Trump He Would “Be Happy To Die In This Fight,” In A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Results

Metaxas Repeatedly Claimed The Election Results Were Fraudulent And Told Trump He Would “Be Happy To Die In This Fight,” In A Conversation About Attempts To Overturn The Election Results. “In Kalamazoo, Mich., Laura Kloosterman, 34, attended Mass on Wednesday and prayed that Congress would decline to certify Mr. Biden’s victory. She had read claims online about flawed voting machines undercounting votes for Mr. Trump — there is no evidence for these claims, which Mr. Trump and right-wing voices online have promoted. Ms. Kloosterman follows the evangelical writer and radio host Eric Metaxas, who has repeatedly claimed the election results were fraudulent. Mr. Metaxas, who punched a protester outside the White House last summer, told Mr. Trump in an interview in late November that he would ‘be happy to die in this fight,’ in a conversation about attempts to overturn the election results. ‘God is with us,’ he added. Other supporters of the president have spent months sowing doubts among Christians about fraud. These false beliefs have forged even stronger connections between white evangelicals and other conservative figures.” [New York Times, [1/19/21](#)]

When Asked If He Believed Joe Biden Was The Legitimately Elected President, Metaxas Responded “No. He Is The President. But There Will Always Be An Asterisk Next To Him For Me Until-If-Things Are Clarified.” “Green: Do you believe that Joe Biden is the legitimately elected president of the United States? Metaxas: No. He is the president. But there will always be an asterisk next to him for me until-if-things are clarified.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

After The Republican Convention, Metaxas Punched A Protestor

Metaxas Punched An Activist Who Traveled To DC To Protest The Republican Convention. “A Portland activist who had traveled to Washington, D.C., to protest the Republican convention says he was punched in the head by one of President Donald Trump’s most ardent evangelical Christian allies. Video of the attack appears to support his claim. On Thursday, pro-Trump writer and talk radio host Eric Metaxas was among the roughly 1,500 attendees at Trump’s Republican National Convention speech on the White House lawn. Afterwards, Metaxas left the White House grounds with a crowd of people, entering streets where protesters had been staging demonstrations throughout the night. Footage of that moment shows anti-Trump protester Anthony Harrington biking past a group of Trump supporters, yelling ‘Fuck Trump, fuck you!’ As Harrington passed by, a man Harrington identified to The Daily Beast as Metaxas punched him in the side or back of the head.” [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

- **Footage Showed A Protestor Biking Past A Group Of Trump Supporters And Yelling “Fuck Trump, Fuck You,” As He Passed By Metaxas Punched The Protestor In The Side Or Back Of The Head.** “A Portland activist who had traveled to Washington, D.C., to protest the Republican convention says he was punched in the head by one of President Donald Trump’s most ardent evangelical Christian allies. Video of the attack appears to support his claim. On Thursday, pro-Trump writer and talk radio host Eric Metaxas was

among the roughly 1,500 attendees at Trump’s Republican National Convention speech on the White House lawn. Afterwards, Metaxas left the White House grounds with a crowd of people, entering streets where protesters had been staging demonstrations throughout the night. Footage of that moment shows anti-Trump protester Anthony Harrington biking past a group of Trump supporters, yelling ‘Fuck Trump, fuck you!’ As Harrington passed by, a man Harrington identified to The Daily Beast as Metaxas punched him in the side or back of the head.” [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

August 2020: Metaxas Confirmed That He Punched The Protester. “Eric Metaxas told a Christian magazine that a protester on a bike harassed him after he left the White House last week. He would not say whether or not he hit the protester though, despite a recent viral video in which a man resembling Metaxas punched a cycling demonstrator. Instead, the radio host cast blame on the protester when asked about the incident. [...] Days later, the conservative Christian author and radio host reportedly confirmed the punch in an email to Religion Unplugged, saying, ‘It just happened.’ But a man who identified himself as the demonstrator in question — and who runs the Instagram account that posted the viral video of the encounter — disputed Metaxas’ description of events. ‘He attacked me,’ the man, who declined to disclose his name, told Religion News Service. ‘I wasn’t threatening or intimidating. I was on a rented bicycle! He clearly punched me from behind.’ Last week, a video began circulating on social media showing a man who closely resembles Metaxas striking a protester and running away backward. The video, posted to Instagram early Friday morning (Aug. 28), shows a demonstrator wearing a ‘Portland’ shirt riding a bike through a group of individuals dressed in formal attire. The group appears to be leaving President Donald Trump’s final address to the Republican National Convention, which was late Thursday night. In the video, the demonstrator shouts several profanities, including one mentioning Trump, while riding through the group — but does not appear to physically engage with anyone. Then a man who resembles Metaxas punches the demonstrator, who stumbles off his bike. The man is wearing the same outfit Metaxas was seen wearing in pictures and in video that Metaxas posted to his own Instagram account earlier in the day. Standing next to the man is a woman wearing a dress that matches one worn by his wife, Susanne, in those same Instagram pictures. In the video, a woman can be heard shouting, ‘Eric!’ as the demonstrator pulls himself off the ground while yelling at his assailant. In response, the man who resembles Metaxas swiftly backpedals. The demonstrator follows, saying, ‘You just attacked me, bro.’” [Religion News Service, [9/1/20](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Eric Metaxas Confirms He Punched Protester, Says Protester Was To Blame.”** [Religion News Service, [9/1/20](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Trump Ally Allegedly Punched Protester After White House Speech.”** [Daily Beast, [8/31/20](#)]

Metaxas Repeatedly Made Inappropriate And Borderline Offensive Comparison To Nazi Germany

Metaxas Seemed To Compare The Department Of Homeland Security’s Warnings About The Potential For Domestic Terrorism After The January 6th Insurrection To The Reichstag Fire. “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was arrested and later hanged for his dissent against the Nazi regime. Metaxas has spent his career writing books about these figures and has a tendency to describe current events in dramatic historical terms. ‘If this isn’t our ~Reichstag Fire’ I don’t know what is,’ he tweeted on January 27, commenting on the Department of Homeland Security’s warnings about the potential for domestic terrorism following the Capitol attack. In 1933, Hitler’s government used a fire at the Reichstag, which housed the German Parliament, as a pretext to consolidate power and suppress dissent. Metaxas’s tweet suggested that he thought the Biden administration was using the Capitol attack to do the same.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

- **In 1933, Hitler’s Government Used A Fire At The Reichstag, Which Housed The German Parliament, As A Pretext To Consolidate Power And Suppress Dissent.** “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was

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- **Atlantic: “Metaxas's Tweet Suggested That He Thought The Biden Administration Was Using The Capitol Attack To Do The Same.”** “Metaxas sees himself and other evangelical Trump supporters as part of a long line of Christians who stood up against grave wrongdoings in history: William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist and evangelical; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian who was arrested and later hanged for his dissent against the Nazi regime. Metaxas has spent his career writing books about these figures and has a tendency to describe current events in dramatic historical terms. ‘If this isn't our ~Reichstag Fire' I don't know what is,’ he tweeted on January 27, commenting on the Department of Homeland Security's warnings about the potential for domestic terrorism following the Capitol attack. In 1933, Hitler's government used a fire at the Reichstag, which housed the German Parliament, as a pretext to consolidate power and suppress dissent. Metaxas's tweet suggested that he thought the Biden administration was using the Capitol attack to do the same.” [Atlantic, [2/14/21](#)]

Media Matters: Metaxas Repeatedly Made Offensive Comparisons To Nazis In His Rhetoric, Including Comparing Supporting Pride Month To Expressing Patriotism In Nazi Germany. “Metaxas chastised listeners for not being sufficiently radical in their opposition to Pride month before jumping into a Nazi Germany comparison. He stated, ‘You need to wake up or you're complicit,’ and, ‘If the Germans had woken up five minutes earlier to the wickedness of the Nazis and stood against it, it would have prevented the satanic nightmare of the death camps. But they said, not yet. We're not radical. Not yet. We don't — we don't want to — we don't want to go up against it.’ Metaxas compared employees at Bud Light to Nazis. He stated, ‘Corporations that have no values and they're like, ‘Oh, what do we need to do? Put a transgendered dude on to become the face of Bud Light? OK, we'll do that. Do I have to say heil Hitler? Sing the Horst-Wessel-Lied? What do I need to do? How pro-Nazi do I need to be? How many Jews do I need to kill or look the other way?’ They have no values.’ Metaxas compared supporting Pride month to expressing patriotism in Nazi Germany. He complained, ‘The pressure to go along with this is just absolutely horrific. And it is something that you're — it's like you're being accused of not being patriotic or something, but it's like not being accused of a patriotic German under Hitler.’” [Media Matters, [7/12/23](#)]

Budget Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ In 2024 McGraw said, “the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions.”
- ✓ McGraw repeatedly said the budget should be balanced before Members of Congress got paid.
- ✓ April 2024: McGraw said he would work towards a balanced budget but prioritized single issue appropriations and said the first step was a budget not a balanced budget.
- ✓ March 2024: McGraw said it was time to balance the budget.
- ✓ McGraw blamed Biden for inflation and said “Bidenomics [was] a total failure.”
- ✓ McGraw said “the reckless spending agenda of the Democrats” drove inflation.

Continuing Resolutions

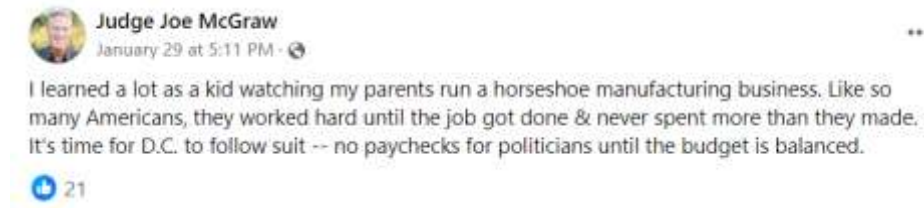
In 2024 McGraw Said, “The First Step Is To Get A Budget, No More Continuing Resolutions”

McGraw: “The First Step Is To Get A Budget, No More Continuing Resolutions.” “QUESTION: “As a prior judge, what do you feel about the Supreme Court being wielded as lawmakers instead of Congress acting to hand down the laws, handling, deciding what the laws are? [Indecipherable]” MCGRAW: “The question is, whats the proper role of the supreme court versus what’s the proper role of legislators. [...] So the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions. Now I didn’t say balanced budget, I’m working toward that but if we could just get to a budget where they say Joe McGraw are you for or against this expenditure, I could go on record and hit the yes button or the no button. [...] That’s the role of congress, but since Congress isn’t doing that, you’ve got these regulatory agencies, the alphabet agencies the EPA you know different organizations that have now stepped into the role of lawmaking. Administrative agencies that only have the authority to make rules that effectually the laws passed by Congress, since Congress is not in the business of cracking law and getting people to vote on it up or down the way they once did that leaves tremendous, uh not discretion but these administrative agencies have tremendous authority like the ATF you know deciding what is a firearm for example, they don’t have the authority to do that that is a Congressional decision that’s a statutory decision. Same with the EPA rulings and regulations they are making to hamstring farmers and hamstring people and industry in going beyond the laws that Congress has passed.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 40:46, 42:33, 43:08, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

Balanced Budget

McGraw Repeatedly Said The Budget Should Be Balanced Before Members Of Congress Got Paid

January 2024: McGraw Said Politicians Should Not Receive A Paycheck Until The Budget Was Balanced. “I learned a lot as a kid watching my parents run a horseshoe manufacturing business. Like so many Americans, they worked hard until the job got done & never spent more than they made. It's time for D.C. to follow suit -- no paychecks for politicians until the budget is balanced.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [1/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [1/29/24](#)]

October 2023: McGraw Said He Would Ensure “Congress Balances The Budget Before They Get Paid.” “In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities. ‘I can no longer sit by and watch our country and our state go in the wrong direction,’ he said in Wednesday’s release. ‘There’s something wrong when big-city liberals would rather demonize honest cops than crack down on criminals, when politicians in Washington care more about illegal immigrants than the safety and security of our own citizens, and when the exporting of good manufacturing jobs, combined with record inflation, crushes families’ economic viability.’ ‘Eric Sorensen is part of the problem; he votes with Biden’s failed agenda nearly 100% of the time.’ McGraw said he’ll fight ‘the reckless spending agenda of the Democrats that is driving inflation and crushing family budgets,’ will ‘strive to bring manufacturing jobs home,’ and ‘end the corruption by banning politicians from becoming lobbyists, reining in the bureaucrats who nobody elected and nobody wants, and ensuring Congress balances the budget before they get paid.’” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

April 2024: McGraw Said He Would Work Towards A Balanced Budget But Prioritized Single Issue Appropriations And Said The First Step Was A Budget Not A Balanced Budget

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- **McGraw: “So The First Step Is To Get A Budget, No More Continuing Resolutions. Now I Didn’t Say Balanced Budget, I’m Working Toward That But If We Could Just Get To A Budget Where They Say Joe McGraw Are You For Or Against This Expenditure, I Could Go On Record And Hit The Yes Button Or The No Button.”** “QUESTION: “As a prior judge, what do you feel about the Supreme Court being wielded as lawmakers instead of Congress acting to hand down the laws, handling, deciding what the laws are? [Indecipherable]” MCGRAW: “The question is, what’s the proper role of the supreme court versus what’s the proper role of legislators. [...] So the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions. Now I didn’t say balanced budget, I’m working toward that but if we could just get to a budget where they say Joe McGraw are you for or against this expenditure, I could go on record and hit the yes button or the no button. [...] That’s

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March 2024: McGraw Said It Was Time To Balance The Budget

March 2024: McGraw Said "It's Time To Cut Reckless Spending, Balance The Budget, And Cut Taxes On Working Families." "Inflation is crushing Illinoisans. It's time to cut reckless spending, balance the budget, and cut taxes on working families." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/27/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/27/24](#)]

Inflation

McGraw Blamed Biden For Inflation And Said "Bidenomics [Was] A Total Failure"

McGraw Said "Bidenomics [Was] A Total Failure." "The verdict has been in for a long time now -- Bidenomics is a total failure. It's left working families behind while enriching lobbyists and liberal special interests." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/6/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/6/24](#)]

McGraw: “Joe Biden & Eric Sorensen’s Inflation Crisis Is Not Going Anywhere And Their Insistence On Spending Money We Don’t Have Is Making Life Harder For Millions Of Illinoisans.” “Today’s inflation report confirms what folks in #IL17 already knew — Joe Biden & Eric Sorensen’s inflation crisis is not going anywhere and their insistence on spending money we don’t have is making life harder for millions of Illinoisans.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/10/24](#)]



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Education Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw criticized Biden's plan to cancel some student debt and said it was "a violation of the Constitution and nothing more than a political ploy to buy votes before the election."
- ✓ McGraw opposed student loan forgiveness and said, "there's something wrong when politicians expect plumbers & waitresses to pay off the student loans of doctors & lawyers."
- ✓ McGraw said tax dollars should be focused on Illinois students.
- ✓ 2024: McGraw called college protests over the Israel/Palestine conflict "unlawful and dangerous."

Student Loans

McGraw Criticized Biden's Plan To Cancel Some Student Debt And Said It Was "A Violation Of The Constitution And Nothing More Than A Political Ploy To Buy Votes Before The Election"

PRESS RELEASE: McGraw Said Biden Lacked "The Legal Authority To Follow Through" On His Promise To Cancel \$7.4 Billion In Student Debt. "Judge Joe McGraw, Republican nominee for Illinois' 17th Congressional District, issued the following statement in response to President Biden's attempt to cancel \$7.4 billion in student debt earlier today: 'As a judge, I have a deep appreciation of America's system for the separation of powers. Judges adjudicate, legislators legislate, and executives enforce the laws. President Biden cannot just make up laws as he goes. He lacks the legal authority to follow through on today's announcement - something the Supreme Court has already established,' said Judge Joe McGraw. 'His actions are a violation of the Constitution and nothing more than a political ploy to buy votes before the election.' 'Not only is this stunt a cheap electoral strategy, it is also a slap in the face to millions of working Americans who did not attend college. Plumbers and waitresses should not have to foot the bill for doctors' and lawyers' education,' McGraw continued. 'Joe Biden has abandoned blue-collar Americans while caving to the most radical voices in his party.'" [Judge Joe McGraw, Press Release, Twitter, [4/12/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Press Release, Twitter, [4/12/24](#)]

PRESS RELEASE: McGraw Said Biden's Plan To Cancel Some Student Debt Was "A Violation Of The Constitution And Nothing More Than A Political Ploy To Buy Votes Before The Election." "Judge Joe McGraw, Republican nominee for Illinois' 17th Congressional District, issued the following statement in response to President Biden's attempt to cancel \$7.4 billion in student debt earlier today: 'As a judge, I have a deep appreciation of America's system for the separation of powers. Judges adjudicate, legislators legislate, and executives enforce the laws. President Biden cannot just make up laws as he goes. He lacks the legal authority to follow through on today's announcement - something the Supreme Court has already established,' said Judge Joe McGraw. 'His actions are a violation of the Constitution and nothing more than a political ploy to buy votes before the election.' 'Not only is this stunt a cheap electoral strategy, it is also a slap in the face to millions of working Americans who did not attend college. Plumbers and waitresses should not have to foot the bill for doctors' and lawyers' education,' McGraw continued. 'Joe Biden has abandoned blue-collar Americans while caving to the most radical voices in his party.'" [Judge Joe McGraw, Press Release, Twitter, [4/12/24](#)]

May 2024: McGraw Said He Was Against Biden's Attempts To Cancel Some Student Debt. "Sorensen is for higher taxes on the middle class. I'm for letting hardworking families keep more of what they earn. Sorensen is for more wasteful government spending. That's how we got this out-of-control inflation. I'm for common sense and fiscal discipline. [...] Sorensen supports Biden's unconstitutional attempts to erase student debt. I'm against it because those who have repaid their loans, or didn't go to college, or other hard-working citizens shouldn't have to pay off someone else's college loans." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/1/24](#)]

McGraw Opposed Student Loan Forgiveness And Said “There’s Something Wrong When Politicians Expect Plumbers & Waitresses To Pay Off The Student Loans Of Doctors & Lawyers”

McGraw Said “There’s Something Wrong When Politicians Expect Plumbers & Waitresses To Pay Off The Student Loans Of Doctors & Lawyers.” “I’m Judge Joe and I’m running for Congress to fight for what’s right because there’s something wrong when politicians expect plumbers & waitresses to pay off the student loans of doctors & lawyers, or when illegal immigrants get treated better than American citizens.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/15/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/15/24](#)]

School Funding

McGraw Said Tax Dollars Should Be Focused On Illinois Students

McGraw: “Tax Dollars Should Be Focused On Ensuring American Students Get The Attention & Resources They Need To Excel In The Classroom.” “The border crisis overwhelms anything in its path. Now, it’s our schools. 65% of Illinois students can’t read at grade level. Tax dollars should be focused on ensuring American students get the attention & resources they need to excel in the classroom.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/26/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/26/24](#)]

Student Protests

McGraw Called 2024 College Protests Over The Israel/Palestine Conflict “Unlawful And Dangerous”

McGraw: “The Right To Protest Is Guaranteed In The U.S. Constitution, But What Is Happening On Our College Campuses Is Unlawful And Dangerous.” “There is a difference between SPEECH AND CRIME! The right to protest is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, but what is happening on our college campuses is unlawful and dangerous. [↓](#)” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]

McGraw: “The Lawlessness On Campuses Must Stop. Everyone Has A Right To Protest, But No One Has A Right To Sow Chaos, Threaten Public Safety & Prevent Others From Living Their Lives.” “The lawlessness on campuses must stop. Everyone has a right to protest, but no one has a right to sow chaos, threaten public safety & prevent others from living their lives. We need real consequences for those in violation of the law - otherwise the mayhem will continue unabated.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]

- **McGraw Called For “Real Consequences For Those In Violation Of The Law - Otherwise The Mayhem Will Continue Unabated.”** “The lawlessness on campuses must stop. Everyone has a right to protest, but no one has a right to sow chaos, threaten public safety & prevent others from living their lives. We need real consequences for those in violation of the law - otherwise the mayhem will continue unabated.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/24](#)]

Election Law & Campaign Finance Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw criticized a Chicago judge’s ruling to remove Trump from the Illinois primary ballot and said, “every American should be appalled at an activist Chicago judge trying to decide an election.”
 - McGraw criticized a judge’s ruling to remove Trump from the Illinois primary ballot and said it had “no legal basis and [was] an attack on the rule of law.”
 - The Illinois Election Board ultimately decided that Trump should remain on the primary ballot as they did not have the authority to determine whether he violated the U.S. Constitution.
- ✓ McGraw said Sorensen voted “to give illegal immigrants representation in Congress and in the Electoral College.”

Trump’s Removal From The Ballot

McGraw Criticized A Chicago Judge’s Ruling To Remove Trump From The Illinois Primary Ballot And Said “Every American Should Be Appalled At An Activist Chicago Judge Trying To Decide An Election”

McGraw Criticized A Chicago Judge’s Ruling To Remove Trump From The Illinois Primary Ballot And Said It Had “No Legal Basis And [Was] An Attack On The Rule Of Law”

After A Judge Issued A Ruling To Remove Trump From The Illinois Primary Ballot, McGraw Said “This Is Bigger Than Partisan Politics. Every American Should Be Appalled At An Activist Chicago Judge Trying To Decide An Election.” “This is bigger than partisan politics. Every American should be appalled at an activist Chicago judge trying to decide an election, yet Eric Sorensen still hasn’t condemned this attack on the rule of law. @ERICSOERSEN needs to quit carrying water for Biden & denounce this now.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]

McGraw: “The Decision By An Activist Democrat Judge From Chicago To Remove Donald Trump's Name From The Illinois Primary Ballot Has No Legal Basis And [...] Is An Attack On The Rule Of Law.” “In America, judges do not decide elections. That sacred responsibility belongs to the voters of this country. The decision by an activist Democrat judge from Chicago to remove Donald Trump's name from the Illinois primary

ballot has no legal basis and [...] is an attack on the rule of law. Let the voters decide. It's the American way.”
[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/29/24](#)]

The Illinois Election Board Ultimately Decided That Trump Should Remain On The Primary Ballot As They Did Not Have The Authority To Determine Whether He Violated The U.S. Constitution

A Chicago Judge Ordered That The Illinois Election Board Remove Trump From The March 19th Primary Ballot, But Put The Order On Hold Anticipating A Likely Appeal. “A Cook County judge Wednesday ordered the state election board to remove former President Donald Trump from Illinois’ March 19 primary ballot but put her order on hold until Friday in anticipation of a likely appeal. Judge Tracie Porter’s decision comes amid national debate over whether Trump is disqualified from the presidency because of his actions related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and whether that attack amounted to an insurrection.” [Chicago Sun Times, [2/28/24](#)]

- **The Judge Found That Trump Failed To Qualify For The Presidency Under The 14th Amendment “Based On Engaging In Insurrection On Jan. 6, 2021.”** “In her 38-page ruling reviewing last month’s decision by the state election board, Porter relied on an earlier decision by the Colorado Supreme Court finding that Trump is barred from the presidency under the 14th Amendment. She found its opinion to be ‘well-articulated, rationale (sic) and established in historical context.’ She found that Trump failed to qualify for the presidency under the 14th Amendment ‘based on engaging in insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021.’ But she also wrote that she ‘shares the Colorado Supreme Court’s sentiments that [it] did not reach its conclusions lightly.’ Porter said she ‘also realizes the magnitude of this decision and [its] impact on the upcoming primary Illinois elections.’” [Chicago Sun Times, [2/28/24](#)]

Illinois’ Election Board Decided To Keep Trump On The State’s Primary Ballot After Finding They Did Not Have The Authority To Determine Whether He Violated The U.S. Constitution. “Illinois’ election board on Tuesday kept former President Donald Trump on the state’s primary ballot, a week before the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on whether his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol disqualifies him from the presidency. The board’s unanimous ruling comes after its hearing officer, a retired judge and Republican, found that a ‘preponderance of the evidence’ shows Trump is ineligible to run for president because he violated a constitutional ban on those who ‘engaged in insurrection’ from holding office. But the hearing officer recommended the board let the courts make the ultimate decision. The eight-member board, composed of four Democrats and four Republicans, agreed with a recommendation from its lawyer to let Trump — the front-runner in the Republican primary — remain on the ballot by determining it didn’t have the authority to determine whether he violated the U.S. Constitution.” [Associated Press, [1/30/24](#)]

Voting Rights

McGraw Said Sorensen Voted “To Give Illegal Immigrants Representation In Congress And In The Electoral College”

McGraw Said Sorensen Voted “To Give Illegal Immigrants Representation In Congress And In The Electoral College.” “If you feel like Joe Biden & Eric Sorensen prioritize their liberal special interests and the rest of the world over American citizens, you’re not wrong. Sorensen’s latest betrayal of hardworking Illinoisans is [...] voting to give illegal immigrants representation in Congress and in the Electoral College. It is time to fire him and put Americans first again.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/9/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/9/24](#)]

Energy & Environment Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2023: McGraw said he did not believe the scientific consensus that human activity was causing climate change and said, “the jury's out on whether or not we're causing it.”
- ✓ McGraw said voters were “not thinking about radical environmentalism or some other policy, they're thinking about how am I going to make ends meet.”
- ✓ McGraw said the “war on American fossil fuel” by the “Biden-Sorensen economic agenda” was a bad idea.
- ✓ McGraw said the U.S. should be mining its own minerals and developing its petroleum and natural gas industries.
- ✓ McGraw criticized Sorensen for opposing legislation to end Biden’s waters of the U.S.
- ✓ McGraw said one of his top priorities was energy independence.
- ✓ McGraw said Democrats caused the U.S. to become energy dependent.
- ✓ McGraw criticized Biden’s climate policy and said Americans could not afford Biden’s “extreme, inflationary energy policies.”
 - ✓ ... But under President Biden, the Inflation Reduction Act created more than 170,000 clean energy jobs and reduced U.S. dependence on foreign nations for energy.
- ✓ McGraw said the EPA stepped into the role of lawmaking.

Climate Change

2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said, “The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It”

October 2023: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said “The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It”

McGraw: “All The Data That I've Seen Shows Me That The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It”

The Pantagraph: McGraw Said He Did Not Believe The Scientific Consensus That Human Activity Was Causing Climate Change And Said “All The Data That I've Seen Shows Me That The Jury's Out On Whether Or Not We're Causing It.” “McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about ‘pocketbook issues’ and are ready for a change. ‘Years ago, there was an expression ‘Reagan Democrats’ and I think it's so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who've got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.’ [...] McGraw was less detailed in answers to questions about addressing crime, though his campaign website said he will ‘increase funding for our police, and go after the liberal state's attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the

law.’ He does not believe the scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change, saying that ‘all the data that I’ve seen shows me that the jury’s out on whether or not we’re causing it.’ He questioned if the U.S. could do anything about climate change given the polluting of countries like China and India. ‘I want our country to be as clean and prosperous and healthy as possible,’ he said. ‘But some of the extreme environmentalists are willing to put everything on the chopping block for a theoretical goal of a reduction in a degree or something like that.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

- **McGraw: “I Want Our Country To Be As Clean And Prosperous And Healthy As Possible, [...] But Some Of The Extreme Environmentalists Are Willing To Put Everything On The Chopping Block For A Theoretical Goal Of A Reduction In A Degree Or Something Like That.”** “McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about ‘pocketbook issues’ and are ready for a change. ‘Years ago, there was an expression ‘Reagan Democrats’ and I think it’s so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who’ve got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.’ [...] McGraw was less detailed in answers to questions about addressing crime, though his campaign website said he will ‘increase funding for our police, and go after the liberal state’s attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the law.’ He does not believe the scientific consensus that human activity is causing climate change, saying that ‘all the data that I’ve seen shows me that the jury’s out on whether or not we’re causing it.’ He questioned if the U.S. could do anything about climate change given the polluting of countries like China and India. ‘I want our country to be as clean and prosperous and healthy as possible,’ he said. ‘But some of the extreme environmentalists are willing to put everything on the chopping block for a theoretical goal of a reduction in a degree or something like that.’” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Criticized Sorensen’s Focus On The Environment And Climate Change In The 2022 Election And Said Voters Were “Not Thinking About Radical Environmentalism Or Some Other Policy”

McGraw Indirectly Referenced Sorensen’s Focus On Climate Change In The 2022 Election And Said Voters Were “Not Thinking About Radical Environmentalism Or Some Other Policy, They’re Thinking About How Am I Going To Make Ends Meet.” “McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about ‘pocketbook issues’ and are ready for a change. ‘Years ago, there was an expression ‘Reagan Democrats’ and I think it’s so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who’ve got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.’ ‘They’re not thinking about radical environmentalism or some other policy, they’re thinking about how am I going to make ends meet,’ McGraw said, indirectly referencing Sorensen’s focus on climate change in the 2022 election. McGraw broadly laid out some of his policy positions, calling for the building of a border wall to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, but also expressing openness to a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Said Voters Were Not Thinking About “Radical Environmentalism,” But About Making Ends Meet

McGraw Indirectly Referenced Sorensen’s Focus On Climate Change In The 2022 Election And Said Voters Were “Not Thinking About Radical Environmentalism Or Some Other Policy, They’re Thinking About How Am I Going To Make Ends Meet.” “McGraw, in a Wednesday afternoon interview with Lee Enterprises, said voters in the district care about ‘pocketbook issues’ and are ready for a change. ‘Years ago, there was an expression ‘Reagan Democrats’ and I think it’s so many of the blue collar, hardworking people that work in factories and farms and shops and (are) business owners people who’ve got to make payroll they are feeling the tremendous burden of runaway inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high cost of fuel.’ ‘They’re not thinking about radical environmentalism or some other policy, they’re thinking about how am I going to make ends meet,’ McGraw said, indirectly referencing Sorensen’s focus on climate change in the 2022 election. McGraw broadly laid out some of

his policy positions, calling for the building of a border wall to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, but also expressing openness to a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package.” [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Oil & Gas

Fossil Fuels

McGraw Said The “War On American Fossil Fuel” By The “Biden-Sorensen Economic Agenda” Was A Bad Idea. “The Biden-Sorensen economic agenda has failed. Higher taxes, more regulation, war on American fossil fuel, bigger government...these are bad ideas. The people of #IL17 deserve a new representative - someone w/ enough common sense to throw Bidenomics in the trash where it belongs.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/3/24](#)]

McGraw The Government Should Get “Off The Backs Of America's Oil & Gas Workers.” “The best kind of energy is American-made energy. We cannot allow our country to be dependent on foreign nations to keep our economy moving. That means unleashing American energy starting with getting the government off the backs of America's oil & gas workers.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/17/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/17/24](#)]

McGraw Said The U.S. Should Be Mining Its Own Minerals And Developing Its Petroleum And Natural Gas Industries

McGraw: “We Should Be Developing Our Own Petroleum Industry And Natural Gas Industry.” “The 17th Congressional District extends from Bloomington-Normal west through Peoria, up to the Quad Cities and along Illinois’ northwestern border before wrapping back around to Rockford. ‘I think the biggest issues in Peoria are the kinds of issues that are affecting every manufacturing town in America,’ McGraw said. “Our technology has been shipped overseas; our jobs been shipped overseas. China's been ripping us off for a long time now. ‘We need to bring technology back home. We need to bring the manufacturer of prescription drugs back home. Instead of buying minerals, natural resources from China, we should be mining our own. We should be developing our own petroleum industry and natural gas industry.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

Pollution

Water

McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Opposing Legislation To End Biden’s Waters Of The US. “Last week in DC, Eric Sorensen opposed commonsense legislation to end Biden’s Waters of the U.S. Rule. Instead of fighting

against burdensome regulation that hurts Illinois farmers, Sorensen handed his voting card over to Nancy Pelosi & Hakeem Jeffries. #IL17 deserves better. Read more about Sorensen's vote below:" [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/1/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/1/23](#)]

Energy Independence

McGraw Said One Of His Top Priorities Was Energy Independence

McGraw's Top Priorities Included Securing The US-Mexico Border, Energy Independence And Bringing Jobs Back To The US. "McGraw also laid out his top priorities, including securing the U.S.-Mexico border, energy independence and bringing jobs back to the U.S. Rather than forms of energy from outside of the country, he said, the U.S. needs to become a net exporter of energy to lower the price of all energy forms. One of the biggest concerns he has heard from residents is how are they going to afford necessities and make ends meet. 'What they are thinking about is how am I going to make it...how am I going to balance my checkbook...pay for the groceries... pay for fuel...pay for taxes?,' he said." [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

McGraw Said, "We Cannot Allow Our Country To Be Dependent On Foreign Nations To Keep Our Economy Moving." "The best kind of energy is American-made energy. We cannot allow our country to be dependent on foreign nations to keep our economy moving. That means unleashing American energy starting with getting the government off the backs of America's oil & gas workers." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/17/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/17/24](#)]

McGraw Said Democrats Caused The U.S. To Become Energy Dependent

McGraw Said Democrats Were "The One That Have Stopped Energy Production In The United States, Put A Stranglehold On It. They're The Ones That Have Caused Us To Be Energy Dependent; That Affects The

Price Of Everything, When You’re Talking About At The Gas Pump, Whether You’re Talking About Energy For Manufacturing.” “McGraw said he doubts he could find any common ground with Sorensen and the Democrats. ‘They’re the ones that have stopped energy production in the United States, put a stranglehold on it,’ he said. ‘They’re the ones that have caused us to be energy dependent; that affects the price of everything, whether you’re talking about the supply chain, whether you’re talking about at the gas pump, whether you’re talking about energy for manufacturing. They put an undue burden on people that work for a living; that’s a huge failure. That’s driven jobs elsewhere.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

Biden Climate Policy

McGraw Criticized Biden’s Climate Policy And Said Americans Could Not Afford Biden’s “Extreme, Inflationary Energy Policies”

McGraw Criticized Biden’s Climate Policy And Said American Could Not Afford Biden’s “Extreme, Inflationary Energy Policies”

McGraw Criticized Biden’s Climate Policy And Said American Could Not Afford Biden’s “Extreme, Inflationary Energy Policies.” “Since Joe Biden took office: ● Electricity is up 28% ● A gallon of gas is up 52% ● A gallon of diesel is up 50% Americans cannot afford any more of his extreme, inflationary energy policies.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/19/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/19/24](#)]

... But Under President Biden, The Inflation Reduction Act Created More Than 170,000 Clean Energy Jobs And Reduced US Dependence On Foreign Nations For Energy

In The Year After The Inflation Reduction Act Became Law, Companies Announced More Than \$110 Billion In Clean Energy Manufacturing Investments. “In just the twelve months since the Inflation Reduction Act became law: Companies have announced more than \$110 billion in new clean energy manufacturing investments, including more than \$70 billion in the EV supply chain and more than \$10 billion in solar manufacturing.” [White House, [8/16/23](#)]

The Democrat-Led, Bipartisan Inflation Reduction Act Invested \$240 Billion In American Clean Energy Projects. “The Inflation Reduction Act aims to boost domestic manufacturing, create good-paying union jobs, and build more resilient, secure, and trusted supply chains. Together with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the

CHIPS and Science Act, the law has helped spur over \$500 billion in private sector manufacturing investments since President Biden and Vice President Harris took office, including approximately \$240 billion in clean energy manufacturing investments. The law is driving investment to places too often left out and left behind through bonus tax credits for building clean energy projects in traditional energy communities and low-income communities, and is creating good-paying and union jobs through incentives for using domestic content and paying prevailing wages and hiring registered apprentices to build America's clean energy future." [White House, [8/16/23](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Created More Than 170,000 Clean Energy Jobs And Could Create 1.5 Million More Jobs Over The Next Decade. "In just the twelve months since the Inflation Reduction Act became law: [...] According to estimates by outside groups, the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy and climate provisions have already created more than 170,000 clean energy jobs and could create 1.5 million additional jobs over the next decade." [White House, [8/16/23](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Reduced U.S. Dependence On Foreign Nations For Energy, Helping Cut U.S. Oil Demand By More Than Twice The Amount The U.S. Imported From Russia. "The Inflation Reduction Act's investments in clean energy will also reduce U.S. dependence on a fossil fuel-dominated global economy largely dictated by nations that do not share American values. For example, the Inflation Reduction Act will help cut U.S. oil demand by more than twice the amount the United States ever imported from Russia." [Center for American Progress, [8/17/22](#)]

Environmental Protection Agency

McGraw Said The EPA Stepped Into The Role Of Lawmaking

McGraw Said The EPA Stepped Into The Role Of Lawmaking. QUESTION: "As a prior judge, what do you feel about the Supreme Court being wielded as lawmakers instead of Congress acting to hand down the laws, handling, deciding what the laws are? [Indecipherable]" MCGRAW: "The question is, what's the proper role of the supreme court versus what's the proper role of legislators. [...] So the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions. Now I didn't say balanced budget, I'm working toward that but if we could just get to a budget where they say Joe McGraw are you for or against this expenditure, I could go on record and hit the yes button or the no button. [...] That's the role of congress, but since Congress isn't doing that, you've got these regulatory agencies, the alphabet agencies the EPA you know different organizations that have now stepped into the role of lawmaking. Administrative agencies that only have the authority to make rules that effectually the laws passed by Congress, since Congress is not in the business of cracking law and getting people to vote on it up or down the way they once did that leaves tremendous, uh not discretion but these administrative agencies have tremendous authority like the ATF you know deciding what is a firearm for example, they don't have the authority to do that that is a Congressional decision that's a statutory decision. Same with the EPA rulings and regulations they are making to hamstring farmers and hamstring people and industry in going beyond the laws that Congress has passed." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 40:46, 42:33, 43:08, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

Foreign Policy Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw said, “Every day China's war-like nature [was] further exposed” and said, “communist China [was] America’s greatest threat” and needed to be held accountable.
- ✓ McGraw said the Navy was more interested in “transgender admirals than dealing with the problem” of Chinese aggression.
- ✓ McGraw criticized Chinese influence on the U.S. economy.
- ✓ McGraw liked a post on LinkedIn with a Fox News clip of Rep. Mike McCaul discussing the China Taiwan conflict and saying Taiwan would be outnumbered if conflict broke out.
- ✓ April 2024: McGraw said, “we must stand shoulder to shoulder with our longtime friend and ally Israel as it battles escalated aggression from Iran.”
- ✓ McGraw said he would support a house resolution declaring that the U.S. House stood with Israel and calling on Hamas to immediately cease the war and release hostages.
- ✓ April 2023: McGraw thanked McCarthy for “reaffirming our republic’s historically close ties with the nation of Israel.”
- ✓ WCBU: McGraw and his primary opponent campaigned on Republican talking points including support for continued funding for Ukraine.

China

McGraw Said, “Every Day China's War-Like Nature [Was] Further Exposed” And Said “Communist China [Was] America’s Greatest Threat” And Needed To Be Held Accountable

McGraw Said “Everyday China's War-Like Nature [Was] Further Exposed” And Said They Were Becoming More Aggressive In The Pacific, Around The Philippines And Vietnam And Were More Aggressive Towards Taiwan. [McGraw:] “These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they’ve got the funds They've kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don’t know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I'm not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they'll be activated. And they'll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned. Recently, there have been these, quote unquote, protests where they stopped the interstates. Some people trying to get to O'Hare the other day. Anyone here got caught up in

that? Anyway so they they just stopped the interstate, now, what does that do to one of the busiest airports in the nation? It's something low tech. It's easy to do, and it crippled access to the airport for a period of time. That's just a for warning of what's coming. One last thing about the border and I will tell you a little bit about drugs here and then I will open it up is uh the second time I was down there, the uh was when the Chinese Communist were coming across. And it's really kind of an eerie thing to see all these young males, military haircuts don't speak a word of English or at least they did not reveal they spoke any English. And when border patrol is speaking to them they all knew one thing." [Audience:] "What city to go to." [McGraw:] "Gentleman has it right. What city they wanted to go to. They want to go to Chicago or Baltimore or Los Angeles or Seattle. They couldn't utter another sentence in English at least not apparently but they all knew where they wanted to go. And you've got to scratch your head and say does two and two still equal four? I think it does. I think it does. I think you can figure this out pretty quickly. Everyday China's war-like nature is further exposed. They're more aggressive in the Pacific. They are more aggressive around the Philippines and Vietnam. They are more aggressive towards Taiwan. And we've got a navy, where uh they're more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn't have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw's Congressional Campaign Website Said "Communist China [Was] America's Greatest Threat" And That Washington Politicians Were Soft On China. "Judge Joe grew up the son of two WWII veterans who owned their own small business. Patriotism was instilled in him at a young age, and he knows that given a level playing field no country can outcompete American workers and American businesses. But right now China is skirting the rules to steal our jobs, our factories, and our intellectual property. Furthermore, China is producing much of the fentanyl that the cartels smuggle into America. Judge Joe knows Communist China is America's greatest threat and recognizes Washington politicians have been soft on China for far too long. Judge Joe will crack down on China when they cheat economically and fight to hold them accountable for their role in poisoning Americans with fentanyl. As a prosecutor and judge, Joe knows no good comes when you coddle bad actors. That's why he'll ensure America projects strength on the world stage starting with China." [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

McGraw Said Politicians Had Been Soft On China For Too Long And Called For China To Be Held Accountable For Its Role In Producing Fentanyl And Ripping Off American Farmers And Workers.

"Politicians have been soft on China for far too long, but coddling bad actors only causes more harm. It's time to take the gloves off & hold China accountable for its hostile actions like producing the fentanyl coming over our border and ripping off American farmers & workers." [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/24/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/24/24](#)]

McGraw Said The Navy Was More Interested In "Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem" Of Chinese Aggression

McGraw Said The Navy Was More Interested In "Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem" Of Chinese Aggression. [McGraw:] "These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they've got

the funds They've kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don't know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I'm not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they'll be activated. And they'll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned. Recently, there have been these, quote unquote, protests where they stopped the interstates. Some people trying to get to O'Hare the other day. Anyone here got caught up in that? Anyway so they they just stopped the interstate, now, what does that do to one of the busiest airports in the nation? It's something low tech. It's easy to do, and it crippled access to the airport for a period of time. That's just a for warning of what's coming. One last thing about the border and I will tell you a little bit about drugs here and then I will open it up is uh the second time I was down there, the uh was when the Chinese Communist were coming across. And it's really kind of an eerie thing to see all these young males, military haircuts don't speak a word of English or at least they did not reveal they spoke any English. And when border patrol is speaking to them they all knew one thing." [Audience:] "What city to go to." [McGraw:] "Gentleman has it right. What city they wanted to go to. They want to go to Chicago or Baltimore or Los Angeles or Seattle. They couldn't utter another sentence in English at least not apparently but they all knew where they wanted to go. And you've got to scratch your head and say does two and two still equal four? I think it does. I think it does. I think you can figure this out pretty quickly. Everyday China's war-like nature is further exposed. They're more aggressive in the Pacific. They are more aggressive around the Philippines and Vietnam. They are more aggressive towards Taiwan. And we've got a navy, where uh they're more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn't have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw: "Every day China's War-Like Nature Is Further Exposed. They're More Aggressive In The Pacific. They Are More Aggressive Around The Philippines And Vietnam. They Are More Aggressive Towards Taiwan. And We've Got A Navy, Where Uh They're More Interested In Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem."** [McGraw:] "These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they've got the funds They've kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don't know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I'm not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they'll be activated. And they'll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned. Recently, there have been these, quote unquote, protests where they stopped the interstates. Some people trying to get to O'Hare the other day. Anyone here got caught up in that? Anyway so they they just stopped the interstate, now, what does that do to one of the busiest airports in the nation? It's something low tech. It's easy to do, and it crippled access to the airport for a period of time. That's just a for warning of what's coming. One last thing about the border and I will tell you a little bit about drugs here and then I will open it up

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May 2023: McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn With A Fox News Clip Of Rep. Mike McCaul Discussing The China Taiwan Conflict. "Taiwan would be 'greatly outnumbered' if conflict broke out tomorrow: Rep. Mike McCaul <http://ow.ly/Crjy50O8EU7> @MorningsMaria @FoxBusiness hashtag#news" [Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [5/2/23](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7141111111111111111)]



[Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [5/2/23](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7141111111111111111)]

McGraw Criticized Chinese Influence On The US Economy

McGraw: "That's All We Need, More Chinese Influence On Our Economy Here And More Chinese People Here, Whether It's Buying Farmland Or Building Factories. And You Gotta Ask Yourself Who Is Behind The Wheel Here? Who Is Behind The Wheel? They're Doing Things That Are Good For China And In America Illegals In IL." "My opponent had a press release a while back where he talked about in the Quad Cities they need a clinic where kids 10 to 12 can get puberty blockers. He said that will cause the district to thrive. [...] He's in favor of every extreme environmental move that hampers farmers that hampers business. He and Biden are lockstep in all the trade policies that have sent jobs overseas, making our communities weaker. He's all in on electric cars, even if the public is not all in. That is like a fair trade deal for China because they provide the batteries and the cars and everything else. So that's all we need, more Chinese influence on our economy here and more Chinese people here, whether it's buying farmland or building factories. And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in

IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?” [Audience:] “And veterans taken out of homes to.” [McGraw:] “And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 18:05, 19:24, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn With A Fox News Clip Of Rep. Mike McCaul Discussing The China Taiwan Conflict And Saying Taiwan Would Be Outnumbered If Conflict Broke Out

May 2023: McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn With A Fox News Clip Of Rep. Mike McCaul Discussing The China Taiwan Conflict And Saying Taiwan Would Be Outnumbered If Conflict Broke Out. “Taiwan would be 'greatly outnumbered' if conflict broke out tomorrow: Rep. Mike McCaul <http://ow.ly/Crjy50O8EU7> @MorningsMaria @FoxBusiness #news” [Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [5/2/23](#)]



[Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [5/2/23](#)]

Israel

April 2024: McGraw Said “We Must Stand Shoulder To Shoulder With Our Longtime Friend And Ally Israel As It Battles Escalated Aggression From Iran”

McGraw Said “We Must Stand Shoulder To Shoulder With Our Longtime Friend And Ally Israel As It Battles Escalated Aggression From Iran.” “We must stand shoulder to shoulder with our longtime friend and ally Israel as it battles escalated aggression from Iran. Weak and inconsistent foreign policy decisions by the Biden administration have allowed Iran to enrich and equip itself and embolden them for this attack! [...] Their weak leadership encourages tyrants in Iran. I support Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself and pray for their peace.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/14/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/14/24](#)]

- **McGraw Said The Biden Administration’s “Weak And Inconsistent Foreign Policy Decisions” Allowed “Iran To Enrich And Equip Itself And Embolden Them For This Attack.”** “We must stand shoulder to shoulder with our longtime friend and ally Israel as it battles escalated aggression from Iran. Weak and inconsistent foreign policy decisions by the Biden administration have allowed Iran to enrich and equip itself and embolden them for this attack! [...] Their weak leadership encourages tyrants in Iran. I support Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself and pray for their peace.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/14/24](#)]



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- **McGraw: “I Support Israel’s Sovereign Right To Defend Itself And Pray For Their Peace.”** “We must stand shoulder to shoulder with our longtime friend and ally Israel as it battles escalated aggression from Iran. Weak and inconsistent foreign policy decisions by the Biden administration have allowed Iran to enrich and equip itself and embolden them for this attack! [...] Their weak leadership encourages tyrants in Iran. I support Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself and pray for their peace.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/14/24](#)]



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McGraw Said He Would Support A House Resolution Declaring That The US House Stood With Israel And Calling On Hamas To Immediately Cease The War And Release Hostages

McGraw Said He Would Support A House Resolution Declaring That The US House Stood With Israel And Calling On Hamas To Immediately Cease The War And Release Hostages. McGraw answered the Illinois Family Institute’s Voter Guide in 2024, when asked if he would support or oppose “H.Res. 771 (2023) declares that

the U.S. House stands with Israel, calls on Hamas to immediately cease the brutal war and to release hostages and bodies of deceased hostages.” McGraw answered “Support.” [Illinois Family Voter Guide, Primary 2024, accessed [5/29/24](#)]

April 2023: McGraw Thanked McCarthy For “Reaffirming Our Republic’s Historically Close Ties With The Nation Of Israel”

April 2023: McGraw Thanked McCarthy For “Reaffirming Our Republics Historically Close Ties With The Nation Of Israel.” “Mr. Speaker, thank you for reaffirming our Republics historically close ties with the nation of Israel. God, speaking of Israel, had this to say: ‘I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you and all the peoples on the earth will be blessed by you.’ Genesis 12:3.” [Joseph McGraw, LinkedIn, [4/30/23](#)]



[Joseph McGraw, LinkedIn, [4/30/23](#)]

Ukraine

WCBU: McGraw And His Primary Opponent Campaigned On Republican Talking Points Including Support For Continued Funding For Ukraine

WCBU: McGraw And His Primary Opponent Campaigned On Republican Talking Points Including Support For Continued Funding For Ukraine. “With both McGraw and Crowl effectively campaigning on law and order platforms, as well as other Republican talking points, including increased offshore well drilling and support for continued funding for Ukraine, Crowl has touted his status as a political outsider against McGraw’s decades-long relationship with law enforcement and politics already.” [WCBU, [3/6/24](#)]

Gun Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by nine Illinois Sheriffs who refused to enforce in part or in full the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which banned assault weapons in Illinois.
- ✓ The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, banned the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois.
- ✓ Everytown for Gun Safety: Prohibiting access to assault weapons can reduce the number of people killed and wounded by shooters intent on inflicting mass casualties.
- ✓ Many sheriffs in Illinois refused to enforce the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which banned assault weapons in Illinois, despite the ban surviving numerous legal challenges.
- ✓ McGraw said he would “always defend Americans’ right to keep and bear arms” and would protect second amendment rights in Congress.
- ✓ McGraw visited several gun shows and firearm club meetings during his 2024 campaign for congress.
- ✓ McGraw said the ATF did not have the authority to decide what a firearm was and said it was a congressional statutory decision.
- ✓ McGraw liked a post on LinkedIn that said credit cards companies pausing their use of tracking codes for firearm retailers was a “move in the right direction” and that they need to “abandon it altogether.”

Assault Weapons Ban

McGraw Was Endorsed By Nine Illinois Sheriffs Who Refused To Enforce In Part Or In Full The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois

The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, Banned The Sale And Distribution Of Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines, And Switches In Illinois

The Protect Illinois Communities Act, HR 5471, Banned The Sale And Distribution Of Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines, And Switches In Illinois. “Standing alongside lawmakers and gun control activists, Governor Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act banning the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois, effective immediately. ‘For the past four years, my administration and my colleagues in the State Capitol have been battling the powerful forces of the NRA to enshrine the strongest and most effective gun violence legislation that we possibly can,’ said Gov. JB Pritzker. ‘I couldn’t be prouder to say that we got it done. And we will keep fighting — bill by bill, vote by vote, and protest by protest — to ensure that future generations only hear about massacres like Highland Park, Sandy Hook, and Uvalde in their textbooks.’ [...] House Bill 5471 also caps sales of high-capacity ammunition magazines, bans ‘switches’ that convert legal handguns into assault weapons, and extends the ability of courts to prevent dangerous individuals from possessing a gun through firearm restraining orders. The new law also requires existing owners of semi-automatic rifles to register their ownership, ensuring that law enforcement knows the location of these weapons of war and who to hold accountable if they fall into the wrong hands.” [Governor Pritzker, Press Release, [1/10/23](#)]

August 2023: The Illinois Supreme Court Allowed The State's Assault Weapon Ban To Stay In Place. “The Illinois Supreme Court will allow the state's assault weapons ban to stay in place following a 4-3 decision Friday morning. A lawsuit had challenged the ban as unconstitutional. ‘We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs' waived claim concerning the second amendment,’ the filing stated. State lawmakers approved the ban in early January, and Gov. JB Pritzker quickly signed it into law. Before signing the bill, Pritzker invoked the memory of the July 4th parade mass shooting in Highland Park last year – which left seven people dead and 36 injured, and left a 2-year-old boy parentless and wandering around. [...] Restraining orders sought in lower courts had blocked the state from enforcing the ban against hundreds of gun owners and several gun shops who challenged the ban, but those rulings only applied to the plaintiffs directly involved in those lawsuits. The law is also facing challenges in federal court, and in May the U.S. Supreme Court declined to block the law statewide.” [CBS, [8/11/23](#)]

May 2023: The U.S. Supreme Court Declined To Block The Law Statewide. “The Illinois Supreme Court will allow the state's assault weapons ban to stay in place following a 4-3 decision Friday morning. A lawsuit had challenged the ban as unconstitutional. ‘We express no opinion on the potential viability of plaintiffs' waived claim concerning the second amendment,’ the filing stated. State lawmakers approved the ban in early January, and Gov. JB Pritzker quickly signed it into law. Before signing the bill, Pritzker invoked the memory of the July 4th parade mass shooting in Highland Park last year – which left seven people dead and 36 injured, and left a 2-year-old boy parentless and wandering around. [...] Judges in both Effingham County and Macon County downstate ruled the ban unconstitutional, but Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who is defending the ban, appealed those rulings to the state's highest court. Restraining orders sought in lower courts had blocked the state from enforcing the ban against hundreds of gun owners and several gun shops who challenged the ban, but those rulings only applied to the plaintiffs directly involved in those lawsuits. The law is also facing challenges in federal court, and in May the U.S. Supreme Court declined to block the law statewide.” [CBS, [8/11/23](#)]

Everytown For Gun Safety: Prohibiting Access To Assault Weapons Can Reduce The Number Of People Killed And Wounded By Shooters Intent On Inflicting Mass Casualties

Everytown For Gun Safety: “Prohibiting Access To Assault Weapons And Limiting The Capacity Of Ammunition Magazines Can Reduce The Number Of People Killed And Wounded By Shooters Intent On Inflicting Mass Casualties.” “Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines help fuel gun violence in the United States. Research and evidence from mass shooting incidents in which four or more people are killed clearly show that assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are the weapon of choice for public mass shooters. Prohibiting access to assault weapons and limiting the capacity of ammunition magazines can reduce the number of people killed and wounded by shooters intent on inflicting mass casualties.” [Everytown for Gun Safety, [5/24/23](#)]

Everytown For Gun Safety: “Over Twice As Many People Are Killed When Mass Shootings Involve An Assault Weapon.” “Over twice as many people are killed when mass shootings involve an assault weapon. Mass shooting incidents with four or more people killed where the shooter used an assault rifle resulted in an average of 2.3 times more people killed and 22.7 times more people wounded compared to incidents where the shooter did not use an assault rifle.” [Everytown for Gun Safety, accessed [6/27/24](#)]

Many Sheriffs In Illinois Refused To Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois, Despite The Ban Surviving Numerous Legal Challenges

HEADLINE: “Will Illinois’ Assault Weapons Ban Be Enforced? It Depends Where You Live.” [25 News Peoria, [1/12/23](#)]

A Majority Of County Sheriffs In Illinois Said They Did Not Plan To Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act, Which Banned Assault Weapons In Illinois. “There are 102 counties in Illinois. Each has a sheriff. One hundred and two men — and they're all men — who enforce state law. Except when they don't. Since the start of the year, a majority of county sheriffs in Illinois have stated that they don't plan to enforce the Protect Illinois Communities Act, a sweeping ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines state lawmakers passed in January. What the sheriffs oppose specifically is PICA's effect on private assault weapon

owners. The law not only prohibited the sale and purchase of new assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, but also forbid, with some exceptions, their private ownership. One of those exceptions was a grandfather measure ensuring those who already owned assault weapon could keep their guns and weapon accessories so long as they registered them with the Illinois State Police before New Year's Day, 2024.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

Despite The Numerous Legal Challenges The Assault Weapons Ban Survived Since Sheriffs Stated They Would Not Enforce The Law, Courthouse News Could Not Find Any Examples Of A Sheriff Who Changed Course And Agreed To Abide By The Court’s Decisions. “Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA's Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln. Despite this, Courthouse News could find no examples of a sheriff who, after saying he wouldn't enforce the bans in January, reversed course and agreed to abide by the courts' decisions. Of the multiple PICA-opposing sheriffs' offices CNS reached out to for comment, none responded.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

- **The Protect Illinois Communities Act Survived Numerous Legal Challenges At The State And Federal Level, And Was Upheld By The Illinois Supreme Court And The Federal Seventh Circuit Of Appeals.** “Though a few sheriffs who opposed the ban, like Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley, simply voiced their opposition without saying what it means in practical terms, dozens of others weren't so coy. ‘I, among many others, believe that [the Protect Illinois Communities Act] is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution,’ read a near-identical statement issued by sheriffs across the state in January. ‘Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for _____ County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State (sic), nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.’ Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA's Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]
- **The U.S. Supreme Court Declined To Hear Challenges To The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban On Two Occasions.** “Though a few sheriffs who opposed the ban, like Will County Sheriff Mike Kelley, simply voiced their opposition without saying what it means in practical terms, dozens of others weren't so coy. ‘I, among many others, believe that [the Protect Illinois Communities Act] is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution,’ read a near-identical statement issued by sheriffs across the state in January. ‘Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for _____ County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State (sic), nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.’ Since the sheriffs issued their statements, the bans have survived numerous challenges at the state and federal level, ultimately prevailing in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the federal Seventh Circuit of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court has also declined to hear challenges to the ban on not one but two occasions, and just last week even a conservative federal judge in southern Illinois declined to strike down PICA's Jan. 1 registration requirement on a 14th Amendment challenge. As far as the government is concerned, it is, at least for now, the law of the land in the Land of Lincoln.” [Courthouse News Service, [12/29/23](#)]

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana; Caruana Said He Would Not Enforce Illinois’ Assault Weapon Ban

Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana Said He Would Not Enforce The Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban requires those who already own such guns to register with the state. "Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana said today that he will not enforce the state's newly enacted law that bans military-style weapons and requires those who already own such guns to register with the state. Caruana's statement comes as gun rights groups are preparing to sue the state over the new law, which Gov. JB Pritzker signed Tuesday. Caruana is among several sheriffs, including those in Ogle, Stephenson and Lee counties, who say they won't enforce the law. The law bans the sale, distribution and manufacturing of assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles and ammunition, and large-capacity magazines. It allows those who already own such weapons to keep them provided they register with the Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024. 'Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the 2nd Amendment,' Caruana said in a statement on Facebook. 'The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people.' He said that no one from his office will check to see that gun owners register with the state, nor will they arrest anyone for non-compliance with the law." [Rock River Current, [1/11/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Winnebago County Sheriff Among Those Who Say They Won't Enforce The State's Weapons Ban."** [Rock River Current, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb; Webb Refused To Enforce Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban

Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Jon Webb Refused To Enforce "The Protect Illinois Communities Act" To Ban The Sale Of All Assault Weapons And Magazines In The State. "The Protect Illinois Communities Act (HB 5471) bans the sale of all assault weapons and magazines in the state. It also requires owners to register existing guns, among other provisions. Gov. Pritzker signed the bill into law on Tuesday night. LaSalle County Sheriff Adam Diss, Fulton County Sheriff Jon Webb, Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan, and Woodford County Sheriff Matt Smith released identical statements deeming the law unconstitutional and say they will not enforce it." [CI Proud, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Assault Weapons Ban. "The sheriffs of Henry, Knox and Whiteside counties have declared their stance in opposition to House Bill 5471, the assault weapons ban bill that passed with Gov. Pritzker's signature on Tuesday. In separate statements, Henry County Sheriff Joshua Verscheure, Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan and Whiteside County John Booker delivered the same news release, drafted with the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, in which they said: 'As your Sheriff, I wanted to give citizens of (Knox, Whiteside) County an update on the recent passage of HB 5471, also known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act. 'As your duly elected Sheriff my job and my office are sworn, in fact, to protect the citizens of (Knox, Whiteside) County. This is a job and responsibility that I take with the utmost seriousness. 'Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights if the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided

under the 2nd amendment. ‘The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people. ‘I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ‘Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Knox County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State, nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been arrested solely with non-compliance of this Act.’” [WQAD 8, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill, Who Said He Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapon Ban

Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Mercer County Sheriff Dustin Terrill Said He Would Not Be Enforcing The State’s Assault Weapon Ban. “Mercer County Sheriff Dusty Terrill and Mercer County State’s Attorney Grace Simpson will not be enforcing the state’s assault weapon ban. Terrill and Simpson believe HB 5471 is a violation of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. ‘As Sheriff and State’s Attorney of Mercer County, we find it is impossible to understand the logic of the State Legislators who take steps to restrict law enforcement’s ability to hold true criminals accountable and then move to criminalize law abiding citizens,’ Terrill and Simpson said in a joint statement. ‘Illinois needs to give law enforcement the tools necessary to enforce the existing common-sense laws and stop trying to create criminals out of everyday citizens. Further, Illinois needs to stop putting prosecutors in a position where we are forced to prosecute political agendas instead of actual crimes. We are doing our best as elected officials to protect your rights as law abiding citizens while still holding criminals accountable.’ They also said that ‘The right to keep and bear arms for the defense of life, liberty, and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people.’ ‘As Sheriff of Mercer County, neither myself, nor my office will be proactively checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State,’ Terrill said.” [Rock Island Today, [1/30/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce The Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

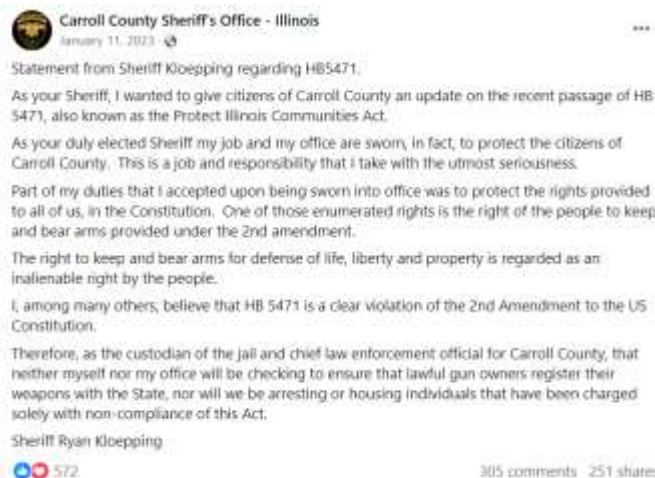
Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan Said His Office Would Not Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act. “Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan announced in a Wednesday news release that his office will not enforce a state law passed Tuesday that will require people to register their ownership of semi-automatic rifles. The law, known as House Bill 5471 or the Protect Illinois Communities Act, bans the manufacture, sale and purchase of assault-style, semi-automatic weapons in Illinois. Under the bill, people must register their weapons with Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024, in order to keep them.” [Register-Mail, [1/11/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Knox County Sheriff Says Office Will Not Cooperate With New Illinois Weapons Law.”** [Register-Mail, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping, Who Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce Illinois Assault Weapons Ban

Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Carroll County Sheriff Ryan Kloeping Said His Office Would Not Enforce The Protect Illinois Communities Act. “Statement from Sheriff Kloeping regarding HB5471. As your Sheriff, I wanted to give citizens of Carroll County an update on the recent passage of HB 5471, also known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act. As your duly elected Sheriff my job and my office are sworn, in fact, to protect the citizens of Carroll County. This is a job and responsibility that I take with the utmost seriousness. Part of my duties that I accepted upon being sworn into office was to protect the rights provided to all of us, in the Constitution. One of those enumerated rights is the right of the people to keep and bear arms provided under the 2nd amendment. The right to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people. I, among many others, believe that HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for Carroll County, that neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State, nor will we be arresting or housing individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this Act. Sheriff Ryan Kloeping.” [Carroll County Sheriff’s Office – Illinois, Facebook, [1/11/23](#)]



[Carroll County Sheriff’s Office – Illinois, Facebook, [1/11/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower; Tazewell County Was Listed A County Not Enforcing Illinois’ Assault Weapons Ban

March 2024: McGraw Was Endorsed By Jeff Lower, Tazewell County Sherrif. [Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]



[Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/15/24](#)]

Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower Released A Statement Criticizing The Protect Illinois Communities Act And Tazewell County Was Listed As Refusing To Enforce The Assault Weapons Ban. “At least 30 county

sheriffs are refusing to enforce the newly-passed assault weapons ban because they contend it violates the Second Amendment. The Protect Illinois Communities Act (HB 5471) bans the sale of all assault weapons and magazines in the state. It also requires owners to register existing guns, among other provisions. Gov. Pritzker signed the bill into law on Tuesday night. [...] Tazewell County Sheriff Jeff Lower also released a statement expressing his dissatisfaction with the Act and his commitment to upholding the Constitution. ‘I am extremely disappointed with the passage of HB 5471 that further erodes our Constitutional freedoms...as your elected Sheriff, I pledge to do everything within my power to steadfastly protect the Second Amendment and all other individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution. I understand the destructive influences currently existing within our state and our country will only relent when we all vigorously defend and preserve the Constitution and the freedoms it preserves.’ [...] Counties refusing to enforce the law include: Clay, Edwards, Dekalb, Dewitt, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Iroquois, Jefferson, Jo Daviess, Kankakee, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Logan, Massac, McLean, McDonough, Ogle, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Randolph, Richland, Stephenson, Tazewell, Washington, Wayne, White, Winnebago, and Woodford.” [CI Pround, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane, Who Said He Would Not Implement The Protect Illinois Communities Act

McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. McLean County Sheriff Matthew Lane endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

According To Cities 92.9 Radio Station, McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane Promised Not To Implement The Protect Illinois Communities Act. “Last week, Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which prohibits the possession of semi-automatic rifles such as the AR-15 and paves the way for expedited universal background checks. The legislation also requires firearm owners of now-restricted weapons to register with state police. Many sheriffs have vowed to defy the law, calling it a gross abuse of power. [...] McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane has also promised not to implement the law, according to Cities 92.9 radio station.” [National Review, [1/16/23](#)]

McLean County Sherriff Matt Lane Said Police Were Not Bound To Follow The Law As It Was Unconstitutional. “McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane says the bill Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law this week banning the sale, delivery and manufacture of assault weapons is unconstitutional, so he says police aren't bound to follow it. ‘The U.S. Constitution is trumping his law. That’s the way I see it,’ Lane said. Lane said his biggest concern is the requirement that people who currently own such weapons register them with the Illinois State Police by Jan. 1, 2024. ‘I don’t see sending deputies door to door to check and make sure people have registered their weapons. That is not something I will have my people doing,’ Lane said.” [WGLT, [1/12/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout, Who Said He Wouldn’t Enforce Parts Of The Protect Illinois Communities Act

McDonough County Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout Endorsed McGraw’s Campaign For Congress. McDonough County Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout endorsed McGraw’s campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/19/24](#)]

Sheriff Nicolas Petitgout Said He And His Office Would Not Enforce Parts Of HB 5471. “McDonough County Sheriff Nicholas M. Petitgout said he and his office will not be enforcing parts of an assault weapons ban signed into law on Tuesday, because he believes ‘HB 5471 is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution.’ In a news release, Petitgout said neither he nor his office will be checking to ensure lawful gun owners register with the Illinois State Police as required by the new law. Petitgout also said his deputies won’t be ‘arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this Act.’ On Tuesday, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act banning the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois. The new law also requires existing owners of

semi-automatic rifles to register their ownership, ensuring that law enforcement knows the location of these weapons.” [KHQA, [1/12/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Local Sheriff Calls Assault Weapons Ban Unconstitutional, Won’t Enforce Parts Of It.”** [KHQA, [1/12/23](#)]

2nd Amendment Rights

McGraw Said He Would “Always Defend Americans’ Right To Keep And Bear Arms” And Would Protect Second Amendment Rights In Congress

February 2024: McGraw Said He Would “Always Defend Americans’ Right To Keep And Bear Arms” In Congress. “Enjoyed visiting the Bloomington Gun Show today. In Congress, I’ll always defend Americans’ right to keep and bear arms.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Said “We Must Protect Our Second Amendment Right To Keep And Bear Arms.” “Out in Rock Island County today at the Quad City Gun Show! We must protect our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Americans should be able to defend themselves and their families.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]

Campaigning At Gun Events

McGraw Visited Several Gun Shows And Firearm Club Meetings During His 2024 Congressional Campaign

February 2024: McGraw Visited The Quad City Gun Show And Said “We Must Protect Our Second Amendment Right To Keep And Bear Arms.” “Out in Rock Island County today at the Quad City Gun Show! We must protect our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Americans should be able to defend themselves and their families.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Attended A Northern Illinois Rifle And Pistol Club Meeting. “Had a great time visiting with folks at the Northern Illinois Rifle and Pistol Club meeting!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/5/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/5/24](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Visited The Bloomington Gun Show And Said He Would “Always Defend Americans’ Right To Keep And Bear Arms” In Congress. “Enjoyed visiting the Bloomington Gun Show today. In Congress, I’ll always defend Americans’ right to keep and bear arms.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/3/24](#)]

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

McGraw Said The ATF Did Not Have The Authority To Decide What A Firearm Was And Said It Was A Congressional Statutory Decision

2024: McGraw Said The ATF Did Not Have The Authority To Decide What A Firearm Was, And Said It Was A Congressional Statutory Decision. “QUESTION: “As a prior judge, what do you feel about the Supreme Court being wielded as lawmakers instead of Congress acting to hand down the laws, handling, deciding what the laws are? [Indecipherable]” MCGRAW: “The question is, whats the proper role of the supreme court versus what’s the proper role of legislators. [...] So the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions. Now I didn’t say balanced budget, I’m working toward that but if we could just get to a budget where they say Joe McGraw are you for or against this expenditure, I could go on record and hit the yes button or the no button. [...] That’s the role of congress, but since Congress isn’t doing that, you’ve got these regulatory agencies, the alphabet agencies the EPA you know different organizations that have now stepped into the role of lawmaking. Administrative agencies that only have the authority to make rules that effectually the laws passed by Congress, since Congress is not in the business of cracking law and getting people to vote on it up or down the way they once did that leaves tremendous, uh not discretion but these administrative agencies have tremendous authority like the ATF you know deciding what is a firearm for example, they don’t have the authority to do that that is a Congressional decision that’s a statutory decision. Same with the EPA rulings and regulations they are making to hamstring farmers and hamstringing people and industry in going beyond the laws that Congress has passed.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 40:46, 42:33, 43:08, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw: “These Administrative Agencies Have Tremendous Authority Like The ATF You Know Deciding What Is A Firearm For Example, They Don’t Have The Authority To Do That That Is A Congressional Decision That’s A Statutory Decision.”** “QUESTION: “As a prior judge, what do you feel about the Supreme Court being wielded as lawmakers instead of Congress acting to hand down the laws, handling, deciding what the laws are? [Indecipherable]” MCGRAW: “The question is, whats the proper role of the supreme court versus what’s the proper role of legislators. [...] So the first step is to get a budget, no more continuing resolutions. Now I didn’t say balanced budget, I’m working toward that but if we could just get to a budget where they say Joe McGraw are you for or against this expenditure, I could go on record and hit the yes button or the no button. [...] That’s the role of congress, but since Congress isn’t doing that, you’ve got these regulatory agencies, the alphabet agencies the EPA you know different organizations that have now stepped

into the role of lawmaking. Administrative agencies that only have the authority to make rules that effectually the laws passed by Congress, since Congress is not in the business of cracking law and getting people to vote on it up or down the way they once did that leaves tremendous, uh not discretion but these administrative agencies have tremendous authority like the ATF you know deciding what is a firearm for example, they don't have the authority to do that that is a Congressional decision that's a statutory decision. Same with the EPA rulings and regulations they are making to hamstring farmers and hamstring people and industry in going beyond the laws that Congress has passed." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 40:46, 42:33, 43:08, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

Credit Card Firearm Purchase Tracking

McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn That Said Credit Cards Companies Pausing Their Use Of Tracking Codes For Firearm Retailers Was A "Move In The Right Direction" And That They Need To "Abandon It Altogether"

McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn That Said Credit Cards Pausing Their Use Of Tracking Codes For Firearm Retailers Was A "Move In The Right Direction" And That They Need To "Abandon It Altogether."

"This is a move in the right direction. Credit cards are 'pausing' their use of special tracking codes for firearm retailers. They need to abandon it altogether." [Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [3/9/23](#)]



[Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [3/9/23](#)]

Health Care Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ In 2013, McGraw convened a planning process to enroll Winnebago County inmates and those under court supervision for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act.
- ✓ McGraw delivered mindfulness training seminars to judges including during statewide educational meetings.
- ✓ April 2024: McGraw spoke at the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association conference.

Affordable Care Act (ACA)

In 2013, McGraw Convened A Planning Process To Enroll Winnebago County Inmates And Those Under Court Supervision For Health Care Coverage Under The Affordable Care Act

2013: McGraw Advocated For A Plan To Enroll Winnebago County Inmates And Those Under Court Supervision For Health Care Coverage Under The Affordable Care Act

2013: McGraw Wanted To Develop A Plan To Enroll Winnebago County Inmates And Those Under Court Supervision For Health Care Coverage Under The Affordable Care Act. “Hundreds of people in the Winnebago County Jail awaiting trial will have access to health insurance starting Jan. 1, when new provisions to the Affordable Care Act go into effect. Leaders of Winnebago County’s criminal justice system, namely Chief Judge Joe McGraw, and the nonprofit TASC want to develop a plan to enroll inmates and those under court supervision for coverage under the act, commonly called Obamacare. The goal is to save the county some of the costs of providing health care and get needed treatment for people with mental health and addiction problems.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/13](#)]

- **Enrolling Inmates And Those Under Court Supervision Within Winnebago’s Criminal Justice System In Coverage Under The ACA Would Save The County Some Of The Costs Of Providing Health Care.** “Hundreds of people in the Winnebago County Jail awaiting trial will have access to health insurance starting Jan. 1, when new provisions to the Affordable Care Act go into effect. Leaders of Winnebago County’s criminal justice system, namely Chief Judge Joe McGraw, and the nonprofit TASC want to develop a plan to enroll inmates and those under court supervision for coverage under the act, commonly called Obamacare. The goal is to save the county some of the costs of providing health care and get needed treatment for people with mental health and addiction problems.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/13](#)]
- **McGraw Said In The Long Run, The Affordable Care Act Might Help Reduce The Wait Time For Inmates To Get Accepted Into Treatment Facilities.** “TASC and McGraw each plan to continue work to prepare for Obamacare enrollment. They may ask the County Board to reconsider their vote. In the long run, McGraw said, the act may help reduce the wait time for inmates to get accepted into a treatment facility. Right now, there are often fewer beds than needed for uninsured addicts or those with mental health problems. That won’t change Jan. 1, McGraw said, but his hope is that the market will respond to hundreds of new customers with insurance to pay for the treatment they need. Winnebago County and others across the country that run jails are responsible for providing medical care to those booked into jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/13](#)]

HEADLINE: “Obamacare’ Could Give Winnebago County Inmates Health Insurance.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/30/13](#)]

2013: McGraw Convened A Planning Process To Determine How To Utilize Affordable Care Act Benefits Within The Winnebago County Jail And Probation System

2013: As Chief Judge Of The 17th Circuit, McGraw Convened A Planning Process In Anticipation Of New Benefits Under The Affordable Care Act For His Jurisdiction. “In 2013, Chief Judge Joseph McGraw of the 17th Circuit (north central Illinois, Rockford area) convened a planning process to anticipate the benefits of the ACA for his jurisdiction. Chief Judge McGraw convened a steering committee and several working groups to determine how best to align health insurance enrollment and broad linkage to care with justice system processes, including the Winnebago County Jail and Probation. A working group of medical, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment agencies is discussing how community services might be expanded to meet the needs of this population on a routine basis, and to respond to increased referrals for treatment that will be forthcoming from the courts. As of early December 2013, education about ACA coverage is being provided to probationers, and applications are being initiated in probation settings through statefunded application assisters. Plans are in place to test application initiation in the local jail, and to link newly-enrolled probationers to substance abuse, mental health, and medical services in the community. Infrastructure to enhance continuity of medical care between jail and community is also under development. This process is also led by TASC, and funded through the Northern Illinois Community Foundation. These efforts have all informed the development of innovative new and revised policies and practices to meet the needs of justice agencies, and most importantly to help cultivate a culture of coverage in Illinois.” [Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice, Resource Guide, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

- **2013: McGraw Convened A Steering Committee And Several Working Groups To Determine How To Incorporate Health Insurance Enrollment Within The Winnebago County Jail And Probation Systems.** “In 2013, Chief Judge Joseph McGraw of the 17th Circuit (north central Illinois, Rockford area) convened a planning process to anticipate the benefits of the ACA for his jurisdiction. Chief Judge McGraw convened a steering committee and several working groups to determine how best to align health insurance enrollment and broad linkage to care with justice system processes, including the Winnebago County Jail and Probation. A working group of medical, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment agencies is discussing how community services might be expanded to meet the needs of this population on a routine basis, and to respond to increased referrals for treatment that will be forthcoming from the courts. As of early December 2013, education about ACA coverage is being provided to probationers, and applications are being initiated in probation settings through statefunded application assisters. Plans are in place to test application initiation in the local jail, and to link newly-enrolled probationers to substance abuse, mental health, and medical services in the community. Infrastructure to enhance continuity of medical care between jail and community is also under development.” [Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice, Resource Guide, accessed [1/17/24](#)]
- **December 2013: Education About Affordable Care Act Coverage Was Provided To Probationers And Applications Were Initiated In Probation Settings Through State Funded Application Assisters.** “In 2013, Chief Judge Joseph McGraw of the 17th Circuit (north central Illinois, Rockford area) convened a planning process to anticipate the benefits of the ACA for his jurisdiction. Chief Judge McGraw convened a steering committee and several working groups to determine how best to align health insurance enrollment and broad linkage to care with justice system processes, including the Winnebago County Jail and Probation. A working group of medical, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment agencies is discussing how community services might be expanded to meet the needs of this population on a routine basis, and to respond to increased referrals for treatment that will be forthcoming from the courts. As of early December 2013, education about ACA coverage is being provided to probationers, and applications are being initiated in probation settings through statefunded application assisters. Plans are in place to test application initiation in the local jail, and to link newly-enrolled probationers to substance abuse, mental health, and medical services in the community. Infrastructure to enhance continuity of medical care between jail and community is also under development. This process is also led by TASC, and funded through the Northern Illinois Community Foundation. These efforts have all informed the development of innovative new and revised policies and practices to meet the

needs of justice agencies, and most importantly to help cultivate a culture of coverage in Illinois.” [Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice, Resource Guide, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

Mental Health

McGraw Delivered Mindfulness Training Seminars To Judges Including During Statewide Educational Meetings

McGraw Delivered Mindfulness Training Seminars To Judges Including During Statewide Educational Meetings. “Organizations should ensure that health insurance policies cover adequate mental health care services and that employees know how to access them. If such services aren’t being used, workers may need more information about what sort of help is available and where to find it. Train leaders to promote well-being. Even 3 hours of mental health awareness training can improve attitudes toward mental health at work (Dimoff, J. K., et al., International Journal of Stress Management, Vol. 23, No. 2, 2016). In Illinois, Judge McGraw has delivered mindfulness training seminars to judges, including during statewide educational meetings, to help them and their staff stay healthy and engaged with their public service mission in the face of stress.” [American Psychological Association, [9/20/22](#)]

Chiropractors

April 2024: McGraw Spoke At The Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association Conference

April 2024: McGraw Spoke At The Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association Conference. “Enjoyed speaking at the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association Conference in Peoria today. It was great to meet so many dedicated doctors from all over the district, and learn more about the challenges they’re facing due to governmental interference and regulation.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/27/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/27/24](#)]

Housing Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw said the costs of basic needs like housing were increasing and people were buying those needs with credit cards.
- ✓ In 2024, McGraw spoke at the Rockford Apartment Association Banquet and the group reposted several of his campaign Facebook posts.
- ✓ The Rockford Apartment Association was an organization “helping landlords” and represented the owners or managers of nearly 9,000 units in Northern Illinois.

Housing Costs

McGraw Said The Costs Of Basic Needs Like Housing Were Increasing And People Were Buying Those Needs With Credit Cards

McGraw Said The Costs Of Basic Needs Like Housing Were Increasing And People Were Buying Those Needs With Credit Cards. “McGraw said the economy will also be a high priority for him should he win. The cost of basic needs like food and housing are increasing and people are buying those needs with credit cards, McGraw said. They’re struggling to make ends meet and they feel as though the American Dream is slipping away from them, he said.” [Dispatch-Argus, [3/20/24](#)]

Rockford Apartment Association

May 2024: McGraw Spoke At The Rockford Apartment Association Banquet

May 2024: McGraw Spoke At The Rockford Apartment Association Banquet. “Enjoyed speaking at the Rockford Apartment Association Banquet last night.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [5/22/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [5/22/24](#)]

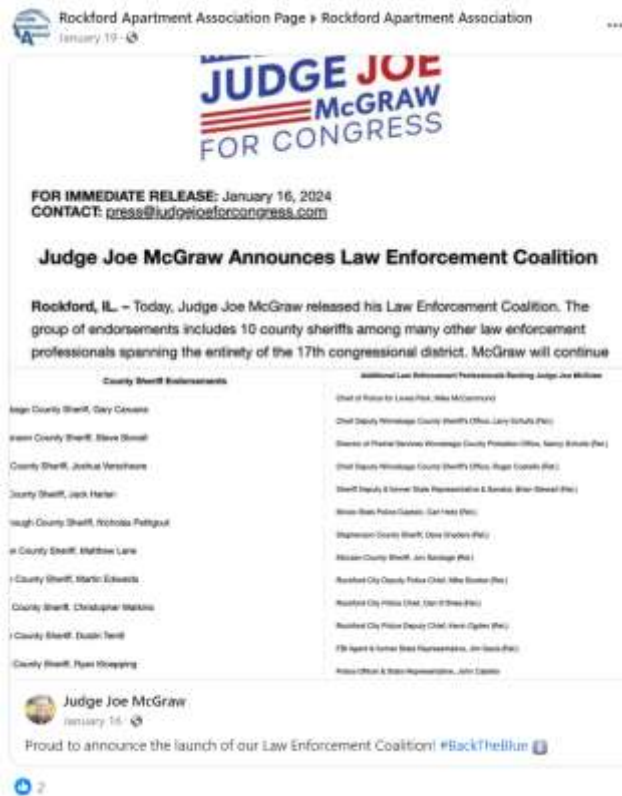
2024: The Rockford Apartment Association Page Reposted Several Of McGraw’s Campaign Facebook Group’s Posts

February 2024: Rockford Apartment Association Page Admin Reposted McGraw’s Post From The 50th Anniversary Of Christian Life School. [Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, [2/5/24](#)]



[Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, [2/5/24](#)]

January 2024: Rockford Apartment Association Page Reposted McGraw’s Launch Of His Congressional Campaign’s Law Enforcement Coalition. [Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, [1/19/24](#)]



[Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, [1/19/24](#)]

Rockford Apartment Association Was An Organization “Helping Landlords” And Represented The Owners Or Managers Of Nearly 9,000 Units In Northern Illinois

Rockford Apartment Association’s Facebook Biography Said The Group Was A “Local Non-Profit Organization Helping Landlords Become Better Landlords.” “About Rockford Apartment Association Page: We are a local non-profit organization helping landlords become better landlords.” [Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, accessed [5/30/24](#)]



[Rockford Apartment Association Page, Facebook, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

Rockford Apartment Association Was A Nonprofit Educational Organization That Represented Nearly 9,000 Units In The Illinois Area. “What is the RAA? RAA is a nonprofit, educational organization representing nearly 9,000 units in the northern Illinois area. Who belongs to RAA? People who own and/or manage single or multi-housing properties in Northern Illinois. This includes small scale and large scale owners, realtors, property management firms, managers of complexes, and condominium owners. Our membership also includes managers and suppliers of related products and services to our organization.” [Rockford Apartment Association, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

Rockford Apartment Association Represented People Who Owned Or Managed Single Or Multi-Housing Properties In Northern Illinois. “What is the RAA? RAA is a nonprofit, educational organization representing nearly 9,000 units in the northern Illinois area. Who belongs to RAA? People who own and/or manage single or multi-housing properties in Northern Illinois. This includes small scale and large scale owners, realtors, property management firms, managers of complexes, and condominium owners. Our membership also includes managers and suppliers of related products and services to our organization.” [Rockford Apartment Association, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

Immigration & Border Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2024: McGraw campaigned on border security and repeatedly said if elected, his top priority would be securing the U.S.-Mexico Border.
- ✓ McGraw supported building a border wall and repeatedly said the U.S. needed “finish the wall.”
- ✓ McGraw said he supported increasing funding for border patrol.
- ✓ McGraw blamed the border on the Biden Administration.
- ✓ McGraw said social services were being depleted due to mass illegal border crossings.
- ✓ November 2023: McGraw visited Yuma, Arizona, to see the southern border.
- ✓ McGraw called for a reformed pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- ✓ At McGraw’s law enforcement roundtable, Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana said he did not blame Gov. Abbott for sending a plane of asylum seekers to Rockford with little to no advanced notice. McGraw was endorsed by Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana and called him “not just a supporter but a friend.”
- ✓ McGraw said Gov. Pritzker bussed tens of thousands of migrants to Chicago, which overwhelmed the city’s resources.
- ✓ McGraw said his second priority if elected would be to reinstate the “remain in Mexico” policy enforced under the trump administration that kept asylum seekers in Mexico while they waited for their claims to be processed in U.S. courts.
- ✓ McGraw said as a judge he considered the immigration status of defendants to decide if they were a flight risk.
- ✓ McGraw repeated talking points from the Great Replacement Theory and claimed undocumented immigrants were “being cultivated as future Democratic voters” and were receiving free health care and free housing.
- ✓ McGraw criticized Sorensen for voting against House Resolution 2, but the legislation would severely limit pathways to asylum, roll back effective methods of decreasing illegal immigration, and keep border agents from doing their jobs.
- ✓ December 2023: McGraw criticized Sorensen for voting against the Protecting Our Communities From Failure To Secure The Border Act of 2023 which would significantly restrict the ability of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to make decisions over the uses of land and resources in emergency situations.
- ✓ April 2024: McGraw said Sorensen was “Pro-Mayorkas.” McGraw insinuated his support for impeachment of DHS Secretary Mayorkas, saying he would push to “hold accountable every bad actor

who allowed this crisis to fester” around this time when national Republicans were discussing impeaching Secretary Mayorkas.

Border Security

2024: McGraw Campaigned On Border Security And Repeatedly Said If Elected, His Top Priority Would Be Securing The U.S.-Mexico Border

McGraw Said If Elected To Congress, His Top Priority Would Be Securing The Border. “As a Judge, I saw first hand all the effects of the Biden open border policy. When I get to Congress, securing the border will be my top priority. Make sure to get out and vote on or before March 19th!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/14/24](#)]



McGraw’s Top Priorities Included Securing The US-Mexico Border. “McGraw also laid out his top priorities, including securing the U.S.-Mexico border, energy independence and bringing jobs back to the U.S. Rather than forms of energy from outside of the country, he said, the U.S. needs to become a net exporter of energy to lower the price of all energy forms. One of the biggest concerns he has heard from residents is how are they going to afford necessities and make ends meet. ‘What they are thinking about is how am I going to make it...how am I going to balance my checkbook...pay for the groceries... pay for fuel...pay for taxes?,’ he said.” [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

February 2024: At A Law Enforcement Roundtable, McGraw Said His Top Priority If Elected To Congress Would Be To Secure The Southern Border. “Joseph McGraw, a retired Illinois Circuit Court judge, said securing the United States' southern border would be his top priority if elected to Congress. The Rockford resident convened a ‘law enforcement roundtable’ of active and retired law enforcement friends and supporters Wednesday morning to discuss the nation border policy and other challenges facing local police departments. McGraw is running as a Republican to unseat U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline. The immigration crisis and the New Year's Eve arrival of a plane loaded with 355 migrants at the Chicago Rockford International Airport dominated much of the conversation. They also discussed struggles with police recruitment and the opioid addiction crisis. McGraw said he would continue to use the roundtable as a sounding board if elected. ‘The first thing to do is to secure the border and then we have to work on some kind of immigration policy, but we have to stop the flow,’ McGraw said. “It’s like the federal government seems to want to just, you know, they know the roof is leaking so they just want to buy more buckets rather than fix the roof.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Was Running To End The “Madness” On The Southern Border. “There's total chaos on our southern border. CBP agents are now being warned to look out for explosive devices after 10 IEDs were discovered

last week during a gunfight. I'm running to defend America by ending this madness, restoring order & cracking down on the cartels.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/19/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/19/23](#)]

McGraw Advocated For Border Security And Said It Was Not A Partisan Issue. “Border security isn't a Republican or Democrat issue. Do-nothing politicians like Eric Sorensen have played games with this topic for long enough. I'm running to restore law & order at the southern border and, when I get to Congress, IL17 families won't take a backseat to anyone.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/5/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/5/24](#)]

McGraw Supported Building A Border Wall And Repeatedly Said The U.S. Needed “Finish The Wall”

McGraw Supported Building A Border Wall And Said, “Joe Biden And Eric Sorensen's Open Borders Policies Have Made Every Single State A Border State.” “Retired 17th Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw is competing in Illinois's swing district currently held by Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL). The former judge has supported building a border wall while also calling for a reformed pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. ‘I am running for Congress to restore law and order because Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open borders policies have made every single state a border state,’ McGraw said. ‘The scourge of fentanyl and other lethal narcotics is tearing Illinois families apart while everyday citizens are being forced to bear the cost to take care of millions of illegal migrants. It's wrong and Illinois families deserve someone who is going to fight for them and their safety.’ McGraw's judicial career spanned over 20 years and included acting as a presiding judge over the criminal division and serving as chief judge.” [Washington Examiner, [11/6/23](#)]

McGraw’s Congressional Website Said He Would Fight To Build The Wall, Expand Border Patrol, Crack Down On The Cartels And Jail Those Who Distributed Drugs. “The border crisis may begin hundreds of miles away, but the mass amounts of fentanyl pouring into America are killing our community members, and the migrant crisis landing in our towns further burdens our already overloaded social services system. Judge Joe knows what it takes to secure the border and keep Illinois families safe. When Judge Joe is in Congress, Illinois families won't take a backseat to anyone. That's why he'll fight to build the wall, expand border patrol, crack down on the cartels, and ensure those who peddle lethal drugs are put behind bars.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

- **McGraw Said He Would Push To “Finish Building The Wall, Increase Funding For Border Patrol, And Hold Accountable Every Bad Actor Who Allowed This Crisis To Fester.”** McGraw posted on Facebook, “Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to visit our southern border in Yuma, Arizona, and witness first-hand the situation we face as a nation. What I’ve seen at our border is worse than I could have imagined – this is a national security emergency. As a Judge, I spent 20 years on the bench working to keep people safe. But thanks to Democrat policies, every single county in this country is now a border country. Drugs, terrorists, and criminals are flowing into our country at record rates. I’m running for Congress to restore law and order. I’ll push to finish building the wall, increase funding for border patrol, and hold accountable every bad actor who allowed this crisis to fester. Throughout this week, Ill be sharing more stories and insights from my trip to the southern border, and hope it sheds some light on our truly frightening reality.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]

- **McGraw Advocated For Securing The Border By Finishing The Wall, Hiring More Border Agents, And Going After Cartels.** “Every state is now a border state. It’s time we secure the border once and for all: Finish the wall Hire more border agents Go after the cartels, smugglers, and dealers” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/5/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/5/24](#)]

- **February 2024: McGraw Said The U.S. Needed To Secure The Border And “Finish The Wall.”** “The Biden-Sorensen border crisis has turned every community into a border community and now Illinois families are suffering. It's time we secure our border once and for all: Finish the wall Add more agents Enhance technological capabilities Crack down on the cartels” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/9/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/9/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Supported Increasing Funding For Border Patrol

McGraw Said He Would Push To “Finish Building The Wall, Increase Funding For Border Patrol, And Hold Accountable Every Bad Actor Who Allowed This Crisis To Fester.” McGraw posted on Facebook, “Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to visit our southern border in Yuma, Arizona, and witness first-hand the situation we face as a nation. What I’ve seen at our border is worse than I could have imagined – this is a national security emergency. As a Judge, I spent 20 years on the bench working to keep people safe. But thanks to Democrat policies, every single county in this country is now a border country. Drugs, terrorists, and criminals are flowing into our country at record rates. I’m running for Congress to restore law and order. I’ll push to finish building the wall, increase funding for border patrol, and hold accountable every bad actor who allowed this crisis to fester. Throughout this week, I’ll be sharing more stories and insights from my trip to the southern border, and hope it sheds some light on our truly frightening reality.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]

McGraw Blamed The Border On The Biden Administration

McGraw Said Liberal Politicians Opened The Border. “America is a nation of laws. As a prosecutor, private attorney, & judge, I’ve dedicated my life to upholding those laws. Now, as liberal politicians open our border and peddle soft-on-crime measures, I’m running for Congress to restore law & order.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/12/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/12/24](#)]

McGraw: "There's Something Wrong When Big-City Liberals Would Rather Demonize Honest Cops Than Crack Down On Criminals, When Politicians In Washington Care More About Illegal Immigrants Than The Safety And Security Of Our Own Citizens, And When The Exporting Of Good Manufacturing Jobs, Combined With Record Inflation, Crushes Families' Economic Viability." “McGraw served as a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Boone and Winnebago counties, for more than two decades until retiring in July, including as chief judge from 2012 to 2017. He was also the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until his retirement. ‘There's something wrong when big-city liberals would rather demonize honest cops than crack down on criminals, when politicians in Washington care more about illegal immigrants than the safety and security of our own citizens, and when the exporting of good manufacturing jobs, combined with record inflation, crushes families' economic viability,’ McGraw said in a statement. McGraw added that Sorensen ‘is part of the

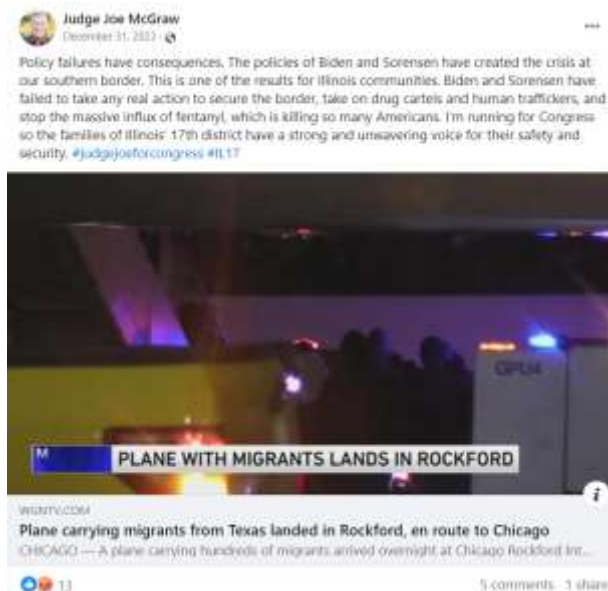
problem,' specifically calling the incumbent out for supporting President Joe Biden's legislative agenda." [The Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw: "Joe Biden And Eric Sorensen's Open Border Policies Resulted In A Man On The Terror Watch List Being Released Free Into The United States For Almost A Year." "Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open border policies resulted in a man on the terror watch list being released free into the United States for almost a year. There's no other way to put it -- the Biden-Sorensen open borders agenda is EXTREME and DANGEROUS." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]

McGraw Blamed Biden And Sorensen For The Crisis At The Southern Border. "Policy failures have consequences. The policies of Biden and Sorensen have created the crisis at our southern border. This is one of the results for Illinois communities. Biden and Sorensen have failed to take any real action to secure the border, take on drug cartels and human traffickers, and stop the massive influx of fentanyl, which is killing so many Americans. I'm running for Congress so the families of Illinois' 17th district have a strong and unwavering voice for their safety and security. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17" [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/31/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/31/23](#)]

McGraw Said Social Services Were Being Depleted Due To Mass Illegal Border Crossings

McGraw: “While In Yuma, I Met With Local Organizations Who Are Dealing With Dwindling Resources Due To The Mass Flow Of Migrants Across The Border. At The Yuma Food Bank, We Heard That Food Supply Levels Are Extremely Low For Arizona Residents Who Need Them Most, Due To The Large Amount Of Individual Crossing The Border Illegally With No Resources.” McGraw posted on Facebook, “Social Services Drained Due to Illegal Border Crossings. While in Yuma, I met with local organizations who are dealing with dwindling resources due to the mass flow of migrants across the border. At the Yuma Food bank, we heard that food supply levels are extremely low for Arizona residents who need them most, due to the large amount of individual crossing the border illegally with no resources. Our group also visited a Level 1 Trauma Hospital and heard from the Medical Director about the acute care demands they face due to an overwhelming amount of migrants needing attention upon entering the U.S. In both cases, Americans are not receiving the timely services crucial to maintaining healthy lives. These are just some of the unintended consequences that come with a wide-open southern border. Eric Sorensen has failed to take meaningful action that would address the issues I saw first-hand at the Border. We need a new voice to represent Illinois’ 17th Congressional District who will prioritize our nation’s most pressing issues like securing our border.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/7/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/7/23](#)]

November 2023: McGraw Visited Yuma, Arizona, To See The Southern Border

McGraw Op-Ed: In November 2023, McGraw Visited Yuma, Arizona, To See The Southern Border And Said He Was “Horrified By What [He] Saw.” “Last month, I was in Yuma, Arizona, to visit our southern border. As a husband, father, and judge — I was horrified by what I saw. And you should be too. I spent my career in law enforcement — serving as a prosecutor, private attorney and judge. I’ve dealt with some of the most violent criminals in Illinois. During my time on the bench, I was appointed to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as well as oversaw PATH Court — a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors. I spent my career fighting for safe streets, safe communities and safe families. It has always been my mission to make Illinois a safe and prosperous place to call home. What I saw at the border was an absolute disrespect and disregard for the rule of law. Our government is failing us.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

- **McGraw Op-Ed: “The Most Heartbreaking Part Is That This Crisis Only Exists Because The Biden-Sorensen Agenda Promotes It.”** “Last year alone, the Yuma Regional Medical Center spent over \$26 million caring for illegal immigrants. The hospital is completely overwhelmed with patients and often, American citizens who are in need of care are forced to drive 80 miles or more to a different hospital. The most heartbreaking part is that this crisis only exists because the Biden-Sorensen agenda promotes it. When I’m in Congress, I will work hard to finish building the wall and secure the border once and for all. I will increase funding and resources for our border patrol officers who are on the frontlines of this crisis.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

McGraw And Other Republican House Candidates Competing In Competitive Districts Visited Yuma, Arizona To Tour The US-Mexico Border. “Several Republican House candidates competing in competitive

districts visited Yuma, Arizona, over the weekend to tour the U.S.-Mexico border and meet with community officials tackling the border crisis. Republicans from various states, vying to flip seats held by Democrats in an attempt to hold and expand the GOP's slim majority in the lower chamber, were led by Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Jonathan Lines. The candidates expressed their opposition to President Joe Biden's border policies and the House members currently representing their districts. [...] Retired 17th Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw is competing in Illinois's swing district currently held by Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL). The former judge has supported building a border wall while also calling for a reformed pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. 'I am running for Congress to restore law and order because Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open borders policies have made every single state a border state,' McGraw said. 'The scourge of fentanyl and other lethal narcotics is tearing Illinois families apart while everyday citizens are being forced to bear the cost to take care of millions of illegal migrants. It's wrong and Illinois families deserve someone who is going to fight for them and their safety.' McGraw's judicial career spanned over 20 years and included acting as a presiding judge over the criminal division and serving as chief judge. Sorensen has previously said he supports significant immigration reform and wants to help the local communities gain the resources needed to deal with the influx of immigrants." [Washington Examiner, [11/6/23](#)]

McGraw Said During His Visit To Yuma, He Saw The Consequences Of Scarce Resources Along The Border. "Social Services Drained Due to Illegal Border Crossings While in Yuma, I met with local organizations who are dealing with dwindling resources due to the mass flow of migrants across the Border. At the Yuma Food Bank, we heard that food supply levels are extremely low for Arizona residents who need them most, due to the large amount of individuals crossing the border illegally with no resources. Our group also visited a Level 1 Trauma Hospital and heard from the Medical Director about the acute care demands they face due to an overwhelming amount of migrants needing attention upon entering the U.S. In both cases, Americans are not receiving the timely services crucial to maintaining healthy lives. These are just some of the unintended consequences that come with a wide-open southern border. Eric Sorensen has failed to take meaningful action that would address the issues I saw first-hand at the Border. We need a new voice to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District who will prioritize our nation's most pressing issues like securing our border. #judgejoeforcongress #IL17 #BorderSecurity" [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/7/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/7/23](#)]

Pathway To Citizenship

McGraw Called For A Reformed Pathway To Citizenship For Undocumented Immigrants

McGraw Called For A Reformed Pathway To Citizenship For Undocumented Immigrants. “Retired 17th Circuit Court Judge Joe McGraw is competing in Illinois's swing district currently held by Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL). The former judge has supported building a border wall while also calling for a reformed pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. ‘I am running for Congress to restore law and order because Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open borders policies have made every single state a border state,’ McGraw said. ‘The scourge of fentanyl and other lethal narcotics is tearing Illinois families apart while everyday citizens are being forced to bear the cost to take care of millions of illegal migrants. It's wrong and Illinois families deserve someone who is going to fight for them and their safety.’ McGraw's judicial career spanned over 20 years and included acting as a presiding judge over the criminal division and serving as chief judge.” [Washington Examiner, [11/6/23](#)]

Abbott's Transportation Of Migrants

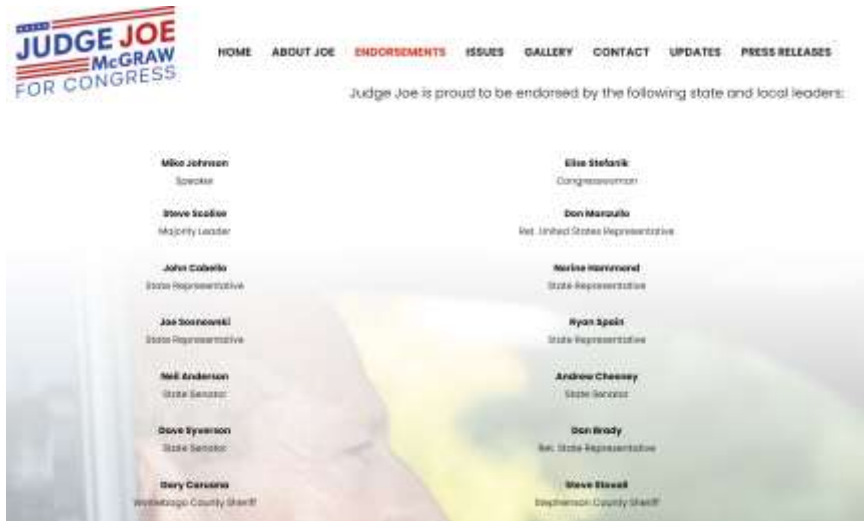
At McGraw's Law Enforcement Roundtable, A Winnebago County Sheriff Said He Did Not Blame Gov. Abbott For Sending A Plane Of Asylum Seekers To Rockford With Little To No Advanced Notice

At McGraw's Law Enforcement Roundtable, Winnebago County Sheriff Caruana Said He Was “100% Not Blaming” Gov. Abbott For Sending A Plane Of Asylum Seekers To Rockford With Little Or No Advanced Notice

At McGraw's Law Enforcement Roundtable, Winnebago County Sheriff Caruana Said He Was “100% Not Blaming” Gov. Abbott For Sending A Plane Of Asylum Seekers To Rockford With Little Or No Advanced Notice. “Joseph McGraw, a retired Illinois Circuit Court judge, said securing the United States' southern border would be his top priority if elected to Congress. The Rockford resident convened a ‘law enforcement roundtable’ of active and retired law enforcement friends and supporters Wednesday morning to discuss the nation border policy and other challenges facing local police departments. [...] Participants included Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana, Stephenson County Sheriff Steve Stovall, Illinois state Rep. John Cabello, R-Machesney Park, Loves Park Police Chief Mike McCammond, retired Cherry Valley Police Sgt. Bryon Muraski and retired Rockford Police Deputy Chief Kevin Ogden. Caruana, a Republican, said he ordered his deputies to escort eight busloads of migrants that had been chartered by the state of Texas out of the area when a plane of asylum-seekers landed in Rockford. Although he got little or no advance notice of the planes arrival, Caruana said he is ‘100% not blaming’ Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for sending migrants to Illinois without notice, saying ‘I would do the same thing.’ Caruana instead blamed a broken federal immigration system and seized the opportunity to endorse McGraw and criticize Sorensen.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/1/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana And Called Him “Not Just A Supporter But A Friend”

McGraw Was Endorsed By Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/30/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

McGraw: “It’s An Honor To Call Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana Not Just A Supporter But A Friend.”
 “It’s an honor to call Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana not just a supporter but a friend. Tonight we gathered to talk about what it’s going to take to restore law and order in our communities and keep Illinois families safe. We can do it -- and flipping #IL17 will be a huge step!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/11/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/11/24](#)]

McGraw Said Gov. Pritzker Bussed Tens Of Thousands Of Migrants To Chicago Which Overwhelmed The City’s Resources

MCGRAW OP-ED: McGraw Said Gov. Pritzker Bussed Tens Of Thousands Of Migrants To Chicago Which Overwhelmed The City’s Resources. “The most heartbreaking part is that this crisis only exists because the Biden-Sorensen agenda promotes it. When I’m in Congress, I will work hard to finish building the wall and secure the border once and for all. I will increase funding and resources for our border patrol officers who are on the frontlines of this crisis. And I will treat the cartels like the dangerous criminals that they are. Anyone who dares to bring dangerous drugs into our country and take innocent American lives should expect to be met with the full force of the law. Sorensen and Biden didn’t just fail to fix the problem; they caused it. Here in Illinois, our governor has bused tens of thousands of migrants to Chicago, and the city’s resources are so overwhelmed, Governor Pritzker is now calling on other cities to take in these illegal immigrants and is spending over \$40 million of taxpayer money to accommodate them. Everyday, Illinois families are struggling to get by with the rising cost of living and yet our government is rewarding criminal behavior with tax-dollar handouts.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

Title 42**McGraw Said His Second Priority If Elected Would Be To Reinstate The “Remain In Mexico” Policy Enforced Under The Trump Administration**

McGraw Said If Elected His Second Priority Would Be Reinstating The “Remain In Mexico” Policy. “I do know that all the polling data shows this is the number one issue on everyone’s mind,” McGraw said in an interview, referring to the southern border. ‘You really have to be living in a cave not to realize that, and the number two issue is the economy.’ During the Hampton event, he said that if elected his first priority would be securing the border, closely followed by reinstating the ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy. Officially called the Migrant Protection Protocols, ‘Remain in Mexico’ was launched in 2019 by the Department of Homeland Security under the Trump administration. It required people seeking asylum at the southern border to remain in Mexico until their notice to appear before a U.S. immigration judge. The protocol was later terminated by the Department of Homeland Security under the Biden administration.” [Quad-City Times, [5/30/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Would Like The US To Return To The “Remain In Mexico” Policy Enforced Under The Trump Administration. “In regard to border security legislation, McGraw would like to see the U.S. return to the ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy that was enforced under the Trump administration. ‘We don’t need to reinvent the wheel,’ McGraw said. ‘We just need to go back to what was working before.’” [6KWQC, [3/19/24](#)]

The Remain In Mexico Policy, Officially Called The Migrant Protection Protocol, Was A Trump Administration Policy That Kept Asylum Seekers In Mexico While They Waited For Their Claims To Be Processed In U.S. Courts

The Remain In Mexico Policy, Officially Called The Migrant Protection Protocol, Was A Trump Administration Policy That Kept Asylum Seekers In Mexico While They Waited For Their Claims To Be Processed In U.S. Courts. “The Migrant Protection Protocol, or MPP, is also called ‘Remain in Mexico.’ It was first implemented under President Trump, and the idea was to keep asylum seekers at the southern border in Mexico while they wait for their claims to be processed in U.S. courts. President Biden paused this policy after he took office, but after some legal back-and-forth, a U.S. District Court judge in Texas ruled this summer that the White House had ended the Remain in Mexico program improperly.” [NPR, [10/22/21](#)]

- **Under MPP, The Majority Of Asylum Seekers Were Separated From Legal Counsel; All MPP Hearings Were Suspended Indefinitely Due To COVID-19.** “Between January 2019 and December 2020, more than 70,000 people were returned to Mexico to await US court hearings. In March 2020, all pending MPP hearings were suspended temporarily and later indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vast majority of MPP enrollments occurred prior to March 2020 because those who otherwise would have been eligible for MPP were expelled under Title 42. [...] Another effect of MPP was to separate asylum seekers from legal aid in the United States, where the vast majority of legal professionals trained in US asylum law are located. ‘The majority of people that are subject to MPP will not have access to counsel,’ Anna Gallagher, the executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC), told CMS in an interview in early 2020. ‘Essentially what [the Trump] administration has done, by preventing access to counsel and by refusing admission of this population that has a right to seek asylum, is they have eliminated access to asylum.’” [Center for Migration Studies, accessed [6/7/22](#)]
- **April 2020-January 2021: Despite MPP Hearings Being Indefinitely Suspended, The Trump Administration Placed Over 6,000 People Into The Non-Functioning Program.** “In March 2020, in

response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all pending MPP 1.0 hearings were suspended temporarily, and then later indefinitely. This decision left tens of thousands of people in Mexico awaiting their hearings in a state of limbo. Despite the indefinite suspension of MPP hearings, the Trump administration placed over 6,000 people into MPP from April 2020 through January 2021. Individuals placed into MPP during this period were primarily those who CBP could not rapidly “expel” under a public health order known as ‘Title 42,’ which was also instituted in March. These individuals were predominantly of nationalities that Mexico had refused to permit the United States to expel into its territory, including Cubans, Ecuadorians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans.” [American Immigration Council, [1/7/22](#)]

Immigration Status Of Defendants

McGraw Said As A Judge He Considered The Immigration Status Of Defendants To Decide If They Were A Flight Risk

McGraw Said As A Judge He Considered The Immigration Status Of Defendants To Decide If They Were A Flight Risk. [McGraw:] “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can’t call ICE and say hey I got this guy here and are you looking for and so forth, is he here legally or not. That was stopped by the Democratic administration in IL and that further hamstrings your sheriffs and further hamstrings your law enforcement officers throughout the state because when they pull someone over they have no idea who they have got there. And when that person comes before the judge, the judge has deprived of some essential information that he or she needs in order to evaluate the risk potential.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 31:27, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw Said When He Was On The Bench And A Defendant Appeared Before Him He Would Have Their Background Information And Would Know If They Were In The U.S. Illegally.** [McGraw:] “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can’t call ICE and say hey I got this guy here and are you looking for and so forth, is he here legally or not. That was stopped by the Democratic administration in IL and that further hamstrings your sheriffs and further hamstrings your law enforcement officers throughout the state because when they pull someone over they have no idea who they have got there. And when that person comes before the judge, the judge has deprived of some essential information that he or she needs in order to evaluate the risk potential. So when you call that with no cash bail in IL it is like you made a situation very dangerous for people who are slipping through without anyone really knowing who they have in front of them. That is an example of state defying the federal government and the federal government not enforcing the law in IL and other places as well.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 31:27, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)
- **McGraw: “That Would Affect What Kind Of Decisions I Made About Bond Affect A Number Of Things. Like You Know If This Person Is Here Illegally Well What Are The Chances They Are Going To Be A Flight Risk, I Think Pretty High Okay And Just As A General Statement.”** [McGraw:] “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says

law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can't call ICE and say hey I got this guy here and are you looking for and so forth, is he here legally or not. That was stopped by the Democratic administration in IL and that further hamstring your sheriffs and further hamstring your law enforcement officers throughout the state because when they pull someone over they have no idea who they have got there. And when that person comes before the judge, the judge has deprived of some essential information that he or she needs in order to evaluate the risk potential. So when you call that with no cash bail in IL it is like you made a situation very dangerous for people who are slipping through without anyone really knowing who they have in front of them. That is an example of state defying the federal government and the federal government not enforcing the law in IL and other places as well." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 31:27, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

Benefits For Undocumented Immigrants

McGraw Repeated Talking Points From The Great Replacement Theory And Claimed Undocumented Immigrants Were "Being Cultivated As Future Democratic Voters" And Were Receiving Free Health Care And Free Housing

McGraw Said Illegal Immigrants Were "Being Cultivated As Future Democratic Voters, Teaching Them To Be On The Dole. They Are Also Getting Free Health Care, Free Housing. The List Goes On And On And On." [McGraw:] "And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?" [Audience:] "And veterans taken out of homes to." [McGraw:] "And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 20:01, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

NOTE: See Thematic 1 for McGraw's comments on the Great Replacement Theory.

House Resolution 2

McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against House Resolution 2, But The Legislation Would Severely Limit Pathways To Asylum, Roll Back Effective Methods Of Decreasing Illegal Immigration, And Keep Border Agents From Doing Their Jobs

April 2024: McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against House Resolution 2

April 2024: McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against House Resolution 2 And Said He Was "Anti-Wall & Pro-Mayorkas." "Illinoisans know the border is about national security & public safety. To Eric Sorensen, the border is just politics. Facts: ❌ He voted against commonsense border measures (HR2) ❌ He is anti-wall & pro-Mayorkas ❌ His crisis has costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of \$" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/19/24](#)]



House Resolution 2 Would Severely Limit Pathways To Asylum, Roll Back Effective Methods Of Decreasing Illegal Immigration, And Keep Border Agents From Doing Their Jobs

HR 2 Would Severely Restrict Pathways To Asylum, Allowing Only People Who Traveled Directly To The U.S. To Apply And Arbitrarily Limiting Justifications For Granting It

The Hill Headline: “GOP Border Bill Would Gut Pathways To Asylum” [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

In Some Cases, HR 2 Borrowed Language Directly From A Trump-Era Asylum Regulation That Was Struck Down In Court. “A Republican border and immigration bill set to come to the House floor Thursday would represent one of the biggest clawbacks of asylum rights in decades if enacted, experts warn. The GOP is aiming to pass the bill May 11 — the same day President Biden is set to lift Title 42. [...] The security measures are paired with provisions gutting asylum rights, in some cases borrowing word-for-word from a Trump-era asylum regulation struck down in court.” [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

The Bill Would Require Asylum-Seekers To Apply For Asylum In Any Other Country They Pass Through En Route To The U.S., Allowing Only Those Who Faced Denials To Apply To The U.S. “The bill requires those seeking asylum to first apply at any other country they pass through, allowing only those who receive denials to try the U.S. That language largely bars anyone who cannot directly come to a U.S. port of entry, essentially limiting asylum to Mexicans, Canadians, and those who already have hard-to-secure tourism visas who can hop a direct flight to the U.S.” [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

- **The Bill Would Allow Only Mexican And Canadian Nationals Or Those With “Hard-To-Secure Tourism Visas” Seeking Asylum To Apply For U.S. Asylum – Even If They Faced Persecution.** “Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, said the bill would ‘effectively end the system of asylum that we’ve had for the last 43 years.’ [...] The bill requires those seeking asylum to first apply at any other country they pass through, allowing only those who receive denials to try the U.S. That language largely bars anyone who cannot directly come to a U.S. port of entry, essentially limiting asylum to Mexicans, Canadians, and those who already have hard-to-secure tourism visas who can hop a direct flight to the U.S. Reichlin-Melnick said anyone with a layover would be barred from seeking asylum, as would anyone south of Mexico traveling by car, if they don’t first seek and get denied asylum on the way. ‘Say [Russian opposition leader Alexei] Navalny is released from Russian prison today. And he gets on a flight and it stops in

an airport in another country before getting here,' he said. 'Well, he is not eligible for asylum after this bill because he didn't apply for asylum in the country in which he stopped on the layover.'" [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

- **For Example, If Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny Were Released From Russian Prison, He Would Have To Apply For And Be Denied Asylum In A Country Where He Stopped For Layover Before He Would Be Eligible To Apply For U.S. Asylum.** "Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, said the bill would 'effectively end the system of asylum that we've had for the last 43 years.' [...] The bill requires those seeking asylum to first apply at any other country they pass through, allowing only those who receive denials to try the U.S. That language largely bars anyone who cannot directly come to a U.S. port of entry, essentially limiting asylum to Mexicans, Canadians, and those who already have hard-to-secure tourism visas who can hop a direct flight to the U.S. Reichlin-Melnick said anyone with a layover would be barred from seeking asylum, as would anyone south of Mexico traveling by car, if they don't first seek and get denied asylum on the way. 'Say [Russian opposition leader Alexei] Navalny is released from Russian prison today. And he gets on a flight and it stops in an airport in another country before getting here,' he said. 'Well, he is not eligible for asylum after this bill because he didn't apply for asylum in the country in which he stopped on the layover.'" [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]
- **The Bill Would Require Those Who Do Apply For Asylum In The U.S. To Pass An Initial Screening Proving They Would Likely Earn It And Place Additional Barriers On Those Who Do Not Pass.** "Even the bar for the initial screening ahead of seeking asylum has been raised — would-be applicants must show they are more likely than not to be granted the status, rather than a 'significant possibility' they could qualify — meaning fewer applicants would get a chance to make their case. Many may not even make it to the initial screening, as citizens from a number of countries are effectively blocked from seeking asylum. [...] Those who do manage to make it to a port of entry and who do pass the initial screening would be met with another round of limitations placed on existing asylum protections." [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

The Bill Would Limit Justifications For Asylum To Those Fleeing As A Targeted "Social Group" And Political Persecution Based On Challenges To A State's Leadership. "The bill narrows protections for those fleeing from political persecution as well as those who are targeted as members of a 'social group,' a category that can be used for those persecuted due to their sexuality. The legislation would grant asylum only to those whose political activity is a challenge to current state leadership rather than a cause in general, meaning that women in Saudi Arabia pushing for the expansion of women's rights but uninterested in overthrowing the monarchy would not qualify." [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

- **For Example, Women In Saudi Arabia Persecuted For Advocacy For Women's Equality But Uninterested In Challenging The Saudi Monarchy Would Not Qualify For Asylum.** "The bill narrows protections for those fleeing from political persecution as well as those who are targeted as members of a 'social group,' a category that can be used for those persecuted due to their sexuality. The legislation would grant asylum only to those whose political activity is a challenge to current state leadership rather than a cause in general, meaning that women in Saudi Arabia pushing for the expansion of women's rights but uninterested in overthrowing the monarchy would not qualify." [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

The Bill Would Deny Asylum To Those Seeking Refuge From Unfair Laws That Are "Infrequently Enforced" – Leaving Ambiguity For Laws Enforced Rarely Or Selectively Against Minorities. "It also would deem someone eligible for asylum if they violate laws that are 'unenforced or infrequently enforced' unless they can demonstrate that they could be personally impacted by it. Reichlin-Melnick said while that language appears to guard against an applicant seeking to use an obscure law to gain asylum protections, it's written so broadly it could present hurdles for a number of groups. 'What does it mean for a law to be frequently enforced? Well, what if you are a small ethnic minority? How can a law be frequently enforced against your group if there's only a handful?' he asked. He also pointed to a recently passed law in Uganda that makes homosexuality illegal and calls for the death penalty in some cases. Under the bill, a Ugandan national would need to show 'credible evidence that such a law or policy has been or would be applied to the applicant personally.'" [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

- **For Example, It Is Unclear Whether The Bill Would Deny Asylum To Those Fleeing From A Law Potentially Subjecting LGBT Ugandans To The Death Penalty If They Could Not Prove It Would Apply To Them Personally.** “It also would deem someone eligible for asylum if they violate laws that are ‘unenforced or infrequently enforced’ unless they can demonstrate that they could be personally impacted by it. Reichlin-Melnick said while that language appears to guard against an applicant seeking to use an obscure law to gain asylum protections, it’s written so broadly it could present hurdles for a number of groups. ‘What does it mean for a law to be frequently enforced? Well, what if you are a small ethnic minority? How can a law be frequently enforced against your group if there’s only a handful?’ he asked. He also pointed to a recently passed law in Uganda that makes homosexuality illegal and calls for the death penalty in some cases. Under the bill, a Ugandan national would need to show ‘credible evidence that such a law or policy has been or would be applied to the applicant personally.’” [The Hill, [5/10/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Roll Back Effective Methods Of Decreasing Illegal Immigration, Including Parole Programs And Using An App To Schedule Appointments For Asylum Seekers

HR 2 Would Prohibit The DHS From Using “Eligibility Criteria Describing An Entire Class Of Potential Parole Recipients” Of Entry Into The U.S. “The House bill (Title VII) would severely limit an administration’s ability to use parole to allow into the United States individuals in need of humanitarian protection. The language in the House bill prohibits the Secretary of Homeland Security from using ‘eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential parole recipients.’” [Forbes, [5/10/23](#)]

Parole In Immigration Law Is Distinct From Parole In Criminal Justice – It Allows Noncitizens To Be Granted U.S Entry Without Existing Legal Basis, Including Due To Humanitarian Crises. “Under U.S. immigration law, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has discretion to grant ‘parole’ to certain noncitizens to allow them to enter or temporarily remain in the United States for specific reasons. Parole under immigration law is very different than in the criminal justice context. This fact sheet explains the nature of parole, how parole requests are considered, who may qualify, and what parole programs currently exist. What is Parole? The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to exercise discretion to temporarily allow certain noncitizens to physically enter or remain in the United States if they are applying for admission but do not have a legal basis for being admitted. DHS may only grant parole if the agency determines that there are urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons for a person to be in the United States and that person merits a favorable exercise of discretion. Grants of parole are made for limited periods of time, often to accomplish a discrete purpose, and individuals are typically expected to depart the United States when the authorized period expires unless another form of status or relief is conferred.” [American Immigration Council, [1/10/23](#)]

Parole Programs For Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, And Nicaragua Reduced Illegal Immigration By Allowing Immigrants To Enter The U.S. With An American Sponsor Rather Than Crossing The Border Illegally. Parole programs for Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Nicaragua were the primary target of House Republicans in restricting the use of parole. However, Border Patrol data show these parole programs have been effective in reducing illegal entry. ‘In January 2023, as a way to provide legal pathways, the Biden administration announced parole programs for up to 30,000 individuals a month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to enter the United States with a U.S. sponsor,’ noted a recent NFAP report. ‘The parole programs produced dramatic results and almost unprecedented effectiveness in reducing illegal entry as measured by encounters with Border Patrol agents.’” [Forbes, [5/10/23](#)]

- **The Number Of Border Patrol Encounters At The Southwest Border Decreased By 95 Percent For Immigrants Of Countries In The Parole Programs.** “The number of Border Patrol encounters at the Southwest border declined by 95% for Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela as a group between December 2022 and March 2023. Border Patrol encounters for all other countries not in the parole programs increased by 15% during this period. The parole policies represented a humane alternative to forcing individuals to seek protection by entering through dangerous routes between ports of entry because legal access to the United States is blocked.” [Forbes, [5/10/23](#)]

- **Ending Parole Programs Would Also Prevent War Victims, Including Ukrainians Under The Uniting For Ukraine Program, To Receive Parole In The Future.** “Under Uniting for Ukraine, Americans have sponsored more than 200,000 Ukrainians who have fled Russia’s invasion, primarily Ukrainian women and children. The Biden administration also paroled thousands of Afghans into the United States after the fall of Kabul. The new restrictions in the House bill would prevent a repeat of such efforts, even though hundreds of thousands of Americans are eager to help people in unfortunate circumstances. A House source confirmed the bill would cut off future parole programs for war victims. Current parolees would be forced to leave the United States after their parole expires. They would only be allowed to renew once for a year (Section 701). Ukrainians (and other parolees) could only stay if they were approved for a different immigration status. It would be challenging for many Ukrainians to obtain asylum under current law, and the House bill makes it more difficult for anyone to be approved for asylum.” [Forbes, [5/10/23](#)]

The Bill Would Also End The Use Of A CBP App For Asylum Seekers To Schedule Appointments, Forcing Them To Instead Present Themselves At The Border Or Point Of Entry, Increasing Unlawful Entry. The bill (Section 122) would also end using the CBP One app for asylum applicants to schedule an appointment at a port of entry. The alternative to applying for asylum at a port of entry is for individuals to cross the border and present themselves. Banning the use of the app, as the bill does, would almost certainly increase unlawful entry, as would ending the parole programs.” [Forbes, [5/10/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Prevent Border Officers From Performing Basic Tasks

The Bill Barred Border Agents From “Processing” Migrants, Preventing Officers From Doing Basic Tasks. “H.R. 2 — originally designed to be one of the first major pieces of legislation passed under the new Republican majority — was approved with a 219-213 vote, a day after wrangling over relatively minor sections of the bill briefly delayed its advancement. Beyond building the wall, the legislation greatly increases the hiring of border agents and seeks to bar them from doing any ‘processing’ of migrants, language Democrats said would prevent officers from doing basic tasks.” [The Hill, [5/11/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Allow Children To Be Detained For Longer Periods Of Time And Require More Unaccompanied Children To Be Returned To Their Countries Of Origin

HR 2 Would End The Existing Presumption Against Detaining A Child Accompanied By Family, Making It Easier For Families With Minor Children To Be Held In Detention Indefinitely. “The bill would roll back safeguards for migrant children The Flores Settlement Agreement is the current standard that governs the conditions under which children can legally be held in U.S. immigration detention. This bill would undermine some of the agreement’s most fundamental stipulations, including restrictions on how long kids can be detained, while also limiting access to an existing legal pathway for migrant children. In particular, the bill would: Explicitly end the existing presumption against detaining a noncitizen child accompanied by family, making it easier for families with minor children to be held in detention indefinitely.” [National Immigration Forum, [5/8/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Extend The Timeline For Unaccompanied Children To Be Transported To HHS Custody From 72 Hours To 30 Days, Allowing Them To Be Detained For Significantly Longer. “The bill would roll back safeguards for migrant children The Flores Settlement Agreement is the current standard that governs the conditions under which children can legally be held in U.S. immigration detention. This bill would undermine some of the agreement’s most fundamental stipulations, including restrictions on how long kids can be detained, while also limiting access to an existing legal pathway for migrant children. In particular, the bill would: [...] Extend the timeline to transfer unaccompanied migrant children to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from 72 hours to 30 days for those with humanitarian claims, and make the transfer of other unaccompanied migrant kids to HHS discretionary, significantly extending the time that migrant children could be held in border facilities that are not equipped to care for minors.” [National Immigration Forum, [5/8/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Require The Return Of Unaccompanied Migrant Children To Their Countries Of Origin If They Are Not Trafficking Victims And Do Not Express Fear Of Return. “The bill would roll back safeguards for migrant children The Flores Settlement Agreement is the current standard that governs the conditions under which children can legally be held in U.S. immigration detention. This bill would undermine some of the agreement’s most fundamental stipulations, including restrictions on how long kids can be detained, while also limiting access to an existing legal pathway for migrant children. In particular, the bill would: [...] Amend the bipartisan William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to require the return of all unaccompanied migrant children — not just those from Mexico and Canada — to their countries of origin if they are not trafficking victims and do not express a fear of return.” [National Immigration Forum, [5/8/23](#)]

- **Leader Jeffries Called The Bill The “Child Deportation Act.”** “Congressional Democrats sharply criticized the bill when House Republicans announced it at the end of April, saying it would go beyond the scope of border security and punish all noncitizens, including legal residents, trafficking victims and refugees. Reached for comment before Thursday’s vote, the office of House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., pointed to his comments at a news conference Wednesday, when he called the bill the ‘Child Deportation Act’ and characterized it as ‘one of the extreme MAGA Republicans’ top priorities.” [NBC News, [5/11/23](#)]

HR 2 Would Not Increase The Number Of Immigration Judges To Address A Backlog Of Cases

HR 2 Would Not Increase Numbers Of Asylum Officers Or Immigration Judges. “While some elements of the proposed legislation might prove effective and helpful, like additional investments in personnel and technology at ports of entry, the bill’s enforcement-only focus and failure to address lawful pathways is deeply flawed. The bill’s overarching focus on physical barriers and deterrence measures — but not increased numbers of asylum officers or immigration judges — presents a vision of the U.S.’s southern border where people fleeing violence and persecution would be quickly removed, without meaningful access to protection.” [National Immigration Forum, [5/8/23](#)]

A Shortage Of Immigration Judges Leaves Migrants In Legal Limbo And Has Created A Backlog Of More Than Two Million Cases. “President Biden’s attempt to deal efficiently with a new surge of migration following the end of Title 42 pandemic restrictions has focused new attention on a severe shortage of judges, the result of longstanding neglect that has overwhelmed the immigration court system with a backlog of more than two million cases. The court system is riddled with yearslong delays and low morale as a work force of about 650 judges struggles to keep up with the volume of immigration cases, leaving undocumented immigrants who have long waited in the United States in limbo.” [New York Times, [5/12/23](#)]

New York City Faced A Shortage Of Immigration Judges. “While an abrupt shift in the federal administration’s immigration policy has slowed down the daily arrival of migrants, more than 21,000 people are already in New York City and many hope to gain legal status through the asylum process. They will join a line that already includes about 180,000 pending cases in New York State immigration courts, which are handled by 88 judges. [...] Mr. Marku said he’s never seen the city’s immigration courts as busy in his 27-year career as an immigration attorney. ‘They don’t have enough judges, they don’t have enough government attorneys, they don’t have the support staff to get it done,’ he said.” [New York Times, [11/3/22](#)]

- **November 2022: New York Times Headline: “Migrants Encounter ‘Chaos And Confusion’ In New York Immigration Courts”** [New York Times, [11/3/22](#)]

Protecting Our Communities From Failure To Secure The Border Act Of 2023

December 2023: McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against The Protecting Our Communities From Failure To Secure The Border Act Of 2023

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December 2023: McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against The Protecting Our Communities From Failure To Secure The Border Act Of 2023. “Last week, Eric Sorensen voted AGAINST protecting our communities and to ALLOW illegal immigrants to take over our National Parks. It's time to end the madness. #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/6/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/6/23](#)]

HR 5283 Would Significantly Restrict The Ability of The Department Of The Interior And The Department Of Agriculture To Make Decisions Over The Uses Of Land And Resources In Emergency Situations

The Biden Administration Opposed House Resolution 5283 And Said It Would Significantly Restrict The Ability of The Department Of The Interior And The Department Of Agriculture To Make Decisions Regarding The Appropriate Uses of Land And Resources In Emergency Situations. “The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5283, which would prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide temporary shelter to certain noncitizens, including migrants seeking asylum, on Federal lands falling under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service. The Administration opposes this legislation because it would significantly restrict the ability of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to make decisions regarding the appropriate uses of their lands and resources, even in emergency or other situations.” [Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, [11/27/23](#)]

Department Of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas

April 2024: McGraw Said Sorensen Was “Pro-Mayorkas”

April 2024: McGraw Criticized Sorensen For Voting Against House Resolution 2 And Said He Was “Anti-Wall & Pro-Mayorkas.” “Illinoisans know the border is about national security & public safety. To Eric Sorensen, the border is just politics. Facts: ❌ He voted against commonsense border measures (HR2) ❌ He is anti-wall & pro-Mayorkas ❌ His crisis has costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of \$” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/19/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/19/24](#)]

McGraw Insinuated His Support For Impeachment Of DHS Secretary Mayorkas

McGraw Insinuated Support Of Impeaching Alexander Mayorkas, Saying He Would Push To “Hold Accountable Every Bad Actor Who Allowed This Crisis To Fester”

McGraw Said He Would Push To “Finish Building The Wall, Increase Funding For Border Patrol, And Hold Accountable Every Bad Actor Who Allowed This Crisis To Fester.” McGraw posted on Facebook, “Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to visit our southern border in Yuma, Arizona, and witness first-hand the situation we face as a nation. What I’ve seen at our border is worse than I could have imagined – this is a national security emergency. As a Judge, I spent 20 years on the bench working to keep people safe. But thanks to Democrat policies, every single county in this country is now a border country. Drugs, terrorists, and criminals are flowing into our country at record rates. I’m running for Congress to restore law and order. I’ll push to finish building the wall, increase funding for border patrol, and hold accountable every bad actor who allowed this crisis to fester. Throughout this week, Ill be sharing more stories and insights from my trip to the southern border, and hope it sheds some light on our truly frightening reality.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/6/23](#)]

Around This Time, National Republicans Were Discussing Impeaching Secretary Mayorkas

November 2, 2023: Republican Speaker Mike Johnson Said He Believes DHS Secretary Mayorkas ‘Committed Impeachable Offenses’ “Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said Wednesday he believes Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has ‘committed impeachable offenses,’ but stopped short of backing an impeachment effort. ‘I mean, it’s inexcusable what he’s done. I believe he’s committed impeachable offenses, but we only have so much time and resources to go after that,’ Johnson told Fox News’s Sean Hannity in an interview.” [The Hill, [11/2/23](#)]

October 26, 2023: Rep. Ben Cline: “The First Step Toward A Solution For Our Broken Border Is To Impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.” “The crises are numerous, but the first step toward a solution for our broken border is to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.” [Rep. Ben Cline, Twitter, [10/26/23](#)]



[Rep. Ben Cline, Twitter, [10/26/23](#)]

October 5, 2023: Rep. Pete Stauber: “Time To Impeach Mayorkas For Dereliction Of Duty.” “Secretary Mayorkas now says there’s an immediate need to build a border wall.; And it took 7 million illegal aliens for him to come to this decision.; House Republicans have been saying this all along!; Time to impeach Mayorkas for dereliction of duty.” [Rep. Pete Stauber, Twitter, [10/5/23](#)]



[Rep. Pete Stauber, Twitter, [10/5/23](#)]

Infrastructure & Transportation Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ December 2023: McGraw toured Chicago Rockford International Airport and said the experience ensured that “in Congress [he would] be able to effectively advocate for what our home needs.”

Chicago Rockford International Airport

December 2023: McGraw Toured Chicago Rockford International Airport And Said The Experience Ensured That “In Congress [He Would] Be Able To Effectively Advocate For What Our Home Needs”

December 2023: McGraw Toured The Chicago Rockford Airport And Said The Experience Ensured That “In Congress [He Would] Be Able To Effectively Advocate For What Our Home Needs.” “Yesterday, I took the time to visit and learn about one of #IL17 largest economic engines, the Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD). While many of us may appreciate the proximity and comfort of airports nearby, whether in Rockford, at the Quad Cities International Airport - MLI, Central Illinois Regional Airport, or Greater Peoria Regional Airport, it was important to me to learn first-hand RFD's history and their plans ahead to ensure it remains an integral part of serving Illinois residents and a leading international cargo hub! A special thanks to retiring Executive Director Mike Dunn for the tour, and for all he has done over his two-decades of service, which includes numerous accomplishments for the Airport while also reducing the financial burden on taxpayers! Taking the time to listen to and learn from the families, small business owners, and crucial economic drivers like our airports ensures that on day one in Congress I'll be able to effectively advocate for what our home needs! #judgejoecongress”[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/6/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/6/23](#)]

Labor & Working Families Issues

Significant Findings

McGraw Blamed The Biden Administration For What He Said Was “Rising Unemployment.”

McGraw Consistently Omitted From His Biography His Time As An Assistant State’s Attorney, Where He Defended An Anti-Union Employer

- ✓ McGraw’s various biographies said he graduated law school in 1985 and became a circuit judge in 2002, but did not account for the 17-year time period in between.
- ✓ Between 1990 and 2001, McGraw was an Assistant State’s Attorney in Winnebago County, Illinois.
- ✓ 1990: McGraw represented the DeKalb County State’s Attorney who allegedly fired an employee for unionizing, demonstrating a “blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.”

McGraw Demanded An Assistant Public Defender Use All His Vacation Time Accrued After 30 Years Of Service Despite The Impact It Would Have On His Job Performance; The Public Defender Passed Away Before His Lawsuit Against McGraw Was Fully Litigated

- ✓ August 2016: Ed Light, an assistant public defender filed a lawsuit against McGraw, Winnebago County and a Winnebago county public defender alleging he and over 100 employees lost vacation time.
- ✓ Ed Light was a 30-year veteran of the public defender’s office and had accrued significant time off; McGraw dictated that he use all of his vacation before the end of the year despite Ed Light’s worry he could not perform his job adequately.
- ✓ October 2016: Ed Light passed away while his lawsuit against McGraw and others was being litigated and the case was dismissed in February 2017.

Unemployment

McGraw Blamed The Biden Administration For “Rising Unemployment”

McGraw Blamed The Biden Administration For “Rising Unemployment.” “More economic numbers out today showing weak job growth and rising unemployment. This is the real effect of Bidenomics and it's hurting Illinois families.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/3/23](#)]

McGraw Said Illinois Had The 3rd Highest Unemployment Rate And Outperformed The Nation In New Government Jobs. “IL has the 3rd highest unemployment rate. One of the only 2 areas we outperformed the nation was for new government jobs.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/3/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/3/24](#)]

Unions

McGraw Consistently Omitted From His Biography His Time As An Assistant State’s Attorney, Where He Defended An Anti-Union Employer

McGraw’s Various Biographies Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Became A Circuit Judge In 2002, But Did Not Account For The 17 Year Time Period In Between

January 2024: McGraw’s Biography On His Congressional Campaign Website Said He Graduated Law School And “Went On To Spend 20 Years” As A Judge. “After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign and graduating from the Northern Illinois University College of Law, he went on to spend nearly 20 years as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, overseeing a specialized caseload for gun felonies and PATH Court—a full-spectrum plan to combat human trafficking and support survivors.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

- **McGraw’s Biography References His Time As A “Prosecutor” But Did Not Specify A Time Period.** “Judge Joe is a husband, father, lifelong Illinoisan, and a faithful steward of the law. Joe McGraw has spent his career in law enforcement – serving as a prosecutor, private attorney, and judge.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, About Joe, accessed [1/17/24](#)]

2023: McGraw’s Biography From His Illinois Circuit Court Retirement Press Release Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Became A Judge In 2002, But Did Not Detail His Career In The 17 Years In Between. “Judge Joseph G. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978) and Northern Illinois University - College of Law (J.D. - 1985). He was the Presiding Judge in Boone County from 2002 - 2003. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 2004 to present.” [State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

2014: McGraw’s Biography From The Illinois State Bar Association Said He Graduated Law School In 1985 And Was Appointed As A Judge In 2002, But Did Not Detail His Career In The 17 Years In Between. “Chief Judge McGraw graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.A. degree in 1978. He received his juris doctor degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 1985. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge in 2002 and was elected in November of the same year.” [The Bar News, Illinois State Bar Association, [10/28/14](#)]

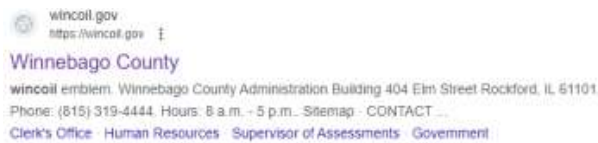
Between 1990 And 2001, McGraw Was An Assistant State's Attorney In Winnebago County, Illinois

1994: A Case Filed In Rockford, Illinois, Whereas Joseph Gerard McGraw Was An Attorney, Listed McGraw's Email As With An @wincoil.us Domain. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Doe v. Board of Education, et al, Case # 3:93-cv-20006, Case Summary, filed 1/13/93]

Defendant: Board of Education of Hoonegah Community High School District #207 represented by Joseph Gerard McGraw
Phone: (815) 319-4853
Fax: Inactive
Email: jmcgraw@wincoil.us

[Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Doe v. Board of Education, et al, Case # 3:93-cv-20006, Case Summary, filed 1/13/93]

- **“Wincoil” Was The Abbreviation For Winnebago County, Illinois.** [Wincoil.gov, accessed [1/18/24](#)]



wincoil.gov
https://wincoil.gov

Winnebago County

wincoil emblem Winnebago County Administration Building 404 Elm Street Rockford, IL 61101
Phone: (815) 319-4444 Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sitemap CONTACT ...
Clerk's Office Human Resources Supervisor of Assessments Government

[Wincoil.gov, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

- **A Biography On McGraw From 2011 Said He Was Previously An Assistant State's Attorney In Winnebago County, But Did Not Specify The Exact Time Period.** “McGraw earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois and graduated cum laude from Northern Illinois University of Law. He previously was an assistant state's attorney in Warren and Winnebago counties, a partner with the civil law practice of Turner & McGraw, a Winnebago County Board member and ran his own law firm.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/29/11](#)]

1990 – 2001: The Illinois Northern District Court Had A Record Of 20 Cases Filed Where McGraw Was An Attorney. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Joseph Gerard McGraw Cases, accessed 1/18/24]

Joseph Gerard McGraw is an attorney in 20 cases.

1:95-cv-04556	DuFour-Dowell, et al v. Cogger, et al	filed 08/08/95	closed 10/22/98
3:01-cv-50450	Aguirre v. USA, et al	filed 12/07/01	closed 09/23/03
3:90-cv-20278	Friel v. Coghlan, et al	filed 09/14/90	closed 06/07/93
3:90-cv-20365	Blumenthal, et al v. Barber Colman Holdin, et al	filed 12/26/90	closed 08/07/92
3:91-cv-20138	Webster, et al v. Operation Rescue, et al	filed 05/08/91	closed 04/22/94
3:91-cv-20304	Coffman v. Harrison, et al	filed 10/15/91	closed 01/04/94
3:91-cv-20319	Vens, et al v. Chrysler Motors Corp	filed 10/28/91	closed 01/24/92
3:92-cv-20025	Subacz, et al v. Schumacher, et al	filed 01/23/92	closed 08/01/94
3:92-cv-20082	Elliott v. Spencer, et al	filed 03/09/92	closed 05/03/93
3:92-cv-20189	Lockett v. Villa, et al	filed 03/18/93	closed 10/12/94
3:92-cv-20333	Sturm, et al v. Gregory-Anderson Co, et al	filed 11/13/92	closed 01/30/96
3:93-cv-20006	Doe v. Board of Education, et al	filed 01/13/93	closed 03/15/94
3:93-cv-20043	Davis v. Ogle County Sheriff, et al	filed 03/18/93	closed 05/06/94
3:93-cv-20068	Reed v. Readell	filed 03/09/93	closed 06/03/93
3:93-cv-20094	Lockett v. Ekedahi, et al	filed 04/26/93	closed 10/13/94
3:93-cv-20106	Cain v. Sisters of Mercy, et al	filed 04/19/93	closed 09/28/93
3:93-cv-20337	Wike v. United Air Lines Inc, et al	filed 12/16/93	closed 03/15/94
3:94-cv-50011	Strathman, et al v. Game Tracker Inc, et al	filed 01/14/94	closed 10/14/94
3:94-cv-50271	Wathier, et al v. LeMay, et al	filed 08/26/94	closed 10/14/94
3:95-cv-50001	Jilderda, et al v. Up-John Co	filed 01/03/95	closed 04/03/95

[Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Joseph Gerard McGraw Cases, accessed 1/18/24]

1990: McGraw Represented The DeKalb County State’s Attorney, Who Allegedly Fired An Employee For Unionizing, Demonstrating A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist”

1990: McGraw Represented Defendant Michael Coghlan In The Case Friel V. Coghlan

McGraw Represented Defendant Michael P. Coghlan In A Lawsuit Brought By Donna L. Friel. Joseph Gerard McGraw represented the defendant, Michael P Coghlan, in Donna L Friel’s lawsuit against Coghlan. [Illinois Northern District Court via PACER, Friel v. Coghlan, et al, Case # 3:90-cv-20278, Case Summary, filed 9/14/90]

The Case Involved Michael Coghlan, The DeKalb County Illinois State’s Attorney, Firing His Employee, Friel, Allegedly For Unionizing

September 1989: DeKalb County, Illinois State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan Fired Paralegal Donna Friel. “But it appears that De Kalb County State's Atty. Michael Coghlan may have to be dragged unwillingly from the batter's box in his confrontation with a state labor union and the former president of one of its locals. The story starts in September 1989, when Coghlan fired Donna Friel, a paralegal and then president of a fledgling, 50-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local that represented mostly clerical staff under the state's attorney and in several other county offices.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Michael Coghlan Maintained That Donna Friel Was A Security Risk, While The American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Contended That Friel Was Fired For Union Activities. “Coghlan has advanced a number of charges against Friel, the most serious of which was that she was a security risk who might compromise narcotics investigations conducted by his office. AFSCME contends that Friel was fired for her union activities and has sought her reinstatement.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **Donna Friel Was The President Of The American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Then A Fledgling 50-Member Association That Represented Mostly Clerical Staff Under The States Attorney.** “The story starts in September 1989, when Coghlan fired Donna Friel, a paralegal and then president of a fledgling, 50-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local that represented mostly clerical staff under the state’s attorney and in several other county offices. Coghlan has advanced a number of charges against Friel, the most serious of which was that she was a security risk who might compromise narcotics investigations conducted by his office. AFSCME contends that Friel was fired for her union activities and has sought her reinstatement.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Originally Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, But Three Subsequent Decisions Favored Donna Friel And Ordered For Her To Be Reinstated At Her Job

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Initially Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, But That Decision Was Overruled And Three Later Decisions Favored Donna Friel And Ordered Her To Be Reinstated

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Originally Ruled In Favor Of Michael Coghlan, Reversed That Decision And Three Subsequent Decisions Favored Donna Friel, And Ordered For Her To Be Reinstated At Her Job. “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. - First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan’s conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’ - Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. - Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Chicago Tribune: “Neither The Labor Relations Board Nor The Appellate Judges Found Any Evidence To Support Coghlan’s Charges That Friel Was A Security Risk.” “- Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. - Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board Said Michael Coghlan Displayed A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist,” And Ordered For Donna Friel To Be Reinstated At Her Job With Back Pay

A Three Member Panel Of The Labor Relation’s Board Overruled The First Decision In Michael Coghlan’s Favor, And Ordered Donna Friel Be Reinstated With Back Pay. “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. – First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan’s conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’ [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **The Labor Relations Board Said Michael Coghlan Displayed A “Blatant Pattern Of Harassment Aimed At A Known Union Activist.”** “A hearing officer for the Illinois State Labor Relation Board ruled in favor of Coghlan in July 1990, but since then he has looked at three straight strikes. - First, a three-member panel of the labor relations board overruled the hearing officer and ordered Friel reinstated with back pay. The labor relations board wrote in its decision that ‘Coghlan's conduct toward Friel can only be described as a blatant pattern of harassment aimed at a known union activist.’” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

An Appellate Court Panel Ordered That Donna Friel Be Reinstated, And Noted That Michael Coghlan Had Asked An Assistant State’s Attorney To Prepare An Inaccurate Memo About One Meeting Between Him And Friel

Michael Coghlan Appealed The Labor Relations Board’s Decision To The Illinois Appellate Court, An Appellate Court Panel Sided With The Labor Board And Ordered That Donna Friel Be Reinstated. “– Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. – Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

- **The Appellate Panel Noted That Michael Coghlan Had Asked An Assistant State’s Attorney To Prepare An Inaccurate Memo About One Meeting Between Him And Donna Friel.** “– Coghlan appealed to the state Appellate Court, but in July a three-judge panel agreed with the labor relations board. The judges also ordered that Friel be reinstated. The appellate panel noted that Coghlan had asked an assistant state’s attorney to prepare an inaccurate memo about one meeting between him and Friel. Neither the labor relations board nor the appellate judges found any evidence to support Coghlan’s charges that Friel was a security risk. – Coghlan then sought review by the state Supreme Court, but justices declined earlier this month to upset the Appellate Court ruling.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/17/91](#)]

Michael Coghlan Dismissed Union Demands For His Resignation And A Request For An Investigation By The Attorney General’s Office, Despite The Illinois Labor Relations Board Finding He Unjustly Fired Donna Friel

Michael Coghlan Dismissed Union Demands For His Resignation And A Request For An Investigation By The Attorney General’s Office, Despite The Illinois Labor Relations Board Finding He Unjustly Fired Donna Friel. “State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan dismissed union demands for his resignation Thursday along with its request for an investigation by the Attorney General’s office. The resignation stems from a ruling by the Illinois Labor Relations board that found State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan unjustly fired paralegal Donna Friel. ‘There are 100 people in the jail everyday that call for my resignation. And I take this with the same seriousness.’ Coghlan said he would appeal the decision, but declined to comment on whether he would lodge a counter suit. But union attorney Thomas Edstrom claimed Coghlan’s defense in the case ‘was totally without merit’ and illustrates why he does not deserve public office. ‘Mr. Coghlan betrayed the public trust and brought disgrace against the law enforcement community.’” [Northern Star, [11/16/90](#)]

Union Attorney Thomas Edstrom: “Mr. Coghlan Betrayed The Public Trust And Brought Disgrace Against The Law Enforcement Community.” “State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan dismissed union demands for his resignation Thursday along with its request for an investigation by the Attorney General’s office. The resignation stems from a ruling by the Illinois Labor Relations board that found State’s Attorney Michael Coghlan unjustly fired paralegal Donna Friel. ‘There are 100 people in the jail everyday that call for my resignation. And I take this with the same seriousness.’ Coghlan said he would appeal the decision, but declined to comment on whether he would lodge a counter suit. But union attorney Thomas Edstrom claimed Coghlan’s defense in the case ‘was totally without merit’ and illustrates why he does not deserve public office. ‘Mr. Coghlan betrayed the public trust and brought disgrace against the law enforcement community.’” [Northern Star, [11/16/90](#)]

Vacation Time

McGraw Demanded An Assistant Public Defender Use All His Vacation Time Accrued After 30 Years Of Service Despite The Impact It Would Have On His Job Performance; The Public Defender Passed Away Before His Lawsuit Against McGraw Was Resolved

August 2016: Ed Light, An Assistant Public Defender Filed A Lawsuit Against McGraw, Winnebago County And A Winnebago County Public Defender Alleging He And Over 100 Employees Lost Vacation Time Under A New Policy

A Winnebago County Assistant Public Defender Filed A Lawsuit Against McGraw, The County And A Winnebago County Public Defender Alleging He And Over 100 Employees Lost Vacation Time Under A New Policy. “A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to accrue up to two years of vacation time. Yet the county payroll department allowed them to continue accruing vacation time beyond that two-year cap. Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. The use-it-or-lose-it policy has jeopardized all of that banked vacation time, according to the lawsuit, and 105 employees — including Light — might lose the vacation time they earned. The amount of vacation time they could lose would vary based on individual circumstances.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

The County Board Adopted A ‘Use It Or Lose It’ Vacation Policy In August 2014, But The County Payroll Department Allowed County Employees To Continue Accruing Vacation Time Beyond The Two Year Cap. “A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to accrue up to two years of vacation time. Yet the county payroll department allowed them to continue accruing vacation time beyond that two-year cap. Light, who has worked for the Public Defender’s Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. The use-it-or-lose-it policy has jeopardized all of that banked vacation time, according to the lawsuit, and 105 employees — including Light — might lose the vacation time they earned. The amount of vacation time they could lose would vary based on individual circumstances.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

Ed Light Was A 30-Year Veteran Of The Public Defender’s Office And Had Accrued Significant Time Off; McGraw Dictated That He Use All Of His Vacation Before The End Of The Year Despite Light’s Worry He Could Not Perform His Job Adequately

Assistant Public Defender Ed Light Had Worked For The Office For More Than 30 Years And Had Accrued About 45 And 1/2 Weeks Of Vacation Time. “A DeKalb County judge has been appointed to handle a Winnebago County assistant public defender’s lawsuit alleging he’s one of more than 100 employees who will lose vacation time under a policy adopted two years ago. The defense lawyer, Ed Light, filed suit in April against the county, Winnebago County Public Defender Karen Sorensen and Judge Joseph McGraw, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Winnebago and Boone counties. In the nine-page lawsuit, Light alleges that before the County Board adopted a use-it-or-lose-it vacation policy in August 2014, county employees were allowed to

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McGraw Directed Ed Light To Take 58 Days Of Vacation Before The End Of The Year, But Ed Light Said He Did Not Think He Could Take That Much Time Off And Still Perform His Job Adequately. “Light, who has worked for the Public Defender's Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. [...] Earlier this year, McGraw developed a plan outlining how Light was to use his vacation time, ‘directing him to take 464 hours (or 58 days) of vacation before the end of the year,’ but Light said he didn’t think he could take that much time off and still perform his job adequately, according to the lawsuit. If he didn't comply, that could affect future pay raises and performance evaluations, the lawsuit states. In the spring, his pay was reduced by 3.5 percent. Light declined to comment this week. The lawsuit maintains that state law doesn't allow employers to impose policies or practices that make employees forfeit their vacation time.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

- **Ed Light Alleged That If He Didn't Comply, It Could Affect His Future Pay Raises And Performance Evaluations; In The Spring Light's Pay Was Reduced By 3.5%.** “Light, who has worked for the Public Defender's Office for more than 30 years, had stockpiled 1,819.99 hours of vacation time as of Oct. 2, 2015, according to the lawsuit. That equates to about 45½ weeks. [...] Earlier this year, McGraw developed a plan outlining how Light was to use his vacation time, ‘directing him to take 464 hours (or 58 days) of vacation before the end of the year,’ but Light said he didn’t think he could take that much time off and still perform his job adequately, according to the lawsuit. If he didn't comply, that could affect future pay raises and performance evaluations, the lawsuit states. In the spring, his pay was reduced by 3.5 percent. Light declined to comment this week. The lawsuit maintains that state law doesn't allow employers to impose policies or practices that make employees forfeit their vacation time.” [Rockford Register Star, [8/26/16](#)]

October 2016: Ed Light Passed Away While His Lawsuit Against McGraw And Others Was Being Litigated, And The Case Was Dismissed In February 2017

October 2016: Ed Light Passed Away After A More Than 30 Year Career As An Assistant Public Defender, He Had A Reputation As A “Champion For The Underdog” And “Fought Passionately For Due Process.” “During his more than 30-year career as an assistant public defender, Ed Light earned a reputation as a champion for the underdog. He argued fiercely against some of the toughest criminal charges in Winnebago County. He fought passionately for due process. He gave people who couldn't afford an attorney one of the best defenses money could buy. Light, 63, died Sunday after a short battle with cancer. ‘He was a perfect public defender. ... He fought for poor people. He was as unbiased as any human being ever,’ said fellow attorney Dan Cain. ‘He had a tough, tough job because he dealt with very, very serious criminal cases, but Eddie liked the law and he liked defending people.’ ‘Part of the nature of being a public defender is that your efforts are underappreciated, but that didn't interfere with Ed's devotion. He took every case to heart.’ ”[Rockford Register Star, [10/10/16](#)]

February 2017: Light Vs. County Of Winnebago An Illinois Body Politic And Corporate Et Al. Was Dismissed With Prejudice. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al, Case #2016-CH-0000364, Civil ROA Summary, accessed [3/4/24](#)]

CIVIL ROA SUMMARY • 2016-CH-0000364 Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	*DATE ▾ 02/02/2017 SEALED ▾ <input type="checkbox"/> *TEXT ▾ Appointment/Appointed Special Representative. Additional terms of this order are set forth herein. See order filed.	*JUDGE ▾ Waller, Bradley J. CODE ▾ JG AGRE	MICROFILM NUMBER ▾ ACTION TYPE ▾ <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*DATE ▾ 02/02/2017 SEALED ▾ <input type="checkbox"/> *TEXT ▾ Dismissal with Prejudice Order. Additional terms of this order are set forth herein. Case closed. See order filed.	*JUDGE ▾ Waller, Bradley J. CODE ▾ JG AGRE	MICROFILM NUMBER ▾ ACTION TYPE ▾ <input type="button" value="v"/>

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Gary Pumilia, as Special Representative of the Estate of Edward Light vs. County of Winnebago an Illinois Body politic and corporate et al, Case #2016-CH-0000364, Civil ROA Summary, accessed [3/4/24](#)]

LGBTQ+ Issues

Significant Findings

McGraw Taught At And Supported Multiple Homophobic Educational Institutions

- ✓ McGraw was an adjunct instructor at an evangelical Christian university that promoted “sexual purity” and prohibited “homosexual behavior.”

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Anti-LGBT Republicans, Many Of Whom Voted Against Marriage Equality In Illinois

- ✓ McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Mike Johnson, who voted against recognizing same-sex marriage and repeatedly spoke out against LGBTQ+ community.
- ✓ McGraw’s congressional campaign was endorsed by former IL-16 congressman Donald Manzullo, who voted against repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski, who voted against legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois Representative John Cabello, who once likened gay marriage to bestiality and voted against allowing same sex marriage in Illinois.
- ✓ McGraw accepted an endorsement and \$1,500 from Illinois Representative Andrew Chesney, who was against allowing gender neutral restrooms in Illinois and said to “drop the pronoun crap.”
- ✓ McGraw was endorsed by Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, who threatened violence on the Illinois Senate floor during a debate on gendered bathrooms.

McGraw Supported Anti-LGBTQ Legislation And Said Libraries Were No Longer A Safe Place For Children

- ✓ McGraw said libraries were no longer a safe place for children and said, “there are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children.”
- ✓ McGraw: “The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? it’s just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. naturally, there’s gonna be confusion.”
- ✓ McGraw supported an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which would ban certain books from Department of Defense schools.
- ✓ McGraw said the navy was more interested in “transgender admirals than dealing with the problem” of Chinese aggression.

- ✓ McGraw supported “the parents bill of rights” act, the legislation leaned into culture war issues and teachers warned it would drive a wedge between schools and families.
- ✓ McGraw said he added parents’ rights to his list of priorities, but agreed parent’s rights were a local issue.
- ✓ McGraw said that “Washington” and the liberal left wanted to “destroy the family” and wanted to “change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman” and “take advantage of kids that are young and impressionable.”
- ✓ McGraw: The Democratic party was “radical on gay rights and transgender rights.”

Education

McGraw Was An Adjunct Instructor At An Evangelical Christian University That Promoted “Sexual Purity” And Prohibited “Homosexual Behavior”

McGraw Was Formerly An Adjunct Instructor At Judson University, An Evangelical Christian University With Locations In Elgin And Rockford, Illinois

According To His Biography From The Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, McGraw Was Formerly An Adjunct Instructor At Judson University. “Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. [...] He is a former adjunct instructor at Rockford University and Judson University.” [Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

Judson University Described Itself As “An Evangelical Christian University. “Judson is an evangelical Christian university that represents the Church at work in higher education, equipping students to be fully developed, responsible persons who glorify God by the quality of their personal relationships, their work, and their citizenship within the community, the nation and the world.” [Judson University, Mission, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University’s Main Campus Was In Elgin, Illinois And It Had A Satellite Campus In Rockford, Illinois. “Our main campus, Elgin, Illinois, is home to our traditional undergraduates, University chapel, athletic programs, the Demoss Center for Worship in the Performing Arts and More! [...] Our satellite campus, Rockford, Illinois host classes for adult professional students at the Swedish American Riverfront YMCA.” [Judson University, Our Locations, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University Promoted “Sexual Purity” And Prohibited “Any Form Of Sexual Immorality,” Which The School Defined As Including Pre-Marital Sex And “Homosexual Behavior”

Judson University Cited “Sexual Purity” As A Conduct Guideline. “CONDUCT GUIDELINES Specific disciplinary consequences for the following behaviors are spelled out in the Judson University Judicial Code at the end of the Judson University Student Handbook. [...] Sexual Purity Any form of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, premarital sex, adultery, homosexual behavior and the use of pornography is prohibited.” [Judson University, Lifestyle Statement, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University’s Student Handbook Said The School Prohibited “Any Form Of Sexual Immorality,” Including Pre-Marital Sex And “Homosexual Behavior.” “Any form of sexual immorality-including but not limited to pre-marital sex, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, and the use of pornography-is prohibited.” [Judson University, 2023/2024 Student Handbook, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Students At Judson University Could Be Suspended For Having Visitors Of The Opposite Sex In Their Rooms Or Living Areas. “In all campus residence facilities for single students, visitors from off-campus or students should not be present in the rooms or in the corridors in living areas of members of the opposite sex, except during open dorm. Students who do not comply with this regulation are subject to suspension from the University.” [Judson University, 2023/2024 Student Handbook, accessed [1/18/24](#)]

Judson University Hosted A Speaker Who Said That People Who “Struggle With Same-Sex Attraction” Should “Do Whatever It Takes To See Victorious Living In [Their] Life.”

Judson University Hosted A Speaker Who Said That People Who “Struggle With Same-Sex Attraction” Should “Do Whatever It Takes To See Victorious Living In [Their] Life.” SPEAKER: “And remember first and foremost, are you a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ? And if you are, are you living victoriously? I don't care today if you struggle with the sin of envy or if you struggle with same-sex attraction or if you struggle with pornography on a regular basis. Are you intent of saying, if I am a Christian a follower of Jesus Christ I'm gonna do whatever it takes to see victorious living in my life? That's the conversation that we need to be having.” [Judson University via YouTube, 32:47, uploaded [1/25/19](#)] (VIDEO)

Anti-LGBT Republican Connections

McGraw Accepted \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, Who Voted Against Recognizing Same-Sex Marriages And Spoke Out Against LGBTQ+ Youth

McGraw Received \$5,000 From Mike Johnson’s PACs, Was Endorsed By Johnson And Appeared At An Event With Johnson Who Called Him “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen”

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign

December 2023: Mike Johnson’s PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw’s Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

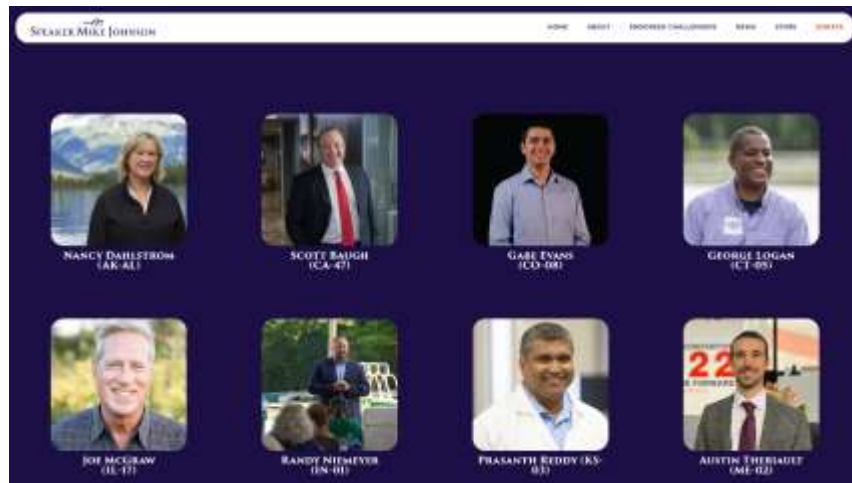
Source name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson’s Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson’s Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



Judge Joe is proud to be endorsed by the following state and local leaders:

Mike Johnson
Speaker

Elise Stefanik
Congresswoman

Darin LaHood
Congressman

[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We’ve Ever Seen.” “McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we’ve ever seen.’ ‘He’s been a guy who’s stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas. He’s professional, he’s smart, he knows what he’s doing and he’s gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.’” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner. “Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman

Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

Mike Johnson Voted Against A Law That Recognized Same-Sex Marriages

Mike Johnson Voted Against A Law That Recognized Same-Sex Marriages. In December 2022, Mike Johnson voted for: “Nadler, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to, or any rights based on, a marriage between two individuals on the basis of the individuals' sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions. The bill would also replace the current federal definition of marriage, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, to define a marriage as valid if it is between two individuals and valid in the place where the marriage was entered into and would be considered valid in a U.S. state. It would specify that no provisions in the bill may be construed to diminish or abrogate religious liberty and that religious organizations and their employees would not be required to provide services for the celebration of a marriage, consistent with First Amendment protections. It would also specify that the bill would not authorize federal recognition of polygamous marriage and that it would not impact any benefits, status or rights that do not arise from marriage.” The motion passed with a vote of 224-164. [H.R. 8404, [Vote #513](#), 12/8/22; CQ, [7/18/22](#)]

Johnson Twice Argued To Uphold Louisiana’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban At The State Supreme Court

2014: Johnson Was The Main Attorney That Argued For Marriage Without Recognition For Same-Sex Couples In The Louisiana State Supreme Court. “In June, Shreveport attorney Mike Johnson and his legal team presented oral arguments in the federal court on behalf of the state explaining why Louisiana’s Defense of Marriage Amendment should be upheld. Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., who operates a legal ministry called Freedom Guard, successfully defended the amendment a decade ago against its original challenge at the state Supreme Court. [...] ‘The decision today is precisely correct,’ Johnson said after Feldman’s ruling. ‘The court has merely affirmed that it is the people of each state who have the authority to define and regulate marriage within their borders, rather than a handful of unelected federal judges. ‘We believe the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately uphold this important principle,’ Johnson said.” [Baptist Press, [9/5/14](#)]

2004: Johnson Was The Main Attorney That Argued For Marriage Without Recognition For Same-Sex Couples Before The Supreme Court. “In June, Shreveport attorney Mike Johnson and his legal team presented oral arguments in the federal court on behalf of the state explaining why Louisiana’s Defense of Marriage

Amendment should be upheld. Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., who operates a legal ministry called Freedom Guard, successfully defended the amendment a decade ago against its original challenge at the state Supreme Court. [...] ‘The decision today is precisely correct,’ Johnson said after Feldman’s ruling. ‘The court has merely affirmed that it is the people of each state who have the authority to define and regulate marriage within their borders, rather than a handful of unelected federal judges. ‘We believe the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately uphold this important principle,’ Johnson said.” [Baptist Press, [9/5/14](#)]

Johnson Twice Argued To Uphold Louisiana’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban At The State Supreme Court. “When Louisiana was defending its ban on same-sex marriage, Mr. Johnson twice argued its case at the state Supreme Court.” [New York Times, [10/3/22](#)]

Johnson “Warned” In A Hearing That Nearly 1 In 4 High Schoolers Identify As LGBTQ

Johnson “Warned” In A Hearing That Nearly 1 In 4 High Schoolers Identify As LGBTQ. JOHNSON: “Today, nearly one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ. Whether it’s by scalpel or by social coercion from teachers, professors, administrators, and left-wing media, it’s an attempt to transition the young people of our country. Something has gone terribly wrong and today we hope to shed light on what that is and how we can address the problem. Contrary to what the Democrats believe, the scourge of radical gender ideology is very real, efforts to cover up what’s being done to children are extreme, and the science is on our side.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, [7/27/23](#)]

Johnson Called LGBTQ Youth A “Problem” And Said That “Something Has Gone Terribly Wrong”

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Johnson Introduced A Bill That Barred Any Display Of LGBTQ Identity In Front Of Children

Johnson Introduced The Stop Sexualization Of Children Act. “To prohibit the use of Federal funds to develop, implement, facilitate, or fund any sexually oriented program, event, or literature for children under the age of 10, and for other purposes.” [H.R. 9197, [10/18/22](#)]

- **This Bill Would Allow Any Parent To Sue Any Public Or Private Entity For A Perceived “Exposure” That Used Federal Dollars.** “This bill allows parents to sue any public or private entity that uses federal dollars to expose their young children to sexually explicit materials or programs. If any organization violates the law twice in a five-year period, they would lose access to all federal funding.” [Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]

Johnson Said The Bill Would Prevent “Radical Gender Ideology At School And In Public”

Johnson Said H.R. 9197 Would Prevent “Radical Gender Ideology At School And In Public” “BREAKING: Republicans are introducing the Stop the Sexualization of Children Act—the first bill to ensure that none of your tax dollars go to federal programs, state or local government agencies, or private orgs that expose children under 10 to sexually explicit material. [...] The Democrat Party and their cultural allies are on a crusade to immerse young children in sexual imagery and radical gender ideology at school and in public.” [Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]



[Rep. Mike Johnson, Twitter, [10/18/22](#)]

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Was Endorsed By Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo, Who Voted Against Repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’

Manzullo Endorsed McGraw's Campaign

Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Illinois's 17th Congressional District. Former IL-16 Congressman Donald Manzullo endorsed McGraw's campaign for Illinois's 17th congressional district. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed, [12/6/23](#)]

Manzullo Voted Against The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act Of 2010

Manzullo Voted Against H.R. 2965, The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act Of 2010. Manzullo voted against H.R. 2965, The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010. [Congress.gov, H.R. 2965, [7/8/09](#)]

The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act Of 2010 Was A Landmark U.S. Federal Statue That Established A Process To End The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy, "Thus Allowing Gays, Lesbians, And Bisexuals To Serve Openly In The United States Armed Forces." "The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (H.R. 2965, S. 4023) is a landmark United States federal statute enacted in December 2010 that established a process for ending the Don't ask, don't tell (DADT) policy (10 U.S.C. § 654), thus allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces. It ended the policy in place since 1993 that allowed them to serve only if they kept their sexual orientation secret and the military did not learn of their sexual orientation." [Congress.gov, H.R. 2965, [12/22/10](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart, Who Voted Against Legalizing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

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Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Brian Stewart endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

Stewart Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois

2013: Stewart Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. "The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor's signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here's how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] Brian Stewart [...]" [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski, Who Voted Against Legalizing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

McGraw Received \$250 And An Endorsement From Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski

Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Representative Joe Sosnowski endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

March 2024: McGraw Received \$250 From Citizens for Sosnowski. According to FEC receipts, Citizens for Sosnowski donated \$250 to Judge Joe McGraw on March 27th, 2024. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CITIZENS FOR SOSNOWSKI	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	GENERAL	IL	03/27/2024	\$250.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/12/24](#)]

Sosnowski Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois

2013: Sosnowski Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. “The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor’s signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here’s how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] Joe Sosnowski [...]” [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois Representative John Cabello, Who Once Likened Gay Marriage To Bestiality And Voted Against Allowing Same Sex Marriage In Illinois

October 2023: Illinois State Representative John Cabello Endorsed McGraw

October 2023: John Cabello Endorsed McGraw. McGraw wrote on Twitter, “Our campaign is honored to have the trust, support, and guidance of many state leaders who represent the voters across #IL17.” Cabello was included in the list of state leaders. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]

- **Cabello Was An Illinois State Representative From The State’s 90th District.** “State Representative John Cabello (R-Machesney Park) was appointed to fill a vacancy in the 68th District and sworn into office in August of 2012. He was then elected to that seat in November of 2012 and re-elected in 2014, 2016 and 2018. In 2022, John was elected State Representative for the new 90th District which starts in Boone County and cuts across the top of Winnebago County out to Stephenson County and Freeport.” [Illinois General Assembly, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

Cabello Voted Against Allowing Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois And Once Compared Gay Marriage To Bestiality

2013: Cabello Voted Against Approving Same-Sex Marriage In Illinois. “The Illinois House on Tuesday voted 61-54 to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate followed suit about an hour later, and the state is now a governor’s signature away from becoming the 15th to allow gay marriages. Here’s how state lawmakers voted in the House and Senate. [...] No votes [...] John Cabello [...]” [NBC Chicago, [11/6/13](#)]

2012: Cabello Likened Gay Marriage To Bestiality, Saying, “Does This Now Say That Somebody Can Get Married To Their Dog?” “Illinois Rep. John Cabello was criticized this week for comments he made at a Rockford Tea Party forum earlier this month about gay marriage. The Windy City Times, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender newspaper in Chicago, reported Wednesday that Cabello likened same-sex marriage to bestiality. The quote that drew the ire of gay rights groups is when Cabello reportedly said, ‘Does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?’” [Rockford Register Star, [10/19/12](#)]

- **Cabello Also Said That He Was “Dead-Set Opposed To Civil Unions,” And That “Marriage [Was] Between A Man And A Woman.”** “Illinois Rep. John Cabello was criticized this week for comments he made at a Rockford Tea Party forum earlier this month about gay marriage. [...] Carl Wasco's campaign forwarded a transcript of Cabello's comments to the Register Star. Wasco is challenging Cabello for his House seat in the Nov. 6 general election. The transcript reads: I’m dead-set opposed to civil unions. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Now, unfortunately, in my opinion, they have opened up the door for other things. Now, and please bear with me, does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?” [Rockford Register Star, [10/19/12](#)]

McGraw Accepted \$1,500 And An Endorsement From Illinois Representative Andrew Chesney, Who Was Against Allowing Gender Neutral Restrooms In Illinois And Said To “Drop The Pronoun Crap”

October 2023: Illinois State Senator Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw

October 2023: Andrew Chesney Endorsed McGraw. McGraw wrote on Twitter, “Our campaign is honored to have the trust, support, and guidance of many state leaders who represent the voters across #IL17.” Cabello was included in the list of state leaders. [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [10/16/23](#)]

- **Chesney Was A State Senator Representing Illinois’s 45th District.** “On November 8, 2022, Andrew Chesney was elected to serve as Senator for the 45th District of the State of Illinois.” [Senator Andrew Chesney, Biography, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw's Congressional Campaign

2023-2024: Chesney Donated \$1,500 To McGraw's Congressional Campaign. According to FEC records, Andrew Chesney donated \$1,000 on November 13th, 2023 And \$500 on February 19th, 2024 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress. Both FEC receipts listed Chesney's occupation as "IL State Senator." [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/24/24](#)]

Source name	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	02/19/2024	\$500.00
CHESNEY, ANDREW	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	PRIMARY	IL	11/13/2023	\$1,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw, accessed [6/24/24](#)]

Chesney, Speaking On The Illinois House Floor, Said There Were Only Two Genders, And Told Fellow Lawmakers To "Drop The Pronoun Crap"

May 2023: Chesney, Speaking In The Illinois House, Said, "There Are Only Two Genders," And Told His Fellow Lawmakers To "Drop The Pronoun Crap." CHESNEY: "There are two genders. There are two genders possible. There's not three, there's not four, there's two. The crazy stuff like this is why people are confused and the kids don't know what the hell is going on, because they're confused because of legislation like this. Drop the pronoun crap. There are two genders. Period." [Bishop on Air via YouTube, 00:42, uploaded [5/5/23](#)] (VIDEO)

Chesney Was Against A Bill Allowing Gender-Neutral Bathrooms In Illinois, Calling It "Woke" And "Radical"

May 2023: Chesney Called A Bill Allowing Illinois Establishments To Have Gender-Neutral Restrooms "Woke" And "Radical." "The Illinois State Senate passed a bill on Thursday which would expand gender-neutral bathrooms, and it sparked a heated debate on the Senate floor. Right now, the public gender-neutral bathrooms in Illinois are single-occupancy, meaning one person at a time. HB1286 would allow establishments to install gender-neutral bathrooms that are multi-occupancy, meaning a shared bathroom across all genders, and all gender identities. 'This is woke,' said State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-45), who voted against the bill. 'This is radical. This is out of touch with everybody in my district and your districts.'" [Fox 32 Chicago, [5/18/23](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, Who Threatened Violence On The Illinois Senate Floor During A Debate On Gendered Bathrooms

McGraw Was Endorsed By Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson And Repeatedly Referred To Him As A "Friend"

Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress

Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson Endorsed McGraw's Campaign For Congress. Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson endorsed McGraw's campaign for Congress. [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [3/18/24](#)]

2024: McGraw Repeatedly Referred To Anderson As A "Friend" And Attended Several Events With Him

February 2024: McGraw Called Anderson A "Friend" And Attended A Fish Fry With Him. "Packed house at the 7th annual Wild Game Feed & Fish Fry in Abingdon! It was great to be with my friend, Senator Neil Anderson, and so many great Americans coming together to support a good cause." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/10/24](#)]

McGraw Campaigned With The Henry County IL GOP And Said It Was Great To See “Friends” Including Senator Neil Anderson. “Had a blast ending our weekend of campaigning with the Henry County IL GOP at their Fall Jamboree! Great to see so many friends including Senator Neil Anderson IL Rep Dan Swanson Jan Weber and many more candidates! Thanks to all who turned in or signed a petition as we get ready to file for the ballot! #judgejoeforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/20/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [11/20/23](#)]

May 2023: During A Debate On Gendered Bathrooms, Anderson Threatened Violence While On The Illinois Senate Floor

HEADLINE: “Illinois State Senator Sparks Controversy with Violent Remarks on Gender-Neutral Restrooms.” [BNN Breaking, [9/23/23](#)]

HEADLINE: “Quad-City Sen. Neil Anderson Threatens Violence On Senate Floor.” [Quad-City Times, [5/25/23](#)]

During A Debate On Legislation That Would Allow Businesses To Construct All Gender Multi-Capacity Restrooms, Anderson Said He Would “Beat The Living P---” Out Of Any Man Who Walked Into A Restroom With His Daughter. “Tempers flared on the state Senate floor Thursday during debate of Democratic-led measures, including a bill that clears the way for gun manufacturers to be sued and another that would allow businesses to create multi-capacity bathrooms open to all genders — an idea one Republican warned will spark violence. State Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, told lawmakers that he would ‘beat the living p---’ out of any man who walked into a restroom with his daughter. ‘This is gonna cause violence, and it’s gonna cause violence from dads like me,’ the Moline firefighter and paramedic said to some cheers from fellow Republicans during floor debate on the measure. The bill ultimately cleared the Senate 35-20. The legislation, which now heads back to the Illinois House, would allow businesses to construct all-gender multi-capacity restrooms, but it would not require them to do so. The restrooms would include floor to ceiling stall dividers with locks and toilets instead of urinals, among other provisions. The state already has in place a law that requires that every single-occupancy restroom be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [5/18/23](#)]

- **Anderson: “This Is Gonna Cause Violence, And It’s Gonna Cause Violence From Dads Like Me.”** “Tempers flared on the state Senate floor Thursday during debate of Democratic-led measures, including a bill that clears the way for gun manufacturers to be sued and another that would allow businesses to create multi-capacity bathrooms open to all genders — an idea one Republican warned will spark violence. State Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, told lawmakers that he would ‘beat the living p---’ out of any man who walked into a restroom with his daughter. ‘This is gonna cause violence, and it’s gonna cause violence from dads like me,’ the Moline firefighter and paramedic said to some cheers from fellow Republicans during floor debate on the measure. The bill ultimately cleared the Senate 35-20. The legislation, which now heads back to the Illinois House, would allow businesses to construct all-gender multi-capacity restrooms, but it would not require them to do so. The restrooms would include floor to ceiling stall dividers with locks and toilets instead of urinals, among other provisions. The state already has in place a law that requires that every single-occupancy restroom be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [5/18/23](#)]

Book Bans

McGraw Said Libraries Were No Longer A Safe Place For Children and Said “There Are So Many Vile Things, Things That Steal The Innocence Of Your Children”

McGraw Said Libraries Were No Longer A Safe Place For Children. QUESTION: “Judge McGraw do you think media in all four of the congressional district markets should be asking your opponent Eric Sorensen whether he supports his parties state bill that were already passed and some that have been introduced be voted on that bypass parents' rights to know whether their minor aged children are having sex change operations without their parents knowledge or to have abortions in state arrest, and state without their parents knowing about it.” MCGRAW: “Yeah that is a great question. I don’t think it is up to the media, frankly it is up to me. I am the one who has to ask that question of him. The media will not ask that question, probably it is up to us. As we get on a firm platform media wise we can keep putting that question out there. I have added parents rights to the list of things. After the border, crime, and drugs and the economy. I added parents rights to my third priority not necessarily in sequence of priority. That has come up again and again when I am in forums like this I am talking to folks and they bring that up. They don't feel their kids are safe anymore. They don't feel as though they can send their kids to school and not wonder what's going on in that school. What are they being taught? When I was growing up, I had three sisters and my mom to get us out of her hair would take us down to the library and turn us loose you know. And we could pick whatever books we wanted and bring them home and read them. And uh now that's not a safe place anymore, that is not a safe place. There are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children. And it seems, not it seems, it is apparent to me that Washington, the liberal left and many others going along with it want to destroy the family, no question about it. They want to change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman. They want to take advantage of kids that are young and

impressionable. The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? It's just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. Naturally, there's gonna be confusion. But we don't want federal money or state money for that matter being used behind our back to assert parental authority and to take the role or attempt to supplant the role that are rightly only the parents. Great question thank you." STATEMENT: "The government should not be co-parenting." MCGRAW: "They should not be coparenting right on. Other questions? Somebody else?" STATEMENT: "A comment. I signed a petition they are trying to get on the ballot that you know to have parents rights." MCGRAW: "That is right, that is a local issue." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 33:21, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw: "My Mom To Get Us Out Of Her Hair Would Take Us Down To The Library And Turn Us Loose You Know. And We Could Pick Whatever Books We Wanted And Bring Them Home And Read Them. And Uh Now That's Not A Safe Place Anymore, That Is Not A Safe Place. There Are So Many Vile Things, Things That Steal The Innocence Of Your Children."** QUESTION: "Judge McGraw do you think media in all four of the congressional district markets should be asking your opponent Eric Sorensen whether he supports his parties state bill that were already passed and some that have been introduced be voted on that bypass parents' rights to know whether their minor aged children are having sex change operations without their parents knowledge or to have abortions in state arrest, and state without their parents knowing about it." MCGRAW: "Yeah that is a great question. I don't think it is up to the media, frankly it is up to me. I am the one who has to ask that question of him. The media will not ask that question, probably it is up to us. As we get on a firm platform media wise we can keep putting that question out there. I have added parents rights to the list of things. After the border, crime, and drugs and the economy. I added parents rights to my third priority not necessarily in sequence of priority. That has come up again and again when I am in forums like this I am talking to folks and they bring that up. They don't feel their kids are safe anymore. They don't feel as though they can send their kids to school and not wonder what's going on in that school. What are they being taught? When I was growing up, I had three sisters and my mom to get us out of her hair would take us down to the library and turn us loose you know. And we could pick whatever books we wanted and bring them home and read them. And uh now that's not a safe place anymore, that is not a safeplace. There are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children. And it seems, not it seems, it is apparent to me that Washington, the liberal left and many others going along with it want to destroy the family, no question about it. They want to change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman. They want to take advantage of kids that are young and impressionable. The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? It's just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. Naturally, there's gonna be confusion. But we don't want federal money or state money for that matter being used behind our back to assert parental authority and to take the role or attempt to supplant the role that are rightly only the parents. Great question thank you." STATEMENT: "The government should not be co-parenting." MCGRAW: "They should not be coparenting right on. Other questions? Somebody else?" STATEMENT: "A comment. I signed a petition they are trying to get on the ballot that you know to have parents rights." MCGRAW: "That is right, that is a local issue." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 33:21, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Trans Rights

Gender-Affirming Care

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Military Service

McGraw Supported An Amendment To The National Defense Authorization Act That Would Ban Certain Books From Department Of Defense Schools

McGraw Supported An Amendment To HR 2670, The National Defense Authorization Act, That Would Ban Certain Books In Military-Funded Schools

McGraw Supported House Resolution 2670 AM No. 35, Which Would Ban Certain Books That Included Explicit Content, And Or A "Positive Portrayal Of Gender Identity." McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute's Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: "5 | H.R. 2670 Am. No. 35 (2023) would prohibit subjecting children in military-funded schools to books containing pornographic content and/or a positive portrayal of gender identity." McGraw answered: "Support." [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

Introduced By Rep Lauren Boebert, House Resolution 2670 Would Prevent The Department Of Defense From Purchasing And Having Certain Books In Their Libraries

Rep. Lauren Boebert Introduced An Amendment To The NDAA That Would Prevent The Department Of Defense Education Activity Schools "From Purchasing And Having Pornographic And Radical Gender Ideology Books In Their Libraries." "The National Defense Authorization Act is typically a bipartisan project in Congress and is necessary to keep the military running. But amendments added by several Republicans, including Rep. Lauren Boebert of Silt, have led to another culture-war conflict in Congress as Democrats argued the bill's focus on social issues weakens its military substance and threatens the bill's viability. [...] Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools 'from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.' DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school." [Colorado Newsline, [7/14/23](#)]

When Introducing Her Amendment, Boebert Cited Examples Of Books She Claimed Were “Explicit” Including Multiple LGBTQ-Themed Books. “Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools ‘from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.’ DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school. ‘Speaking as a mother of four boys, enough is enough. I don’t send my boys to school to receive indoctrination from the woke mob or to be sexualized by groomers,’ Boebert said when introducing the amendment. ‘And the same can be said for our service members, who are also parents sending their children to DODEA schools.’ Boebert cited examples of books she found in DODEA libraries that she claimed include sexually explicit material, as well as multiple LGBTQ-themed books. Book bans targeting material about LGBTQ people, particularly transgender people, have increased across the U.S. and in Colorado. Colorado’s representatives voted along party lines on Boebert’s amendment, with Democrats opposed.” [Colorado Newswire, [7/14/23](#)]

McGraw Said The Navy Was More Interested In “Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem” Of Chinese Aggression

McGraw Said The Navy Was More Interested In “Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem” Of Chinese Aggression. [McGraw:] “These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they’ve got the funds They’ve kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don’t know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I’m not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they’ll be activated. And they’ll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned. Recently, there have been these, quote unquote, protests where they stopped the interstates. Some people trying to get to O’Hare the other day. Anyone here got caught up in that? Anyway so they they just stopped the interstate, now, what does that do to one of the busiest airports in the nation? It’s something low tech. It’s easy to do, and it crippled access to the airport for a period of time. That’s just a for warning of what’s coming. One last thing about the border and I will tell you a little bit about drugs here and then I will open it up is uh the second time I was down there, the uh was when the Chinese Communist were coming across. And it’s really kind of an eerie thing to see all these young males, military haircuts don’t speak a word of English or at least they did not reveal they spoke any English. And when border patrol is speaking to them they all knew one thing.” [Audience:] “What city to go to.” [McGraw:] “Gentleman has it right. What city they wanted to go to. They want to go to Chicago or Baltimore or Los Angeles or Seattle. They couldn’t utter another sentence in English at least not apparently but they all knew where they wanted to go. And you’ve got to scratch your head and say does two and two still equal four? I think it does. I think it does. I think you can figure this out pretty quickly. Everyday China’s war-like nature is further exposed. They’re more aggressive in the Pacific. They are more aggressive around the Philippines and Vietnam. They are more aggressive towards Taiwan. And we’ve got a navy, where uh they’re more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn’t have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

- **McGraw: “Every Day China's War-Like Nature Is Further Exposed. They're More Aggressive In The Pacific. They Are More Aggressive Around The Philippines And Vietnam. They Are More Aggressive Towards Taiwan. And We've Got A Navy, Where Uh They're More Interested In Transgender Admirals Than Dealing With The Problem.”** [McGraw:] “These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they've got the funds They've kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don't know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I'm not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they'll be activated. And they'll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned. Recently, there have been these, quote unquote, protests where they stopped the interstates. Some people trying to get to O'Hare the other day. Anyone here got caught up in that? Anyway so they they just stopped the interstate, now, what does that do to one of the busiest airports in the nation? It's something low tech. It's easy to do, and it crippled access to the airport for a period of time. That's just a for warning of what's coming. One last thing about the border and I will tell you a little bit about drugs here and then I will open it up is uh the second time I was down there, the uh was when the Chinese Communist were coming across. And it's really kind of an eerie thing to see all these young males, military haircuts don't speak a word of English or at least they did not reveal they spoke any English. And when border patrol is speaking to them they all knew one thing.” [Audience:] “What city to go to.” [McGraw:] “Gentleman has it right. What city they wanted to go to. They want to go to Chicago or Baltimore or Los Angeles or Seattle. They couldn't utter another sentence in English at least not apparently but they all knew where they wanted to go. And you've got to scratch your head and say does two and two still equal four? I think it does. I think it does. I think you can figure this out pretty quickly. Everyday China's war-like nature is further exposed. They're more aggressive in the Pacific. They are more aggressive around the Philippines and Vietnam. They are more aggressive towards Taiwan. And we've got a navy, where uh they're more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn't have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Parents Rights

McGraw Supported “The Parents Bill Of Rights” Act, Legislation Leaning Into Culture War Issues, Which Teachers Warned Would Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families

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McGraw Supported House Resolution 5 The Parents Bill Of Rights

2024: McGraw Supported House Resolution 5 The Parents Bill Of Rights. McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute's Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “7 | H.R. 5 Parents Bill of Rights (2023) safeguards the right of parents to view curriculum, books, and

reading materials at school; requires parent’s consent for a school to change gender marker.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

March 2023: House Republicans Passed A Federal Parents’ Bill Of Rights That Leaned Into Culture War Issues, Teachers Said It Would Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families And Drive Out Educators

March 2023: The Federal Parents’ Bill Of Rights Passed By House Republicans “Leaned Into A Hot-Button, Culture War Issue.” “House Republicans passed an education bill on Friday that emphasizes parental rights in the classroom, leaning into a hot-button, culture war issue that has gained popularity in GOP politics across the country. The legislation, titled the Parents Bill of Rights, passed in a 213-208 vote, and it now heads to the Senate for consideration. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Democratic-controlled chamber will take up the measure, with House Democrats dubbing the bill the ‘Politics over Parents Act.’” [Hill, [3/24/23](#)]

LGBTQ Advocates Said The Parents’ Bill Of Rights Act Posed A Threat To LGBTQ Students By Potentially Forcing Them To Come Out To Their Families. “Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. who made the Parents’ Bill of Rights Act a priority during the early weeks of his tenure, said Republicans were ‘keeping our promise, our commitment to America, that parents will have a say in their kids’ education.’ The bill passed 213-208, with five Republicans — mostly members of the House Freedom Caucus — voting against it. It would require schools to publish course studies and a list of books kept in libraries, as well as affirm parents’ ability to meet with educators, speak at school board meetings and examine school budgets. [...] Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., successfully added amendments that would require schools to report when transgender girls join girls’ athletics teams and if trans girls are allowed to use girls’ school restrooms or locker rooms. The bill would also require elementary and middle schools get parents’ consent to change a child’s gender designation, pronouns or name. Advocates for LGBTQ people said the proposal poses a threat to LGBTQ students by potentially forcing them to come out to their families, which can sometimes lead to abuse or abandonment. ‘It’s part of a pattern of attempts we’re seeing where the right wing of the Republican Party is really trying to marginalize LGBTQ people,’ said David Stacy, the government affairs director for Human Rights Campaign.” [PBS, [3/24/23](#)]

The Parents’ Bill Of Rights Required Schools To Notify Parents Of Their Right To Review The School’s Curriculum, Budget, And Library Materials, And To Receive Information About Any Violent Activity. “House Republicans passed legislation Friday aimed at boosting parents’ access to information about their child’s education, fulfilling a midterm pledge that GOP lawmakers hope will be a galvanizing issue next year. ‘The Parents Bill of Rights is an important step towards protecting children and dramatically strengthening the rights of parents,’ House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the bill’s passage. [...] The bill, introduced by Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow, requires schools to notify parents that they have the right to review the curriculum and school budget, inspect books and other library materials, and receive information about any violent activity in the school. The bill would also prohibit schools from selling student information. Elementary schools or schools housing grades 5-8 would be required to obtain parental consent before changing a student’s pronouns or preferred name or allowing a student to change their sex-based accommodations, like locker rooms or bathrooms.” [NPR, [3/24/23](#)]

- **Under The Federal Parent’s Bill Of Rights, Elementary Schools Or Schools With Grades 5-8 Would Be Required To Obtain Parental Consent Before Using A Student’s Preferred Name Or Pronouns.** “House Republicans passed legislation Friday aimed at boosting parents’ access to information about their child’s education, fulfilling a midterm pledge that GOP lawmakers hope will be a galvanizing issue next year. ‘The Parents Bill of Rights is an important step towards protecting children and dramatically strengthening the rights of parents,’ House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the bill’s passage. [...] The bill, introduced by Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow, requires schools to notify parents that they have the right to review the curriculum and school budget, inspect books and other library materials, and receive information about any violent activity in the school. The bill would also prohibit schools from selling student information. Elementary schools or schools housing grades 5-8 would be required to obtain parental consent before changing a student’s pronouns or preferred name or allowing a student to change their sex-based accommodations, like locker rooms or bathrooms.” [NPR, [3/24/23](#)]

Teachers Worried The Proposed Federal Parents' Bill Of Rights Would "Drive A Wedge Between Schools And Families," "Push Parents To Fear And Distrust Educators And Drive Teachers Out Of The Profession."

"A proposed federal parents' bill of rights aims to give parents more power over what is taught in classrooms, but teachers worry the bill would drive a wedge between schools and families. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy announced the Parents' Bill of Rights Act to a crowd of parents and conservative lawmakers last week shortly before Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., reintroduced it into Congress with 73 GOP representatives signing on as co-sponsors. The bill follows a growing national movement for parents' rights policies that often call for restrictions on how teachers can talk about race, gender, and sexuality. It's also a primary education priority for the U.S. House's new Republican majority following last November's elections. The bill faces longer odds for gaining traction in the Senate where Democrats have a slim majority. While the bill appears straightforward—and even details rights parents already largely have at the local level—some teachers worry it will push parents to fear and distrust educators and drive teachers out of the profession. The bill would 'make teachers' jobs harder by creating a narrative of teachers as shadowy bureaucrats or petty tyrants suppressing parents,' said Chris Dier, a history teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, La., and the 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. 'This bill creates barriers and makes it harder for teachers to teach in an already overburdensome occupation.'" [Education Week, [3/7/23](#)]

- **Chris Dier, The 2020 Louisiana Teacher Of The Year: "This Bill Creates Barriers And Makes It Harder For Teachers To Teach In An Already Overburdensome Occupation."** "A proposed federal parents' bill of rights aims to give parents more power over what is taught in classrooms, but teachers worry the bill would drive a wedge between schools and families. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy announced the Parents' Bill of Rights Act to a crowd of parents and conservative lawmakers last week shortly before Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., reintroduced it into Congress with 73 GOP representatives signing on as co-sponsors. [...] While the bill appears straightforward—and even details rights parents already largely have at the local level—some teachers worry it will push parents to fear and distrust educators and drive teachers out of the profession. The bill would 'make teachers' jobs harder by creating a narrative of teachers as shadowy bureaucrats or petty tyrants suppressing parents,' said Chris Dier, a history teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, La., and the 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. 'This bill creates barriers and makes it harder for teachers to teach in an already overburdensome occupation.'" [Education Week, [3/7/23](#)]

McGraw Said He Added Parents Rights To His List Of Priorities, But Agreed Parent's Rights Were A Local Issue

McGraw Said He Added Parents Rights To His List Of Priorities. [Question:] "Judge McGraw do you think media in all four of the congressional district markets should be asking your opponent Eric Sorensen whether he supports his parties state bill that were already passed and some that have been introduced be voted on that bypass parents' rights to know whether their minor aged children are having sex change operations without their parents knowledge or to have abortions in state arrest, and state without their parents knowing about it." [McGraw:] "Yeah that is a great question. I don't think it is up to the media, frankly it is up to me. I am the one who has to ask that question of him. The media will not ask that question, probably it is up to us. As we get on a firm platform media wise we can keep putting that question out there. I have added parents rights to the list of things. After the border, crime, and drugs and the economy. I added parents rights to my third priority not necessarily in sequence of priority. That has come up again and again when I am in forums like this I am talking to folks and they bring that up. They don't feel their kids are safe anymore. They don't feel as though they can send their kids to school and not wonder what's going on in that school. What are they being taught? When I was growing up, I had three sisters and my mom to get us out of her hair would take us down to the library and turn us loose you know. And we could pick whatever books we wanted and bring them home and read them. And uh now that's not a safe place anymore, that is not a safeplace. There are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children. And it seems, not it seems, it is apparent to me that Washington, the liberal left and many others going along with it want to destroy the family, no question about it. They want to change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman. They want to take advantage of kids that are young and impressionable. The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them

said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? It's just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. Naturally, there's gonna be confusion. But we don't want federal money or state money for that matter being used behind our back to assert parental authority and to take the role or attempt to supplant the role that are rightly only the parents. Great question thank you." [Statement:] "The government should not be co-parenting." [McGraw:] "They should not be coparenting right on. Other questions? Somebody else?" [Statement:] "A comment. I signed a petition they are trying to get on the ballot that you know to have parents rights." [McGraw:] "That is right, that is a local issue." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 33:21, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Agreed That "Parent's Rights" Were A Local Issue. [Question:] "Judge McGraw do you think media in all four of the congressional district markets should be asking your opponent Eric Sorensen whether he supports his parties state bill that were already passed and some that have been introduced be voted on that bypass parents' rights to know whether their minor aged children are having sex change operations without their parents knowledge or to have abortions in state arrest, and state without their parents knowing about it." [McGraw:] "Yeah that is a great question. I don't think it is up to the media, frankly it is up to me. I am the one who has to ask that question of him. The media will not ask that question, probably it is up to us. As we get on a firm platform media wise we can keep putting that question out there. I have added parents rights to the list of things. After the border, crime, and drugs and the economy. I added parents rights to my third priority not necessarily in sequence of priority. That has come up again and again when I am in forums like this I am talking to folks and they bring that up. They don't feel their kids are safe anymore. They don't feel as though they can send their kids to school and not wonder what's going on in that school. What are they being taught? When I was growing up, I had three sisters and my mom to get us out of her hair would take us down to the library and turn us loose you know. And we could pick whatever books we wanted and bring them home and read them. And uh now that's not a safe place anymore, that is not a safeplace. There are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children. And it seems, not it seems, it is apparent to me that Washington, the liberal left and many others going along with it want to destroy the family, no question about it. They want to change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman. They want to take advantage of kids that are young and impressionable. The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? It's just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. Naturally, there's gonna be confusion. But we don't want federal money or state money for that matter being used behind our back to assert parental authority and to take the role or attempt to supplant the role that are rightly only the parents. Great question thank you." [Statement:] "The government should not be co-parenting." [McGraw:] "They should not be coparenting right on. Other questions? Somebody else?" [Statement:] "A comment. I signed a petition they are trying to get on the ballot that you know to have parents rights." [McGraw:] "That is right, that is a local issue." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 33:21, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Gender Roles

McGraw Said That "Washington" And The Liberal Left Wanted To "Destroy The Family" And Wanted To "Change The Role Of A Man, They Want To Change The Role Of A Woman" And "Take Advantage Of Kids That Are Young And Impressionable"

McGraw: "It Is Apparent To Me That Washington, The Liberal Left And Many Others Going Along With It Want To Destroy The Family, No Question About It. They Want To Change The Role Of A Man, They Want To Change The Role Of A Woman. They Want To Take Advantage Of Kids That Are Young And Impressionable." QUESTION: "Judge McGraw do you think media in all four of the congressional district markets should be asking your opponent Eric Sorensen whether he supports his parties state bill that were already passed and some that have been introduced be voted on that bypass parents' rights to know whether their minor aged children are having sex change operations without their parents knowledge or to have abortions in state arrest, and state without their parents knowing about it." MCGRAW: "Yeah that is a great question. I don't think it is up to the media, frankly it is up to me. I am the one who has to ask that question of him. The media will not ask that

question, probably it is up to us. As we get on a firm platform media wise we can keep putting that question out there. I have added parents rights to the list of things. After the border, crime, and drugs and the economy. I added parents rights to my third priority not necessarily in sequence of priority. That has come up again and again when I am in forums like this I am talking to folks and they bring that up. They don't feel their kids are safe anymore. They don't feel as though they can send their kids to school and not wonder what's going on in that school. What are they being taught? When I was growing up, I had three sisters and my mom to get us out of her hair would take us down to the library and turn us loose you know. And we could pick whatever books we wanted and bring them home and read them. And uh now that's not a safe place anymore, that is not a safe place. There are so many vile things, things that steal the innocence of your children. And it seems, not it seems, it is apparent to me that Washington, the liberal left and many others going along with it want to destroy the family, no question about it. They want to change the role of a man, they want to change the role of a woman. They want to take advantage of kids that are young and impressionable. The last study I read said that those that have gender dysphoria, meaning they are not happy being a boy or girl, by the time they reach their teens, 85% of them said, yeah, what was I thinking you know? It's just part of a process and especially in a culture today with so many conflicting messages. Naturally, there's gonna be confusion. But we don't want federal money or state money for that matter being used behind our back to assert parental authority and to take the role or attempt to supplant the role that are rightly only the parents. Great question thank you.” STATEMENT: “The government should not be co-parenting.” MCGRAW: “They should not be coparenting right on. Other questions? Somebody else?” STATEMENT: “A comment. I signed a petition they are trying to get on the ballot that you know to have parents rights.” MCGRAW: “That is right, that is a local issue.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 33:21, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Democratic Party

McGraw: The Democratic Party Was “Radical On Gay Rights And Transgender Rights”

McGraw: The Democratic Party Was “Radical On Gay Rights And Transgender Rights. They Undermine The Values That Parents Try And Teach Their Kids. They Have Infiltrated The School System With Their Ideas. Uh They Are Definitely Trying To Change America.” HOST: “Are you prepared for what uh is involved today in politics? Years ago I love quoting it but dear friend Bob Michael who was minority leader in the House used to duel with Tip O’Neil the Democratic majority leader and they would argue on the floor of the House and then have lunch together and play golf together. Uh, that will never happen in today's political world unfortunately that doesn't seem like people can reasonably discuss things without getting mad and have friendships ended over it. It is a different world today.” MCGRAW: “Well you are right. Things are exceptionally polarized and that is because of the radicalism of the Democratic party. They're radical extremes on every issue. They are radical extremists on the border. They are radical extremists on rights for certain groups for the exclusion of others. They are radical environmentalists. They are radical on gay rights and transgender rights. They undermine the values that parents try and teach their kids. They have infiltrated the school system with their ideas. Uh they are definitely trying to change America. And that is why I felt called to do this because I was blessed to grow up in a time when it uh I came from a blue collar home. My dad had a family business where he made horseshoes for harness racers and I worked with him at the forge everyday. He is a WWII vet, combat vet. My mom was a lawful immigrant to the US. She came from Italy. I saw that our country was changing and denying Americans the opportunity to live the American dream and our country was being remade and our heritage being stolen from us and we are being told that we are a racist country that there is nothing salvageable that we are built on evil not virtue and I am student of American history Roger. I know what the founding father believed. I know what their values were. They were committed to Judeo-Christian values and they were committed to freedom, individual freedom and individual responsibility and that is why I am running. To re-establish those values and you know sometimes you can agree to disagree with someone and still get along but there are some issues that are so based on principle that there is no room to give.” [Joe McGraw, Breakfast With Roger and Friends, 10:46, 2/8/24] (AUDIO)

National Defense & Security Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ April 2024: McGraw said there were terrorist “sleeper cells everywhere” and said at the “right time, the right place, they’ll be activated.
- ✓ McGraw: “Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open border policies resulted in a man on the terror watch list being released free into the United States for almost a year.”

Terrorism

April 2024: McGraw Said There Were Terrorist “Sleeper Cells Everywhere” And Said At The “Right Time, The Right Place, They’ll Be Activated

April 2024: McGraw Said There Were Terrorist “Sleeper Cells Everywhere” And Said At The “Right Time, The Right Place, They’ll Be Activated.” [McGraw:] “These people are not coming here randomly. They are coming here with a purpose. Ah if you follow the news at all, what do you hear everyday coming out of countries like Iran, Death to America, Death to Israel among other things. They are not our friends. They are not our allies. Our weak foreign policy under Biden has given them millions and billions of dollars that was previously frozen and now they’ve got the funds They’ve kind of gone on a spending spree, buying armament and attacking Israel, attacking America, American proxies locally. They are enemies. So this guy what was he for? I don’t know specifically what he was here for but he was here because he meant us ill. He was sent here by his government to cause havoc, and another 9/11 in America. About a month or two ago, Chris Wray the director of the FBI, I’m not endorsing everything Chris Wray says, but when it makes sense it makes sense. He had a conference for all the sheriffs in the West and he told them that it is not a question of whether we are going to have another 9/11, it is a question of when and if you think about the limited resources available to those 9/11 terrorists and how few of them there really were. Now everyday who is crossing the border? What is their assignment? Where are they going? There are sleeper cells everywhere and at the right time, the right place, they’ll be activated. And they’ll bring terror and destruction to the United States, like the sheriff mentioned.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw: “Joe Biden And Eric Sorensen's Open Border Policies Resulted In A Man On The Terror Watch List Being Released Free Into The United States For Almost A Year”

McGraw: “Joe Biden And Eric Sorensen's Open Border Policies Resulted In A Man On The Terror Watch List Being Released Free Into The United States For Almost A Year.” “Joe Biden and Eric Sorensen's open border policies resulted in a man on the terror watch list being released free into the United States for almost a year. There's no other way to put it -- the Biden-Sorensen open borders agenda is EXTREME and DANGEROUS.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]



Judge Joe McGraw
@judgejoemcgraw



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nbcnews.com
Man on terror watchlist was released by Border Patrol
With border security funding blocked in Congress, the case illustrates the challenges U.S. officials face in identifying ...

2:06 PM · Apr 16, 2024 · 95 Views



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/16/24](#)]

Policing & Public Safety Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw repeatedly said he would support law enforcement and he had police officers' backs.
- ✓ McGraw said “the elimination of cash bail in Illinois doesn't make our communities safer. It puts the interests of criminals over the needs of law-abiding citizens.”
- ✓ McGraw referred to George Floyd as “Richard Floyd” and then said, “that is his brother” and joked that he was talking about “the Floyd not Pink Floyd.”
- ✓ McGraw said, “we need to get serious about the police shortages in Illinois and across the entire country or we'll never get back to law and order.”
- ✓ McGraw called for the repeal of the TRUST Act and said prevented law enforcement from asking about the immigration status of someone they arrest, and which prevented judges from knowing the immigration status of defendants.
 - ✓ ACLU: The goal of the TRUST Act was to “foster confidence between law enforcement agencies and the state's immigrant communities by ensuring that interactions between immigrants and law enforcement do not lead to immigration detention or deportation.”
- ✓ McGraw said human trafficking was “not like the movie ‘Pretty Woman.’”
- ✓ McGraw oversaw PATH court, a “multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking.”
- ✓ McGraw said he talked with Winnebago County State's Attorney Bruscato about having “johns,” perpetrators of sex crimes, face a victims panel as part of a rehabilitation effort.
- ✓ 2022: McGraw spoke at a gala for Refuge for Women Chicago; at the gala he discussed PATH court and its work to address human trafficking in Rockford.
- ✓ April 2024: McGraw spoke to students at Rockford University about the challenges posed by human trafficking.
- ✓ McGraw's congressional campaign website said he would “go after the liberal state's attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the law.”
- ✓ McGraw advocated for an “all-of-the-above” strategy to address fentanyl deaths including securing the border, cracking down on drug dealers and improving addiction recovery options.
- ✓ 2024: McGraw toured several jails during his congressional campaign.

McGraw Criticized Soft On Crime Policies...

- ✓ McGraw criticized Democrats' “soft-on-crime policies” and said he was running for Congress to “keep our families safe.”
 - ✓ McGraw repeatedly criticized Democrats' “soft-on-crime policies,” and said in Congress he would ensure “violent criminals [were] behind bars” and “keep our families safe.”

- ✓ McGraw campaigned on his judicial career and said he had “uph[eld] the law to keep our communities and our belongings safe.”

... But As A Judge And Chief Justice Of The Illinois 17th Circuit Court, McGraw Gave Lenient Sentences To Dangerous Criminals, Many Of Whom Went On To Reoffend

- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of being an armed habitual criminal to 12 years in prison, less than half the maximum sentence; shortly after being released he was back in court on charges of armed robbery and domestic battery.
- ✓ February 2013: Bryant Johnson was arrested for possession of a firearm after a traffic stop; McGraw found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal and sentenced him to 12 years in prison, less than half the maximum sentence. The sentencing range for the charge was 6 to 30 years in prison.
- ✓ April 2022: Bryant Johnson was released from Sheridan Correctional Center.
- ✓ March 2023: Bryant Johnson was back in court charged with domestic battery/bodily harm, the case was dismissed before a jury trial took place.
- ✓ December 2023: Bryant Johnson was charged with armed robbery, aggravated robbery armed with a firearm, aggravated robbery with a firearm, and theft threat with intent of less than 100k-500k.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man to only 30 months of probation after he abandoned someone to drown despite the States Attorney’s request for jail time; after being released from probation he was the defendant in eight criminal cases.
 - ✓ Kristopher Zaugg pushed Casey Sheets off a boat and left him to drown even after being informed Casey Sheets could not swim. Casey Sheets was later found deceased, and his cause of death was ruled a drowning.
 - ✓ Kristopher Zaugg was indicted on first degree murder and aggravated battery charges for the drowning death of Casey Sheets but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter as a class 3 felony.
 - ✓ Under Illinois Law, class 3 felony charges of involuntary manslaughter carried a sentence of no less than 2 years and no more than five years in prison, but Judges had the discretion to sentence probation if they saw necessary.
 - ✓ McGraw utilized his judicial discretion and sentenced Kristopher Zaugg to 30 months’ probation, a \$10,000 fine, and credited him with nine months served in jail, despite the States Attorney’s request for a sentence with jail time.
 - ✓ Winnebago County State’s Attorney requested a Department of Corrections sentence and believed that “based on the facts and circumstances of the case” a jail sentence was “appropriate.”
 - ✓ 2018: After Kristopher Zaugg was released from probation, he was found guilty of driving under the influence of drugs and possession of meth.
 - ✓ 2021-2022: Kristopher Zaugg was the defendant in six criminal cases and was charged with reckless conduct/bodily harm, manufacturing or delivery of oxycodone, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, drug possession, violation of bail, and theft among other charges.

- ✓ McGraw rejected Prosecutors' requests to hold a murder suspect in custody as he was called a "high risk for flight" and after the defendant was released, he was found guilty of ten counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm.
- ✓ November 2012: Without holding a hearing, McGraw rejected prosecutors' requests to hold Antwan Maxey, a murder suspect, in custody after he was called a "high risk for flight."
- ✓ March 2017: Antwan Maxey was found guilty of ten counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm.

McGraw Sentenced Defendants Convicted Of Murder And Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence Dictated By Illinois State Statutes

- ✓ Mandatory Minimums were the shortest prison term Illinois Law recommended a Judge sentence for a given crime.
- ✓ Illinois Law allowed judges discretion to sentence below the state's mandatory minimum of imprisonment or sentence probation or conditional discharge for certain felonies if the judge deemed it appropriate.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced two men convicted of murder as a class M felony to below the minimum recommended prison sentence even though both men were on parole at the time of the brutal attempted murder.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced Victor Petty and Jerome Pruitt to 15 years in prison, five years below the 20-year minimum sentence for murder as a class M felony. In Illinois, murder as a Class M Felony had a minimum sentence of 20 years and a max of life in prison.
- ✓ Victor Petty and Jerome Pruitt made at least three attempts to slice a veteran shop owner's throat and stabbed the shop owner multiple times in the back and chest.
- ✓ Both Jerome Pruitt and Victor Petty were on parole at the time of the attempted murder, Pruitt had a lengthy criminal history and had repeatedly violated the terms of his parole.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault to less than the minimum prison recommended sentence.
- ✓ The Second District Appellate Court acknowledged that the 15-year sentence handed down by McGraw was one year less than the minimum recommended 16-year sentence for aggravated criminal sexual assault.

McGraw Lowered Bail For A Man Arrested On Murder Charges And Gave Lenient Sentences To Defendants Convicted Of Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Child Endangerment, And Murder.

- ✓ McGraw sentenced a woman found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment to only four years' probation, despite the prosecutor recommendation of a 22-year prison sentence.
- ✓ McGraw found Illinois woman Kayla Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment after she allowed her infant to starve to death.

- ✓ Prosecutors argued Kayla Lund’s actions were “cruel and heinous behavior.” Although she never brought her infant to a doctor, Lund went to her own doctors’ appointments in the weeks before he died.
- ✓ Rockford Register Star: “Horrific autopsy and crime scene photos” presented during the bench trial showed her infant “died skeletal and emaciated.”
- ✓ McGraw sentenced Kayla Lund to four years’ probation, despite the Prosecutor’s request for a 22-year sentence, which McGraw said was ‘unnecessary.’
- ✓ Kayla Lund faced up to 14 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter and up to 10 years in prison for endangering the life of a child causing death.
- ✓ Another one of Kayla Lund’s children died previously and Lund was found to be medically neglectful, though she was not charged with a crime at the time.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man found guilty of sexual abuse to only 90 days of periodic imprisonment – where he could be released at particular times – despite the crime being punishable by up to three years in prison.
- ✓ 2020: A Rockford man, Michael Lambert, was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse committed in 2018.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced Michael Lambert to 90 days of periodic imprisonment, despite criminal sexual abuse being punishable by up to three years in prison. Periodic imprisonment allowed a defendant to be released for periods of time, during which they could work, seek employment, or engage in other designated activities.
- ✓ McGraw sentenced a man twice convicted of murder to 10 years less than his previous sentence for his first conviction; the mother of the victim’s daughter said McGraw’s sentence was too light and said, “it’s going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter.”
- ✓ McGraw said one of his focuses as Chief Judge was to ‘reduce the jail population.’

While McGraw Was A Judge, Winnebago County Courts Consistently Struggled With “Pervasive” Delays And A Large Case Backlog, Allowing A Suspected Murderer To Go Free And Forcing A Family To Wait More Than Six Years For Justice In A Murder Case

- ✓ While McGraw was Chief Judge and Presiding Criminal Judge, Winnebago County Courts faced “pervasive” delays.
- ✓ 2012-2017: McGraw served as Chief Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court, a role responsible for the overall administrative responsibilities of the court.
- ✓ Before taking on the role of Chief Justice, McGraw said he would address the case backlog in the Circuit Court and decrease the jail population.
- ✓ In one 2012 case, a suspected murderer was allowed to go free because his speedy trial rights were violated.

- ✓ In 2012 under McGraw’s jurisdiction in Winnebago County, 58% of people in jail on felony charges were there longer than the speedy-trial requirement of trial within 120 days, which was grounds for accused to be released.
- ✓ A 2015 murder case took more than six years to get justice, with the murderer having the longest time awaiting trial of any inmate in Winnebago County jail.

Law Enforcement

McGraw Repeatedly Said He Would Support Law Enforcement And He Had Police Officers’ Backs

McGraw Said He Had Police Officers’ Backs. “378 officers were shot in the line of duty last year. To our brave officers, I have your backs! To criminals, get ready to face the consequences for your actions because we are going to restore law and order in the United States.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/2/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [2/2/24](#)]

January 2024: McGraw Held A Roundtable With Law Enforcement Officials And Said In Congress He Would Support Law Enforcement, Increase Police Funding And Ensure Criminals Were Behind Bars.

“Appreciate the law enforcement officials who participated in our roundtable discussion on how we can work together to keep our families safe. In Congress, I’ll stand shoulder to shoulder with law enforcement, increase police funding, and ensure violent criminals are behind bars.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]

McGraw Launched A Law Enforcement Coalition. “Proud to announce the launch of our Law Enforcement Coalition! #BackTheBlue 🇺🇸” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/16/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/16/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Was Proud To Stand With Law Enforcement And Said Congress Should Give Them More Support. “I’m proud to stand with law enforcement. From the men and women in blue patrolling our streets to the CBP agents in green protecting our border, Congress must give them more support. I’m ready to fight for them and I’ll always have their backs! #lawenforcementappreciation” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/9/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/9/24](#)]

October 2021: McGraw Liked A Post On LinkedIn That Used The Blue Lives Matter Symbol. “Stop saying, ‘It’s what they signed up for.’ No one signs up for anything hoping to be hated, injured or killed. They sign up to make a difference.” [Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [10/22/21](#)]



[Joseph G. McGraw, LinkedIn, [10/22/21](#)]

Criminal Justice Reform

McGraw Said “The Elimination Of Cash Bail In Illinois Doesn't Make Our Communities Safer. It Puts The Interests Of Criminals Over The Needs Of Law Abiding Citizens”

McGraw Said “The Elimination Of Cash Bail In Illinois Doesn't Make Our Communities Safer. It Puts The Interests Of Criminals Over The Needs Of Law Abiding Citizens.” “The elimination of cash bail in Illinois doesn't make our communities safer. It puts the interests of criminals over the needs of law abiding citizens. It's time we stop coddling people who break the law. In Congress, I'll restore the rule of law and I'll always back the blue.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/21/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/21/24](#)]

McGraw Said He “Fortunately” Retired Before No Cash Bail Was Instated In Illinois. [Host:] “Alright and you have one hell of a resume. I mean the amount of years a judge, a prosecuting attorney fighting for essentially you know the right thing. We are obviously very pro-police here. We got a show for the police, benefit the blue on Saturdays. You know I am with you on all that stuff and the fact that you instead of you know riding on into the sunset to FL or wherever you want to stay around and fight the fight for your state and your country that says a lot

to me. I have a quick question for you because you are on the inside of this, what do you think about this no cash bail in IL?" [McGraw:] "Well you know fortunately I retired before it started." [Host:] "Yeah haha." [McGraw:] "It was still on appeal at the Supreme Court. You know judges have to be very very very careful about what they say. They do not have the freedom to criticize legislation or to endorse legislation for that matter so you won't get any judges speaking candidly about that but I was familiarly with the work done by the Supreme Court done by pre-trial reform and I think 70 some recommendations were created and the legislature when it did it's midnight creation of the safety act." [Host:] "Yeah." [McGraw:] "Did not include any of those Supreme Court recommendations in other words it is an entirely politically motivated statute and puts a tremendous additional burden on the court, on the state's attorney, public defenders, and as a judge you are forced to make decisions in an absence of evidence because this person is entitled to detention hearing within 48 hours and uh you know at that time especially if it is a serious crime Aaron all of the detective reports, the other forensic analysis, witness statements are all being collected still at that time and so you really do not know who you have in front of you in terms of the magnitude of the crime. You do not know the person you have in front either if they are alien because the so called trust act in IL prevents law enforcement from inquiring about the alien status of someone they arrest. So we don't know who. We don't even know that. So they are forced to make a decision on bail and I should say detention without having adequate time or evidence. And then every time that person comes back to court if they have been detained they are entitled to another hearing to see if conditions have changed, could they now be released? You know it is totally unnecessary, it requires a lot of staffing and (could not figure out the specific word McGraw says here), on the court calls, it makes the court less efficient because they are conducting all these unnecessary hearings and it takes time away from the prosecutor to be prosecuting crimes because he or she is spending so much time trying to re-justifying their actions of why someone should be detained and that is just the tip of the iceberg Aaron." [Joe McGraw, 107.7 WQUD-FM Interview, 13:20, 1/30/24]

McGraw: "Police Get Treated Like The Bad Guys While Criminals Get To Roam Our Streets On Cashless Bail." "Under Biden & Sorensen, things are backwards: Real wages for blue collar workers are down while illegal immigration is up. Police get treated like the bad guys while criminals get to roam our streets on cashless bail. [...] Deadly drugs come into our communities from the Chinese communists and the cartels, while our jobs go overseas." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/4/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/4/24](#)]

Police Violence

McGraw Referred To George Floyd As "Richard Floyd" And Then Said "That Is His Brother" And Joked That He Was Talking About "The Floyd Not Pink Floyd"

McGraw Referred To George Floyd As "Richard Floyd" And Then Said "That Is His Brother" And Joked That He Was Talking About "The Floyd Not Pink Floyd." "My opponent had a press release a while back where he talked about in the Quad Cities they need a clinic where kids 10 to 12 can get puberty blockers. He said that will cause the district to thrive. His words not mine. I don't know about you but I am not seeing it that way. So." [Caruana:] "He also said the f police." [McGraw:] "Pardon me?" [Caruana:] "He also said f the police." [McGraw:] "Oh yeah. Caruana reminds me that uh during the, sheriff Caruana reminds me that during

the Floyd, Richard Floyd riots on a private Facebook page.” [Audience:] “George Floyd.” [McGraw:] “Huh?” [Audience:] “George Floyd. George Floyd. George Floyd.” [McGraw:] “George Floyd. What did I say?” [Crowd:] “Richard.” [McGraw:] “Okay that is his brother,” (*big laugh from the crowd*). Anyway the Floyd not Pink Floyd, but the Floyd (*claps and laughs from the crowd*). [Audience:] “That is another brother.” [McGraw:] “That is another brother,” (*laughs from crowd*). “Aren’t we all the brothers? Can’t we all get along,” (*crowd laughs*). “So anyway he is on a FB page that says F the police. This is your current congressman in the 17th congressional district. He's never denied it. He is in favor of every soft on crime policy federally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 18:05, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

Police Funding

Police Shortages

McGraw Said “We Need To Get Serious About The Police Shortages In Illinois And Across The Entire Country Or We'll Never Get Back To Law And Order.” “We need to get serious about the police shortages in Illinois and across the entire country or we'll never get back to law and order. I've been in law enforcement my whole life. I know how to get this done and in Congress it will be one of my top priorities! #BackTheBlue” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/1/24](#)]

Trust Act

McGraw Called For The Repeal Of The TRUST Act And Said Prevented Law Enforcement From Asking About The Immigration Status Of Someone They Arrest And Which Prevented Judges From Knowing The Immigration Status Of Defendants

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McGraw Called For The Repeal Of The Trust Act. [McGraw:] “When I was on the bench and someone charged with a crime. We would have their whole background, we would know if they were illegally and so forth. That would affect what kind of decisions I made about bond affect a number of things. Like you know if this person is here illegally well what are the chances they are going to be a flight risk, I think pretty high okay and just as a general statement. So the Democratic legislature passed a law that says law enforcement cannot communicate with ICE next thing you got John Doe you arrested him and we have reason to believe he is not here legally for a number of reasons. You can’t call ICE and say hey I got this guy here and are you looking for and so forth, is he here legally or not. That was stopped by the Democratic administration in IL and that further hamstrings your sheriffs and further hamstrings your law enforcement officers throughout the state because when they pull someone over they have no idea who they have got there. And when that person comes before the judge, the judge has deprived of some essential information that he or she needs in order to evaluate the risk potential. So when you call that with no cash bail in IL it is like you made a situation very dangerous for people who are slipping through without anyone really knowing who they have in front of them. That is an example of state defying the federal government and the federal government not enforcing the law in IL and other places as well. We have become a nation of law breakers because of their federal policies and so everyone has become you know very very concerned about this huge influx

of people we don't know who they are or where they are going. We don't know what they are here to do and if they commit a crime against an American now you can't even find out if they are here illegally. So uh two issues, vote for Joe McGraw to go to Congress because I will make sure the laws are enforced and vote for Li and others here in IL who will get IL to repeal, recall, undo some of their policies like the so called trust act and uh make sure we are following federal law when it comes to immigration." [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 31:27, 4/4/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Said The Trust Act Prevented Law Enforcement From Asking About The Immigration Status Of Someone They Arrest And This Prevented Judges From Knowing The Immigration Status Of Defendants.

[Host:] "Alright and you have one hell of a resume. I mean the amount of years a judge, a prosecuting attorney fighting for essentially you know the right thing. We are obviously very pro-police here. We got a show for the police, benefit the blue on Saturdays. You know I am with you on all that stuff and the fact that you instead of you know riding on into the sunset to FL or wherever you want to stay around and fight the fight for your state and your country that says a lot to me. I have a quick question for you because you are on the inside of this, what do you think about this no cash bail in IL?" [McGraw:] "Well you know fortunately I retired before it started." [Host:] "Yeah haha." [McGraw:] "It was still on appeal at the Supreme Court. You know judges have to be very very very careful about what they say. They do not have the freedom to criticize legislation or to endorse legislation for that matter so you won't get any judges speaking candidly about that but I was familiarly with the work done by the Supreme Court done by pre-trial reform and I think 70 some recommendations were created and the legislature when it did it's midnight creation of the safety act." [Host:] "Yeah." [McGraw:] "Did not include any of those Supreme Court recommendations in other words it is an entirely politically motivated statute and puts a tremendous additional burden on the court, on the state's attorney, public defenders, and as a judge you are forced to make decisions in an absence of evidence because this person is entitled to detention hearing within 48 hours and uh you know at that time especially if it is a serious crime Aaron all of the detective reports, the other forensic analysis, witness statements are all being collected still at that time and so you really do not know who you have in front of you in terms of the magnitude of the crime. You do not know the person you have in front either if they are alien because the so called trust act in IL prevents law enforcement from inquiring about the alien status of someone they arrest. So we don't know who. We don't even know that. So they are forced to make a decision on bail and I should say detention without having adequate time or evidence. And then every time that person comes back to court if they have been detained they are entitled to another hearing to see if conditions have changed, could they now be released? You know it is totally unnecessary, it requires a lot of staffing and [indecipherable], on the court calls, it makes the court less efficient because they are conducting all these unnecessary hearings and it takes time away from the prosecutor to be prosecuting crimes because he or she is spending so much time trying to re-justifying their actions of why someone should be detained and that is just the tip of the iceberg Aaron." [Joe McGraw, 107.7 WQUD-FM Interview, 13:20, 1/30/24] (AUDIO)

ACLU: The Goal Of The TRUST Act Was To "Foster Confidence Between Law Enforcement Agencies And The State's Immigrant Communities By Ensuring That Interactions Between Immigrants And Law Enforcement Do Not Lead To Immigration Detention Or Deportation"

ACLU: The TRUST Act Limited State And Local Law Enforcement's Participation In Federal Immigration Enforcement. "In 2017, Illinois enacted the TRUST Act, a measure that limits state and local law enforcement's participation in federal immigration enforcement. Among other things, the law prohibits law enforcement from holding someone just because of a request from ICE. The goal of the TRUST Act is to foster confidence between law enforcement agencies and the state's immigrant communities by ensuring that interactions between immigrants and law enforcement do not lead to immigration detention or deportation." [ACLU Illinois, accessed [6/4/24](#)]

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communities by ensuring that interactions between immigrants and law enforcement do not lead to immigration detention or deportation.” [ACLU Illinois, accessed [6/4/24](#)]

Human Trafficking

McGraw Said Human Trafficking Was “Not Like The Movie ‘Pretty Woman’”

2016: McGraw Said Human Trafficking Was “Not Like The Movie ‘Pretty Woman.’” “2. What has McGraw discovered about human trafficking? ‘It really is slavery. It’s not like the movie “Pretty Woman.” Most all have PTSD, been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and are self-medicating for depression. Their sole measure is, “What is my body worth?” They were all molested, raped — many (by) incest, came from unstable or no home. To break that cycle is very lengthy. It takes 20 tries to get them out of the life, ... a minimum of two years on average. Pimps are brutal and violent. (The women) are something to be used until they are used up. There’s tremendous savagery, violence, disease. They can look like runaways, habitual retail thieves, prostitutes, (committees of) petty drug crimes.’” [Rockford Register Star, [7/22/16](#)]

- **McGraw Said Human Trafficking “Really Is Slavery” And Said Victims Of Human Trafficking’s “Sole Measure Was, ‘What Is My Body Worth?’** “2. What has McGraw discovered about human trafficking? ‘It really is slavery.’ ‘It’s not like the movie ‘Pretty Woman.’ ‘Most all have PTSD, been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and are self-medicating for depression. Their sole measure is, ‘What is my body worth?’ ‘They were all molested, raped — many (by) incest, came from unstable or no home.’ ‘To break that cycle is very lengthy. It takes 20 tries to get them out of the life, ... a minimum of two years on average.’ ‘Pimps are brutal and violent. (The women) are something to be used until they are used up.’ ‘There’s tremendous savagery, violence, disease.’ ‘They can look like runaways, habitual retail thieves, prostitutes, (committees of) petty drug crimes.’” [Rockford Register Star, [7/22/16](#)]

McGraw Oversaw PATH Court, A “Multidisciplinary Court Response To Human Trafficking”

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McGraw Oversaw PATH Court, A “Multidisciplinary Court Response To Human Trafficking.” “McGraw was appointed a circuit judge in January 2002 and retired July 5 after more than 21 years. He was chief judge from Jan. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2017, and was a prosecutor and private attorney before serving on the bench. In addition to presiding over a specialized gun offense felony caseload in Winnebago County, McGraw also oversaw PATH Court, a multidisciplinary court response to human trafficking. He was chairman of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, an instructor for the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor’s Trial Advocacy Program and an adjunct instructor at Rockford and Judson universities.” [Shaw Local, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Convened An Ongoing Committee Of Police, Court, Nonprofit, And Other Agency Representatives To Help Create Court Programs For Human Trafficking Survivors And Their Perpetrators. “Judge Joseph McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Winnebago and Boone counties said he is looking forward to working with the mayor’s new office to ‘focus resources and attention on strategy, legislation and coordination.’ Nearly two years ago, he convened an ongoing committee of more than a dozen representatives of police, court, nonprofit and other agencies to help create court programs for human trafficking survivors and their perpetrators. One outcome, he said, is that anyone who comes into the court system is now asked through a pretrial services questionnaire, ‘Have you ever been forced to exchange sex for something of value?’ Asking the question is ‘another way to ID the risk level and respond appropriately with services.’ McGraw said he also has talked with Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato about having ‘johns’ — perpetrators of sex crimes — face a victims panel as part of an effort through the courts to help them change their ways. The new office on domestic violence and human trafficking ‘can only help’ improve Rockford’s image, McGraw said. ‘It’s not just the physical locations,’ he said, referring to the areas of Broadway and Seventh Street in Rockford, long associated with the sex trade. ‘It’s the digital images,’ too, he said, referring to websites that lure johns. ‘We’re trying one person at a time to rescue them

or prevent them from becoming further enmeshed in this dark industry,' McGraw said. Collins said the new mayor's office 'sends a message that the city takes this seriously; that traffickers will not be welcome here.'" [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/18](#)]

2023: Rockford Ranked In The Top 1% Of Cities In Illinois For Human Trafficking

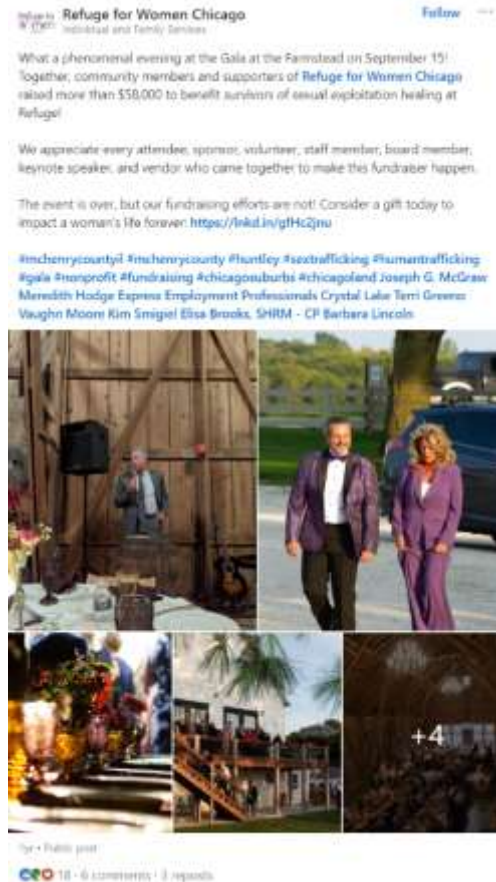
2023: Rockford Ranked In The Top 1% Of Cities In Illinois For Human Trafficking. "A local non-profit is raising awareness of human trafficking happening in our community. Illinois ranks eighth in the nation for highest cases of human trafficking. But it's an even higher risk in Rockford. 'Rockford ranks in the top five or six for highest cases of human trafficking in the state of Illinois', says Brittany Kemper, with Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (RAASE). 'If you're breaking down that math in the amount of cities we have in Illinois, that puts Rockford in the top 1 percent.'" [My Stateline, [9/26/23](#)]

McGraw Said He Talked With Winnebago County State's Attorney Bruscato About Having "Johns," Perpetrators Of Sex Crimes, Face A Victims Panel As Part Of A Rehabilitation Effort

McGraw Said He Talked With Winnebago County State's Attorney Bruscato About Having "Johns," Perpetrators Of Sex Crimes, Face A Victims Panel As Part Of A Rehabilitation Effort. "Judge Joseph McGraw of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Winnebago and Boone counties said he is looking forward to working with the mayor's new office to 'focus resources and attention on strategy, legislation and coordination.' Nearly two years ago, he convened an ongoing committee of more than a dozen representatives of police, court, nonprofit and other agencies to help create court programs for human trafficking survivors and their perpetrators. One outcome, he said, is that anyone who comes into the court system is now asked through a pretrial services questionnaire, 'Have you ever been forced to exchange sex for something of value?' Asking the question is 'another way to ID the risk level and respond appropriately with services.' McGraw said he also has talked with Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato about having 'johns' — perpetrators of sex crimes — face a victims panel as part of an effort through the courts to help them change their ways. The new office on domestic violence and human trafficking 'can only help' improve Rockford's image, McGraw said. 'It's not just the physical locations,' he said, referring to the areas of Broadway and Seventh Street in Rockford, long associated with the sex trade. 'It's the digital images,' too, he said, referring to websites that lure johns. 'We're trying one person at a time to rescue them or prevent them from becoming further enmeshed in this dark industry,' McGraw said. Collins said the new mayor's office 'sends a message that the city takes this seriously; that traffickers will not be welcome here.'" [Rockford Register Star, [1/12/18](#)]

2022: McGraw Spoke At A Gala For Refuge For Women Chicago, At The Gala He Discussed PATH Court And Its Work To Address Human Trafficking In Rockford

September 2022: McGraw Was Photographed Speaking At A Refuge For Women Chicago Gala. "What a phenomenal evening at the Gala at the Farmstead on September 15! Together, community members and supporters of Refuge for Women Chicago raised more than \$58,000 to benefit survivors of sexual exploitation healing at Refuge! We appreciate every attendee, sponsor, volunteer, staff member, board member, keynote speaker, and vendor who came together to make this fundraiser happen. The event is over, but our fundraising efforts are not! Consider a gift today to impact a woman's life forever: <https://lnkd.in/gfHc2jnu>" [Refuge for Women Chicago, LinkedIn, [9/26/22](#)]



[Refuge for Women Chicago, LinkedIn, [9/26/22](#)]

McGraw Said It Was A Privilege To Be A Speaker At The Refuge For Women Chicago Event And To Share About Path Court’s Work To Address Human Trafficking In Rockford. “It was my privilege to be the speaker at the Refuge For Women Chicago event. It was wonderful to be with so many like-minded people. I got the opportunity to share about Path Court, created at the direction of the Supreme Court to address human trafficking in the Rockford Illinois region. The challenges facing people who have been trafficked run the gamut from physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Among those needs is a safe place where they can live and be nurtured and protected while their recovery continues. Refuge For Women provides the necessary safe and nurturing environment.”
 [Refuge for Women Chicago, LinkedIn, [9/26/22](#)]

Refuge for Women Chicago
Individual and Family Services


Follow

What a phenomenal evening at the Gala at the Farmstead on September 15! Together, community members and supporters of **Refuge for Women Chicago** raised more than \$50,000 to benefit survivors of sexual exploitation healing at Refuge!

We appreciate every attendee, sponsor, volunteer, staff member, board member, keynote speaker, and vendor who came together to make this fundraiser happen.

The event is over, but our fundraising efforts are not! Consider a gift today to impact a woman's life forever: <https://lnkd.in/g/Hc2jnu>


#mchenrycountyil #mchenrycounty #huntley #sextrafficking #humantrafficking #gala #nonprofit #fundraising #chicagosuburbs #chicagoland Joseph G. McGraw Meredith Hodge Express Employment Professionals Crystal Lake Terri Greeno Vaughn Moore Kim Smigiel Elisa Brooks, SHRM - CP Barbara Lincoln



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Criminal Division Presiding Judge 17th Judicial Circuit Court

It was my privilege to be the speaker at the Refuge For Women Chicago event. It was wonderful to be with so many like-minded people. I got the opportunity to share about Path Court, created at the direction of the Supreme Court to address human trafficking in the Rockford Illinois region. The challenges facing people who have been trafficked run the ...see more

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Individual and Family Services

Thank you for being our keynote speaker and for sharing your heart! We appreciate your time and care!

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[Refuge for Women Chicago, LinkedIn, [9/26/22](#)]

April 2024: McGraw Spoke To Students At Rockford University About The Challenges Posed By Human Trafficking

April 2024: McGraw Spoke To Students At Rockford University About The Challenges Posed By Human Trafficking. “I enjoyed speaking to students at Rockford University tonight about the challenges we face in human

trafficking. [...] Biden’s irresponsible open border policies have worsened this issue and we need to make sure the next generation understands the importance of securing the border and keeping our communities safe.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/2/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/2/24](#)]

States' Attorneys

McGraw’s Congressional Website Said He Would “Go After The Liberal State's Attorneys Who Are Endangering Our Communities By Refusing To Enforce The Law”

McGraw’s Congressional Website Said He Would “Go After The Liberal State's Attorneys Who Are Endangering Our Communities By Refusing To Enforce The Law.” “Our district is the best place in Illinois to live, work, and raise a family, but it takes grit and determination to keep it that way. Judge Joe has dedicated his life to law and order. As a prosecutor, private attorney, and judge, Joe McGraw knows that soft-on-crime policies only create more victims and empower criminals. In Congress, he’ll face down the far left, increase funding for our police, and go after the liberal state's attorneys who are endangering our communities by refusing to enforce the law.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

Drugs

Fentanyl

McGraw Said Fentanyl Was Flooding Into The US And Killing Americans, He Said He Would Lead The Effort To Crackdown On Cartels, Support Border Patrol And Ensure Police Had Resources. “Fentanyl is flooding into our country & killing Americans. Enough is enough. In Congress, I’ll lead the effort to crackdown on the cartels, support Border Patrol, & ensure police have the resources to put dealers who sell this poison behind bars.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/30/24](#)]



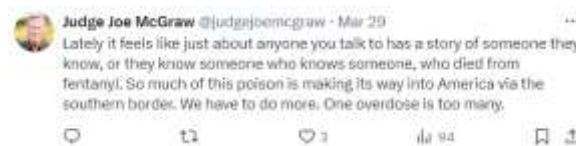
[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/30/24](#)]

McGraw Advocated For An “All-Of-The-Above” Strategy To Address Fentanyl Deaths Including Securing The Border, Cracking Down On Drug Dealers And Improving Addiction Recovery Options. “Illinois recently ranked #6 in fentanyl deaths. We need an all-of-the-above strategy to turn this around. That has to include securing our border, cracking down on drug dealers, and improving recovery options for individuals struggling with addiction.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/10/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/10/24](#)]

McGraw Said Fentanyl Was “Making Its Way Into America Via The Southern Border. We Have To Do More.” “Lately it feels like just about anyone you talk to has a story of someone they know, or they know someone who knows someone, who died from fentanyl. So much of this poison is making its way into America via the southern border. We have to do more. One overdose is too many.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/29/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [3/29/24](#)]

Jails

2024: McGraw Toured Several Jails During His Congressional Campaign

April 2024: McGraw Toured The Knox County Jail With Sheriff Harlan And Said The Sherriff And His Team Worked Hard “Everyday To Help Keep Our Communities Safe.” “Enjoyed touring the Knox County Jail with Sheriff Harlan this morning. He leads by example and his team is working hard everyday to help keep our communities safe.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/13/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/13/24](#)]

April 2024: McGraw Toured The Warren County Jail With Sheriff Edwards And Said He Was “Committed To Ensuring That Our Local Law Enforcement Departments Have The Resources They Need To Do Their Jobs.” “Enjoyed touring the old Warren County Jail with Sheriff Edwards yesterday. As your next congressman, I am committed to ensuring that our local law enforcement departments have the resources they need to do their jobs - keeping our communities safe.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/7/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/7/24](#)]

McGraw Criticized Democrats’ “Soft-On-Crime Policies” And Said He Was Running For Congress To “Keep Our Families Safe”

McGraw Repeatedly Criticized Democrats’ “Soft-On-Crime Policies,” And Said In Congress He Would Ensure “Violent Criminals [Were] Behind Bars” And Would “Keep Our Families Safe”

McGraw: “I’m Running For Congress To [...] Keep Our Families Safe.” “As a judge, I have seen firsthand the dangerous consequences of the Democrats soft-on-crime policies. Democratic leadership won’t put our safety first. I’m running for Congress to get back to common sense policies that keep our families safe. I am ready to bring my heart for this district and my experience to Congress to make our district safe again. Eric Sorensen will never buck his party to put people first. I will never stop fighting for safe families, safe neighborhoods, and a secure border. Eric Sorensen is not willing to put our safety and security first, but I always will be. Sorensen is out for himself and his own agenda, but I promise you this: My only agenda is serving the people of the 17th District of Illinois. My only platform is your best interest. I am in this race to fight for every single person in this community and to make your life better than it is today.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

McGraw: “I Will Never Stop Fighting For Safe Families, Safe Neighborhoods, And A Secure Border.” “I am ready to bring my heart for this district and my experience to Congress to make our district safe again. Eric Sorensen will never buck his party to put people first. I will never stop fighting for safe families, safe neighborhoods, and a secure border.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

McGraw Said Liberal Politicians Peddled “Soft-On-Crime Measures” And Said He Was “Running For Congress To Restore Law & Order.” “America is a nation of laws. As a prosecutor, private attorney, & judge, I’ve dedicated my life to upholding those laws. Now, as liberal politicians open our border and peddle soft-on-crime measures, I’m running for Congress to restore law & order.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook. [1/12/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook. [1/12/24](#)]

January 2024: In A Post About A Law Enforcement Roundtable, McGraw Said He Would Support Law Enforcement And Ensure “Violent Criminals [Were] Behind Bars.” “Appreciate the law enforcement officials who participated in our roundtable discussion on how we can work together to keep our families safe. In Congress, I’ll stand shoulder to shoulder with law enforcement, increase police funding, and ensure violent criminals are behind bars.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/31/24](#)]

McGraw Campaigned On His Judicial Career And Said He Had “Uph[eld] The Law To Keep Our Communities And Our Belongings Safe”

McGraw Op-Ed: “As A Judge, I Have Seen Firsthand The Dangerous Consequences Of The Democrats Soft-On-Crime Policies.” “As a judge, I have seen firsthand the dangerous consequences of the Democrats soft-on-crime policies. Democratic leadership won’t put our safety first. I’m running for Congress to get back to common sense policies that keep our families safe. I am ready to bring my heart for this district and my experience to Congress to make our district safe again. Eric Sorensen will never buck his party to put people first. I will never stop fighting for safe families, safe neighborhoods, and a secure border. Eric Sorensen is not willing to put our safety and security first, but I always will be. Sorensen is out for himself and his own agenda, but I promise you this: My only agenda is serving the people of the 17th District of Illinois. My only platform is your best interest. I am in this race to fight for every single person in this community and to make your life better than it is today.” [Rockford Register Star, Joe McGraw Op-Ed, [12/2/23](#)]

McGraw: “I Have Spent My Career Upholding The Law To Keep Our Communities And Our Belongings Safe.” “I have spent my career upholding the law to keep our communities and our belongings safe. It is devastating to watch the Democrats’ soft-on-crime policies wreak havoc across our home state.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/14/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/14/23](#)]

McGraw: “As A Prosecutor, Private Attorney, & Judge, I’ve Dedicated My Life To Upholding Those Laws.” “America is a nation of laws. As a prosecutor, private attorney, & judge, I’ve dedicated my life to upholding those laws. Now, as liberal politicians open our border and peddle soft-on-crime measures, I’m running for Congress to restore law & order.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/12/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [1/12/24](#)]

McGraw: “There’s Something Wrong When Big-City Liberals Would Rather Demonize Honest Cops Than Crack Down On Criminals.” “McGraw served as a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Boone and Winnebago counties, for more than two decades until retiring in July, including as chief judge from 2012 to 2017. He was also the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until his retirement. ‘There’s something wrong when big-city liberals would rather demonize honest cops than crack down on criminals, when politicians in

Washington care more about illegal immigrants than the safety and security of our own citizens, and when the exporting of good manufacturing jobs, combined with record inflation, crushes families' economic viability,' McGraw said in a statement. McGraw added that Sorensen 'is part of the problem,' specifically calling the incumbent out for supporting President Joe Biden's legislative agenda." [Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

... But As A Judge And Chief Justice Of The Illinois 17th Circuit Court, McGraw Gave Lenient Sentences To Dangerous Criminals, Many Of Whom Went On To Reoffend

McGraw Sentenced A Man Found Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal To 12 Years In Prison, Less Than Half The Maximum Sentence; Shortly After Being Released He Was Back In Court On Charges Of Armed Robbery And Domestic Battery

Bryant Johnson Was Arrested For Possession Of A Firearm And McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal And Sentenced Him To 12 Years In Prison, Less Than Half The Maximum Sentence

Bryant Johnson Was Arrested After He Was Found With A Handgun During A Traffic Stop And Due To Johnson's Previous Criminal Convictions McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal

February 2013: Bryant J. Johnson Was In Court After He Was Found With A Handgun During A Traffic Stop, McGraw Found Him Guilty Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal. "A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date." [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

Bryant Johnson Had Previously Been Convicted Of Residential Burglary And Drug Charges In 2006 And 2007. "A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date." [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Bryant Johnson To 12 Years In Prison For One Count Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal; The Minimum Sentence Johnson Faced Was 6 Years In Prison And The Maximum Was 30 Years In Prison

July 2013: McGraw Sentenced Bryant Johnson To 12 Years In The Department Of Corrections For 1 Count Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Register of Actions, sentenced [7/26/13](#)]

*DATE	07/26/2013	*JUDGE	McGraw, Joseph	MICROFILM NUMBER
SEALED	<input type="checkbox"/>	CODE	SN JAIL	
*TEXT	Sentenced to: Count 1 ARMED HABITUAL CRIMINAL Facility: Department of Corrections Confinement Type: DOC Sentence Time: 12 years Credited Time Served: 537 days 3 years MSR			

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Register of Actions, sentenced [7/26/13](#)]

- **The Minimum Sentence Bryant Johnson Faced Was 6 Years And The Maximum Sentence Was 30 Years For His Conviction On Charges Of Being An Armed Habitual Criminal.** “A 25-year-old repeat offender faces six to 30 years in prison after Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw on Thursday found him guilty of being an armed habitual criminal. Bryant J. Johnson was arrested after a Feb. 5, 2012, traffic stop of a blue Dodge Durango conducted by Rockford Police Department officers, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato said in a news release. Johnson was one of several passengers. He was seen during the stop placing a white bag that police later discovered contained a handgun into the cargo area of the vehicle. Johnson was previously convicted of the offense of residential burglary and drug charges in 2006 and 2007. McGraw set a June 19 sentencing date.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/31/13](#)]

NOTE: Illinois’ Second District Appellate Court affirmed the circuit court’s decision and found the defendant was proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of possessing the handgun.

April 2022: Bryant Johnson Was Released From Sheridan Correctional Center

April 2022: Bryant J. Johnson Was Released From Sheridan Correctional Center For The Offense Of “Armed Habitual Criminal.” “There are 51 inmates sentenced to jail in Winnebago County set to be released from the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections during the second quarter of 2022. The inmate being released who served the longest time was Stephen K. Martinez for armed robbery. Stephen K. Martinez spent more than 12 years incarcerated. According to The Institute for Illinois’ Fiscal Sustainability, Illinois spends about \$37,000 a year per incarcerated person. In a study by Prison Policy Initiative, Illinois’ incarceration rate was at 564 per 100,000, higher than every industrialized country, except the United States. When compared with its surrounding states, Illinois was the lowest. Kentucky and Missouri have rates over 850 per 100,000. [...] Inmates being released who were sentenced in Winnebago County [...] Bryant J. Johnson ARMED HABITUAL CRIMINAL 2022-04-17 Sheridan Correctional Center” [Rockford Sun, [2/20/22](#)]

2023: Bryant Johnson Was Back In Court On Charges Of Armed Robbery And Domestic Battery

March 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Back In Court Charged With Domestic Battery/Bodily Harm, The Case Was Dismissed Before A Jury Trial Took Place

March 2023: Bryant James Johnson Was Charged With One Count Of Domestic Battery/Bodily Harm, The Case Was Dismissed On June 7th, 2023. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Charge Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]



SEL	CHARGE	SECT	STATUS	FILE	DEPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	DOMESTIC BATTERY/BODILY HARM	1	DISMISSED	6/7/2023		Complaint filed on 04/02/23	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Charge Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]

June 2023: People v. Johnson Was Scheduled For A Jury Trial On June 13th, 2023, But The Case Was Dismissed On June 7th, 2023. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Hearing Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]



HEARING TYPE	JUDGE	COURT ROOM	START DATE	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	RESULT
Pre-arrest	Assigned	11	04/18/2023 - 07:30 PM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Dismissed With Pre-arrest
Continuance	Terrence H Walker	210	04/28/2023 - 09:00 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Continued with Defendant Not Present
Pre-arrest	Terrence H Walker	210	05/08/2023 - 09:30 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Continued by Defendant
Pre-arrest	Terrence H Walker	210	04/28/2023 - 09:00 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Dismissed
Pre-arrest	Terrence H Walker	210	05/25/2023 - 09:00 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Dismissed
Final Pre-arrest	Terrence H Walker	210	06/30/2023 - 09:00 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Case Dismissed by Pre-arrest Set
Case Status	Terrence H Walker	210	06/07/2023 - 09:30 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Case Dismissed
Case Status	Terrence H Walker	210	06/13/2023 - 09:30 AM	PARTICIPANTS	OFFICERS	Dismissed

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CM-0000635, Hearing Summary, dismissed [6/7/23](#)]

December 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Charged With Armed Robbery, Aggravated Robbery Armed With A Firearm, Aggravated Robbery With A Firearm, And Theft Threat With Intent Of Less Than 100k-500K

December 2023: Bryant Johnson Was Charged With 1 Count Armed Robbery, 5 Counts Of Aggravated Robbery With A Firearm, And 4 Counts Of Theft Threat With Intent Of Less Than 100K-500K. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Charge Summary, pending [12/5/23](#)]



DEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	FILE	TEST/STRT	CHARGED EQUIPMENT	LOPP/ALERTS
1	20 ILCS 24-1/2: AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	1		Ag. Firearm on 12/06/2023	Dismiss/Dismissed by Defendant or Informant on 12/06/2023	Charged on 12/06/2023	
2	20 ILCS 24-1/2: AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	1				\$0 of Informant Paid on 12/06/2023	
3	20 ILCS 24-1/2: AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	1				\$0 of Informant Paid on 12/06/2023	
4	20 ILCS 24-1/2: AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	1				\$0 of Informant Paid on 12/06/2023	
5	20 ILCS 24-1/2: AGGRAVATED ROBBERY WITH A FIREARM	1				\$0 of Informant Paid on 12/06/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Charge Summary, pending [12/5/23](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Bryant Johnson’s Case Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Bryant James Johnson, Case #2023-CF-0002883, Case Status Summary, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

NOTE: As of June 2024, The Illinois Department of Corrections listed [Bryant J. Johnson](#) as on Parole in Parole District 2.

McGraw Sentenced A Man To Only 30 Months Of Probation After He Abandoned Someone To Drown Despite The States Attorney’s Request For Jail Time; After Being Released From Probation He Was The Defendant In Eight Criminal Cases

Kristopher Zaugg Pushed Casey Sheets Off A Boat And Left Him To Drown Even After Being Informed Sheets Could Not Swim, Sheets Was Later Found Dead And His Cause Of Death Was Ruled A Drowning

Kristopher Zaugg Confronted Casey Sheets While Boating On The Rock River, Kristopher Zaugg Pushed Casey Sheets Off The Boat And Left The Scene Despite Being Immediately Informed That Casey Sheets Could Not Swim. “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg

pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

- **Casey Sheets Was Later Found In The River, His Cause Of Death Was Ruled A Drowning.** “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

June 2011: Kristopher Zaugg Was Indicted On First Degree Murder And Aggravated Battery Charges For The Drowning Death Of Sheets

June 2011: A Grand Jury Indicted Kristopher Zaugg With First Degree Murder And Aggravated Battery For The Drowning Death Of Casey Sheets. “A Winnebago County grand jury has returned an indictment charging Kristopher Alan Zaugg, 27, of Rockford with first degree murder and aggravated battery stemming from an alleged confrontation on the Rock River June 4. The grand jury has charged Zaugg in the death of 20-year-old Casey Chandler Sheets, who went over the side of a pontoon boat. His body was recovered June 11 in Ogle County. Zaugg originally was charged with reckless conduct. The Winnebago County state’s attorney’s office presented the case to the grand jury Wednesday. Zaugg is in the Winnebago County Jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [6/16/11](#)]

When Kristopher Zaugg Pled Guilty To A Lesser Charge Of Involuntary Manslaughter, McGraw Utilized His Judicial Discretion And Sentenced Kristopher Zaugg To 30 Months’ Probation Despite The States Attorney’s Request For Jail Time

Kristopher Zaugg Pled Guilty To The Lesser Charge Of Involuntary Manslaughter And McGraw Sentenced Him To 30 Months Of Probation, A \$10,000 Fine, And Credited Him With Nine Months Served In Jail

March 2012: Kristopher Zaugg Pled Guilty To Involuntary Manslaughter And McGraw Sentenced Him To 30 Months Of Probation, A \$10,000 Fine, And Credited Him With Nine Months Served In Jail. “A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months’ probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State’s Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. ‘Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,’ Bruscato said. ‘However, the state’s attorney’s office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.’ The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

- **Kristopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter As A Class 3 Felony.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2011-CF-0001510, Charge Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]



CHARGE DETAIL • 2011-CF-0001510 People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg

DEFENDANT • Kristopher Alan Zaugg
CHARGE • 720 5/9-3(a) : INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

CHARGE INFORMATION

*ORIGINAL STATUTE • 2008-09-30 720 5/9-3(a) INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER - 3 INCHDATE+
FILING DATE • 09/06/2011 09:20 AM CLASS • Class 3 Felony
TYPE • Original Charge CHARGING DOCUMENT • Information

DEL	CHARGING DOCUMENT	FILING DATE
There are no charging documents attached to this offense		

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2011-CF-0001510, Charge Summary, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

NOTE: 30 months' probation was the maximum term of probation McGraw could sentence for a class 3 felony.

Winnebago County State's Attorney Requested A Department Of Corrections Sentence And Believed That "Based On The Facts And Circumstances Of The Case" A Jail Sentence Was "Appropriate"

Winnebago County State's Attorney Requested A Department Of Corrections Sentence And Believed That "Based On The Facts And Circumstances Of The Case" A Jail Sentence Was "Appropriate." "A man who pushed another over the side of a pontoon boat and left him to drown was sentenced Wednesday to probation. Kristopher A. Zaugg, 28, was sentenced by Winnebago County Judge Joseph McGraw to 30 months' probation and credited with nine months served in jail, Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato announced Wednesday. Zaugg, who pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Jan. 27, also was given a \$10,000 fine. 'Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, we requested a Department of Corrections (sentence) as we believe that was appropriate,' Bruscato said. 'However, the state's attorney's office respects the decision of Judge McGraw.' The sentence stems from a June 4 boating incident on the Rock River. Zaugg and the victim, Casey Sheets, 20, were boating on the river when a confrontation between the two occurred, and Zaugg pushed Sheets off the boat. Although he had been immediately informed that Sheets could not swim, Zaugg left the scene, and Sheets did not resurface. Zaugg was booked into the Winnebago County Jail the next day. Sheets was later found in the river in Ogle County. His cause of death was ruled a drowning." [Rockford Register Star, [3/7/12](#)]

Kristopher Zaugg Could Have Been Sentenced To A Minimum Of Two Years And A Max Of Five Years In Prison For A Class 3 Felony, But Judges Had Discretion To Sentence Probation For Class 3 Felonies

In Illinois, Class 3 Felonies Carried A Prison Sentence Of No Less Than Two Years And No More Than Five Years, A Prison Sentence Could Be Substituted For Probation For A Period No Longer Than 30 Months

In Illinois, Class 3 Felonies Carried A Sentence Of No Less Than Two Years And No More Than Five Years In Prison. "(730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-40) Sec. 5-4.5-40. CLASS 3 FELONIES; SENTENCE. For a Class 3 felony: (a) TERM. The sentence of imprisonment shall be a determinate sentence of not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years. The sentence of imprisonment for an extended term Class 3 felony, as provided in Section 5-8-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-2), shall be a term not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years. (b) PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT. A sentence of periodic imprisonment shall be for a definite term of up to 18 months, except as otherwise provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-7-1 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-7-1). (c) IMPACT INCARCERATION. See Sections 5-8-1.1 and 5-8-1.2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 and 5/5-8-1.2) concerning eligibility for the impact incarceration program or the county impact incarceration program. (d) PROBATION; CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE. Except as provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-6-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-6-2), the period of probation or conditional discharge shall not exceed 30 months. The court shall specify the conditions of probation or conditional discharge as set forth in Section 5-6-3 (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3)." [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

- Class 3 Felonies Were Probationable Offenses, Meaning A Prison Term Could Be Substituted For A Period Of Probation Or Conditional Discharge Not To Exceed 30 Months.** “(730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-40) Sec. 5-4.5-40. CLASS 3 FELONIES; SENTENCE. For a Class 3 felony: (a) TERM. The sentence of imprisonment shall be a determinate sentence of not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years. The sentence of imprisonment for an extended term Class 3 felony, as provided in Section 5-8-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-2), shall be a term not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years. (b) PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT. A sentence of periodic imprisonment shall be for a definite term of up to 18 months, except as otherwise provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-7-1 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-7-1). (c) IMPACT INCARCERATION. See Sections 5-8-1.1 and 5-8-1.2 (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1 and 5/5-8-1.2) concerning eligibility for the impact incarceration program or the county impact incarceration program. (d) PROBATION; CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE. Except as provided in Section 5-5-3 or 5-6-2 (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3 or 5/5-6-2), the period of probation or conditional discharge shall not exceed 30 months. The court shall specify the conditions of probation or conditional discharge as set forth in Section 5-6-3 (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3).” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/13/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Sentence Probation For Class 3 Felonies

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Choose Alternatives To Prison Sentencing Including A Sentence Of Probation For Some Felonies. “Illinois law allows a sentence of probation (with no time in prison) for most, but not all, felonies in Illinois. First degree murder and Class X felonies (e.g., aggravated assault with a firearm or drug possession involving large quantities of heroin or similarly dangerous drugs) are not eligible for probation; a term of imprisonment is required by state law. Illinois statutes spell out minimum and maximum prison terms and fines for each felony, but the state also encourages judges to choose alternatives to costly imprisonment, such as probation. The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has recommended against the incarceration of people convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony, particularly when the person has no prior convictions for a violent crime and has not previously been sentenced to probation. Probation requires the convicted individual to check in regularly with a probation officer and to comply with all conditions set by the court, which can be extensive. Violation of probation terms will result in sanctions, including the possibility of being sent to prison. The length of a probation sentence varies depending on the severity of the crime.” [Law Office of Jack L Zaremba, [2/19/18](#)]

2018: After Kristopher Zaugg Was Released From Probation, He Was Found Guilty Of Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs And Possession Of Meth

July 2018: Kristopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-DT-0000727, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]



SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	P.L.B.	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	ISSUE ALERTS
1	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS	1	Guilty	DT000018	Retreat Judgment/Superior on DT000018	Complaint filed on 06/28/2017	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-DT-0000727, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

July 2018: Krisopher Zaugg Was Found Guilty Of Possession Of Meth Less Than 5 Grams. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-CF-0001557, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL.	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	TAMEREL	1		No Plea Entered on 07/12/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/12/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
2	TAMEREL	2		No Plea Entered on 07/12/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/12/2017	Complaint filed on 06/23/2017	
3	TAMEREL	1		No Plea Entered on 07/12/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/12/2017	Bill of Indictment filed on 07/12/2017	
4	TAMEREL	2		No Plea Entered on 07/12/2017	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 07/12/2017	Bill of Indictment filed on 07/12/2017	
5	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1		Guilty on 07/06/2018	Guilty on 07/06/2018	Resolving Bill of Indictment filed on 12/13/2017	
6	TAMEREL	3		No Plea Entered on 07/06/2018	Dismiss/State Admin on 07/06/2018	Resolving Bill of Indictment filed on 12/13/2017	
7	TAMEREL	2		No Plea Entered on 07/06/2018	Dismiss/State Admin on 07/06/2018	Resolving Bill of Indictment filed on 12/13/2017	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2017-CF-0001557, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

2021-2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was The Defendant In Six Criminal Cases And Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Manufacturing/Delivery Of Oxycodone, And Other Charges

January 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct For An Incident In December 2021

January 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL.	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUS	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
1	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1		No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/09/2021	
2	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1		No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/09/2021	
3	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1		No Plea Entered on 01/05/2022	Dismiss/Superseded by Indictment or Information on 01/05/2022	Complaint filed on 12/09/2021	
4	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1			Bill of Indictment filed on 01/05/2022		
5	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1			Bill of Indictment filed on 01/05/2022		
6	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1			Bill of Indictment filed on 01/05/2022		

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **The Violation Date Was Listed As December 19th, 2021 For Kristopher Zaugg’s Charges Of Criminal Damage To Property \$500-\$10K, Violating Bail Bond Conditions, And Disorderly Conduct.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

Case #	Charge	Status	Violation Date
2021-CF-0002477	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00
2021-CF-0002477	VIO BAIL BOND FAMILY MEMBER	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00
2021-CF-0002477	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00
2021-CF-0002477	CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00
2021-CF-0002477	VIO BAIL BOND FAMILY MEMBER	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00
2021-CF-0002477	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	DISPOSED	2021-12-19 12:30:00

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2021-CF-0002477 Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2021-CF-0002477, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

February 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Faced Two Criminal Misdemeanor Cases For Violating The Conditions Of His Bond On February 24th, 2022 And February 17th, 2022

February 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was The Defendant In Two Criminal Misdemeanor Cases For Violation Of Bond Conditions On February 24th, 2022 and February 17th, 2022. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case By Party Search: Kristopher Alan Zaugg Case, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

2022-CM-0000278 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg	Defendant	Pending	Officer Javira	10/26/2022
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-03-11 09:00:00
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-03-11 09:00:00
2022-CM-0000279 - People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Zaugg	Defendant	Pending	Assigned	02/25/2022
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-03-24 09:00:00
VO BAL BOND/FAMILY MEMBER		DISPOSED		VIOLATION DATE: 2022-03-24 09:00:00

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case By Party Search: Kristopher Alan Zaugg Case, accessed [2/8/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CM-0000278 Regarding Violations Of Bond Conditions Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CM-0000278, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]
- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CM-0000279 Regarding Violations Of Bond Conditions Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CM-0000279, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

June 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Arrested For Violating Bond Conditions, Possession Of Meth, Heroin, And Drug Paraphernalia

June 2022: Kristopher Zaugg Was Arrested For Violating Bond Conditions, Possession Of Methamphetamine, Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Heroin) And Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia.

“On June 10 at approximately 8:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Big Mound Road and Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Kristopher Zaugg, 38, of Rockford under arrest for a McHenry County warrant for violation of bond conditions, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance (heroin) and possession of drug paraphernalia. Zaugg was additionally issued citations for no front registration, loud exhaust and operating an uninsured vehicle. Zaugg was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. All individuals are presumed innocent.” [Rochelle News-Leader, [6/14/22](#)]

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Violation of Bond Conditions, Obstruction Of Justice/Destroying Evidence, Manufacturing Or Delivery Of Oxycodone And Drug Possession

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Reckless Conduct/Bodily Harm, Violation of Bond Conditions, Obstruction Of Justice/Destroying Evidence, Possession Of A Controlled Substance, And Manufacturing Or Delivery Of Oxycodone. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

REL	CHARGE	COUNTY	STATUS	PLA	DISPOSITION	CHARGES DOCUMENT	SCREEN NUMBER
1	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION	No Plea Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss Superseded by Indictment on Information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
2	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION	No Plea Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss Superseded by Indictment on Information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
3	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION	No Plea Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss Superseded by Indictment on Information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
4	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION	No Plea Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss Superseded by Indictment on Information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
5	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION	No Plea Entered on 02/17/2023	Dismiss Superseded by Indictment on Information on 02/17/2023	Completed filed on 11/04/2022	
6	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
7	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
8	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
9	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
10	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
11	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	
12	70-0/10-0/10-1	WINNEBAGO	NO FURTHER ACTION			file of Indictment filed on 02/17/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CF-0002681 Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002681, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Theft Greater Than 10K But Less Than 100K, Online Sale Of Stolen Property Less Than \$300, And Deception/False Statement

February 2023: Kristopher Zaugg Was Charged With Theft Greater Than 10K But Less Than 100K, Online Sale Of Stolen Property Less Than \$300, And Deception/False Statement. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]



CHARGE	STUNT	STUTE	FILE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES DEVELOPMENT	LEADERS ALERTS
1	1	20-050-0001 - THEFT-GRAFTER THAN 100K	No. Filed Entered on 02/17/2023	Deception Reported by Indictment of Information on 02/17/2023	Continued from on 02/17/2023	
2	1	20-050-0001 - THEFT-GRAFTER THAN 100K			NO of Indictment Filed on 02/17/2023	
3	2	20-050-0001 - ONLINE SALE OF STOLEN PROPERTY LESS THAN \$300			NO of Indictment Filed on 02/17/2023	
4	2	20-050-0001 - DECEPTION/FALSE STATEMENT			NO of Indictment Filed on 02/17/2023	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Charge Summary, accessed [2/28/24](#)]

- **As Of June 2024, The Case Status For Kristopher Zaugg’s Case #2022-CF-0002775 Was Pending.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, People of the State of Illinois vs. Kristopher Alan Zaugg, Case #2022-CF-0002775, Case Status, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

NOTE: The above criminal history for Zaugg does not include [multiple minor traffic charges](#).

McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold A Murder Suspect In Custody As He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight” And After The Defendant Was Released He Was Found Guilty Of A DUI Involving Great Bodily Harm

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Antwan Maxey, A Murder Suspect, In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight”

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Murder Suspect Antwan Maxey In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight”

November 2012: Without Holding A Hearing, McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Antwan Maxey, A Murder Suspect, In Custody After He Was Called A “High Risk For Flight.” “A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights. [...] Prosecutors are trying to keep him in custody, calling him a ‘high risk for flight’ in court documents. They asked Chief Judge Joseph McGraw in a nine-page court filing to keep Maxey in jail pending the appellate court ruling. McGraw rejected that idea without a hearing. If there were no longer murder charges after White dismissed the case, the circuit court did not have jurisdiction to hold Maxey, McGraw ruled.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

- **Antwan T. Maxey Had Charges Against Him Dismissed After A Court Found That His Right To A Speedy Trial Had Been Violated, But Prosecutors Had Filed New Charges.** “A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that

he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights. [...] Prosecutors are trying to keep him in custody, calling him a ‘high risk for flight’ in court documents. They asked Chief Judge Joseph McGraw in a nine-page court filing to keep Maxey in jail pending the appellate court ruling. McGraw rejected that idea without a hearing. If there were no longer murder charges after White dismissed the case, the circuit court did not have jurisdiction to hold Maxey, McGraw ruled.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

March 2013: After McGraw Rejected Prosecutors’ Requests To Hold Him In Custody, Maxey Was Sentenced To Three And A Half Years In Prison On Related Charges Of Aggravated Fleeing To Allude Police

March 2013: After Murder Charges Against Antwan Maxey Were Dropped “Over A Technical Violation Of His Right To A Speedy Trial,” He Was Sentenced To Three And A Half Years In Prison For Aggravated Fleeing To Elude Police. “Calling it among the most violent, serious and tragic cases of his career, Judge Ronald White on Friday sentenced Lamont A. Cole to 165 years in prison for the murder of 25 year-old Charles Spivey and the attempted murder of four others. Cole, Antwan T. Maxey and Clifford Horton were arrested and charged in connection with the Jan. 22, 2011 incident in which they were accused of turning a typical Rockford neighborhood into what White called a ‘battlefield.’ [...] Cole went to the party with Maxey and Horton, all of them armed and all of them ready for a firefight, White said. And when the carnage was over Charles Spivey was dead, shot in the head trying to help his friends and family escape in white van. Murder charges against Maxey, who is suspected of firing the shots that killed Spivey, were dropped over a technical violation of his right to a speedy trial. He has consistently said he was not guilty of Spivey’s murder, but was sentenced this week to 3 ½ years in prison for aggravated fleeing to elude police.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was not the judge presiding over Maxey’s case on aggravated fleeing to elude police.

March 2017: Antwan Maxey Was Found Guilty Of Ten Counts Of Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm

HEADLINE: “Rockford Man Who Avoided Murder Charge Found Guilty Of DUI.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]

March 2017: Antwan Maxey Was Found Guilty Of Ten Counts Of Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm. “Antwan Maxey, a Rockford man who avoided a 2011 murder charge on a technicality, was found guilty today of 10 counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm. Maxey, 32, was found guilty by a jury in front of Judge Donna Honzel. In June 2015, Rockford police responded to a traffic crash at Auburn and Bluefield streets and found a heavily damaged vehicle. The officers determined the vehicle was traveling east on Auburn when it ran off the south side of the road and struck a retaining wall. The vehicle then came back across the roadway, crossing all four lanes of travel, before striking a utility pole and coming to rest. Maxey, the driver, was found hanging out of the driver’s side front window with his right leg stuck under the steering wheel. He was breathing, but unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Two passengers in the vehicle were seriously injured. Maxey’s blood-alcohol concentration was recorded at .131. Illinois’ legal intoxication limit is .08. The Class 4 felony is punishable by probation or a special sentencing of up to 12 years in prison followed by one year of parole.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]

- **June 2015: Antwan Maxey Was Involved In A DUI, Two Passengers In His Car Were Seriously Injured And His Blood-Alcohol Concentration Was Recorded At .131, Illinois’ Legal Intoxication Limit Was .08.** “Antwan Maxey, a Rockford man who avoided a 2011 murder charge on a technicality, was found guilty today of 10 counts of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm. Maxey, 32, was found guilty by a jury in front of Judge Donna Honzel. In June 2015, Rockford police responded to a traffic crash at Auburn and Bluefield streets and found a heavily damaged vehicle. The officers determined the vehicle was traveling east on Auburn when it ran off the south side of the road and struck a retaining wall. The vehicle

then came back across the roadway, crossing all four lanes of travel, before striking a utility pole and coming to rest. Maxey, the driver, was found hanging out of the driver's side front window with his right leg stuck under the steering wheel. He was breathing, but unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Two passengers in the vehicle were seriously injured. Maxey's blood-alcohol concentration was recorded at .131. Illinois' legal intoxication limit is .08. The Class 4 felony is punishable by probation or a special sentencing of up to 12 years in prison followed by one year of parole." [Rockford Register Star, [3/23/17](#)]

- **Antwan Maxey Was Sentenced To 22 Years In Prison For Aggravated Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Involving Great Bodily Harm And For Aggravated Fleeing To Elude.** "A Winnebago County judge today gave the maximum 22-year prison sentence to a former murder suspect charged with aggravated drunk driving. Antwan Maxey, 32, of Machesney Park, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol involving great bodily harm and 10 years for aggravated fleeing to elude, according to the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. He must serve 85 percent of that sentence." [Rockford Register Star, [5/12/17](#)]

NOTE: McGraw was not the judge presiding over Antwan Maxey's DUI case.

McGraw Sentenced Defendants Convicted Of Murder, Possession Of Child Pornography, And Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence

Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term Illinois Law Recommended A Judge Sentence For A Given Crime

In Illinois, Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term A Judge Was Recommended To Sentence For A Given Felony, Felonies Were Sorted Into Six Classes And Each Class Had A Range Of Sentences

In Illinois, Mandatory Minimums Were The Shortest Prison Term A Judge Was Legally Able To Sentence For A Given Crime. "What are felony classes and mandatory minimums? In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony's class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime." [Restore Justice, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

- **In Illinois, Felonies Were Sorted Into Six Classes Based On Severity, A Felony's Class Determined The Range Of Sentences Judges Were Legally Permitted To Dispense For An Offense.** "What are felony classes and mandatory minimums? In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony's class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime." [Restore Justice, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Sentence Below The States Mandatory Minimum Of Imprisonment Or Sentence Probation Or Conditional Discharge For Certain Felonies If The Judge Deemed It Appropriate

In Imposing A Sentence For An Offense With A Mandatory Minimum Of Imprisonment, For Certain Charges, A Judge May Instead Sentence An Offender To A Lesser Term Of Imprisonment, Probation, Or Conditional Discharge If They Deem It Appropriate. "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in imposing a sentence for an offense that requires a mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment, the court may instead sentence the offender to probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment it deems appropriate if: (1) the offense involves the use or possession of drugs, retail theft, or driving on a revoked

license due to unpaid financial obligations; (2) the court finds that the defendant does not pose a risk to public safety; and (3) the interest of justice requires imposing a term of probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment. The court must state on the record its reasons for imposing probation, conditional discharge, or a lesser term of imprisonment.” [Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Compiled Statutes, accessed [3/8/24](#)]

Illinois Law Allowed Judges Discretion To Choose Alternatives To Prison Sentencing Including A Sentence Of Probation For Some Felonies Excluding First Degree Murder And Class X Felonies. “Illinois law allows a sentence of probation (with no time in prison) for most, but not all, felonies in Illinois. First degree murder and Class X felonies (e.g., aggravated assault with a firearm or drug possession involving large quantities of heroin or similarly dangerous drugs) are not eligible for probation; a term of imprisonment is required by state law. Illinois statutes spell out minimum and maximum prison terms and fines for each felony, but the state also encourages judges to choose alternatives to costly imprisonment, such as probation. The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has recommended against the incarceration of people convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony, particularly when the person has no prior convictions for a violent crime and has not previously been sentenced to probation. Probation requires the convicted individual to check in regularly with a probation officer and to comply with all conditions set by the court, which can be extensive. Violation of probation terms will result in sanctions, including the possibility of being sent to prison. The length of a probation sentence varies depending on the severity of the crime.” [Law Office of Jack L Zaremba, [2/19/18](#)]

McGraw Sentenced Two Men Convicted Of Murder As A Class M Felony To Below The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence Even Though Both Men Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder

McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison, Five Years Below The Minimum Recommended 20-Year Sentence For Murder As A Class M Felony And Well Below The Life In Prison Maximum For The Charge

McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison For The Attempted First-Degree Murder Of Randy Reingold, And 10 Years In Connection With Armed Robbery To Be Served Concurrently

October 2014: McGraw Sentenced Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt To 15 Years In Prison For The Attempted First-Degree Murder Of Randy Reingold. “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were Sentenced To 10 Years In Prison In Connection With The Attempted Armed Robbery To Be Served Concurrently With The 15-Year Sentence For Attempted Murder.** “Both Pruitt and Petty were sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with the attempted armed robbery. But that sentence will be served concurrently with the 15-year attempted murder conviction. All other charges including all those related to the Happy Shop robbery and attack were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Petty must serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence, but gets credit for 591 days already served in jail.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]
- **McGraw Was The Judge In Jerome Pruitt’s Case.** [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Criminal Case, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

CRIMINAL CASE + 2013-CF-0000706 People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome NMN Pruitt	
CASE INFORMATION	
JUDGE	McGraw, Joseph
PROSECUTOR	Lombardo, Lisa M
CASE SUBTYPE	Criminal Felony
FILE LOCATION	*****
REMAND DATE	
DOM. VIOLENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
JURISDICTION	Circuit
PHYSICAL FILE	*
SEALED	*
COMMENT	*****
JURY REQUESTED	<input type="checkbox"/>
JURY VERDICT	<input type="checkbox"/>
CITATION IMPORT CASE	<input type="checkbox"/>
APPELLATE CASE NO.	
LOCATION	*
FILING DATE	03/15/2013
APPEAL DATE	
APPEAL ACCEPTED DATE	
APPEAL UPHELD DATE	
UNDER ADVISEMENT DATE	*****
PREVIOUS CASE NO.	*****
OTHER AGENCY CASE NO.	
BATCH LABEL	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROBATION OFFICER	
NEXT HEARING	
DEFENDANT INFORMATION	
DEFENDANT	Pruitt, Jerome
CASE RELATIONSHIP	No
NEXT APPEARANCE	
FIRST APPEARANCE	
TRIAL BY	*****
MONEY DUE	10/08/2027
EXTENSION DATE	
AMOUNT DUE	713.00
FTP HOLD INDEFINITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FTPV HOLD INDEFINITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FTA HOLD DATE	
FTC HOLD DATE	
LEAD ATTORNEY	Coates, Wendell
OCN	*****
ARREST DATE	
PARTY REFERENCE NUMBER	
DO NOT ALLOW EFKYMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONFIDENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPEEDY TRIAL	*****
FTP HOLD DATE	
FTPV HOLD DATE	
ATTORNEY WAIVED	*
CUSTODY STATUS	*****
INTEREST START DATE	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Criminal Case, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted The Plea Bargain Even Though The 15 Year Sentence Was Below The 20 Year Minimum, In Illinois Murder As A Class M Felony Had A Minimum Recommended Sentence Of 20 Years And A Max Of Life In Prison

In Illinois, Murder As A Class M Felony Carried A Minimum Recommended Sentence Of 20 Years To A Maximum Of Life In Prison. “In Illinois, felonies are sorted into six classes based on severity. A felony’s class determines the range of sentences judges are legally permitted to dispense for an offense, outside a few offense-specific carveouts and enhancements. This range includes the mandatory minimum, which is the shortest prison term a judge is legally able to sentence for a given crime. The six classes used in Illinois, their current allowable sentencing range, and a few representative offenses are provided in Table 1. Class: First-degree murder (occasionally class ‘M’). Base sentencing range: 20 yrs – Life. Example offenses: First degree murder.” [Restore Justice, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were Found Guilty Of Murder/Intent To Kill, A Class M Felony.

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#); Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000716, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

2013-CF-000706 People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome NNN Pruitt CASE STATUS Closed pending clerk action - Oct 1, 2014

DEFENDANT + Pruitt, Jerome

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/03/2013	Complaint filed on 03/15/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1)A - M-MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 04/03/2013	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1)A - M-MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt	Guilty on 10/01/2014	Guilty on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON	No Plea Entered on 10/01/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/01/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	

2013-CF-000716 People of the State of Illinois vs. Victor Dewayne Petty CASE STATUS Closed pending clerk action - Oct 27, 2014

DEFENDANT + Petty, Victor Dewayne

SEL	CHARGE	COUNT	STATUTE	PLEA	DISPOSITION	CHARGING DOCUMENT	LICENSE ALERTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 03/18/2013	Information filed on 03/15/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1)A - M-MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON		Dismiss/Superseded by indictment or information on 04/10/2013	Amended information filed on 03/18/2013	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	1	720 5/9-1(a)(1)A - M-MURDER/INTENT TO KILL/INJURE Attempt	Guilty on 10/27/2014	Guilty on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2	720 5/15-2(a)(1) - X-ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3	720 5/12-3.05(a)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	4	720 5/12-3.05(b)(1) - 3-AGG BATTERY/USE DEADLY WEAPON	No Plea Entered on 10/27/2014	Dismiss/State Motion on 10/27/2014	Bill of indictment filed on 04/10/2013	

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#); Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000716, Charge Summary, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

McGraw Accepted The Terms Of The Plea Bargain In Victor Petty’s Trial. “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

McGraw Oversaw The Negotiated Plea In Jerome Pruitt’s Trial. [Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-0000706, Calendar Hearing, accessed [2/26/24](#)]



CALENDAR HEARING • 2013-CF-000706 • People of the State of Illinois vs. Jerome NMN Pruitt

PARTICIPANTS • Pruitt, Jerome - Defendant
FILTER BY • DOCKET TYPE
HEARING TYPE • Plea
JUDGE • McGraw, Joseph
COURT ROOM • 209
START DATE • 10/01/2014
DURATION • *****Minutes
END DATE • *****
RESULT • Negotiated Plea
CONTINUANCE REASON •
CONTINUED BY •
COMMENT • *****
BATCH FRONT • *

DOCKET TYPE • Judge Set
START TIME • 09:00 AM
END TIME • *****

RETRIEVE

SEL	NAME	CODE	DATE RESULTED
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negotiated Plea	HRNEGP	10/03/2014 09:30 AM

[Winnebago County 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Case #2013-CF-000706, Calendar Hearing, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Victor Petty And Jerome Pruitt Made At Least Three Attempts To Slice A Veteran Shop Owner's Throat And Stabbed The Shop Owner Multiple Times In The Back And Chest

Rockford Register Star: Jerome Pruitt “Stabbed [Randy Reingold] In The Back And Slashed At His Throat” While Petty Stood Watch And Urged Pruitt To Finish The Job. “Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. [...] Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.”

[Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **Randy Reingold Survived At Least 3 Attempts To Slice His Throat And Multiple Stab Wounds To His Back And Chest; His Lung Was Punctured And His Pinky Was Nearly Severed.** “Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Broadway Shop Owner: Attackers Didn’t Mean ‘To Leave Me Alive.’”** [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

Randy Reingold: Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty “Didn’t Mean To Leave Me Alive.” “Although he couldn’t immediately be reached for comment Monday, Reingold said after the attack that his will to live, tenacity and experience as a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran allowed him to survive. There were at least three attempts to slice Reingold’s throat. He suffered multiple stab wounds to his back and chest. His lung was punctured. His pinky was nearly severed when he grabbed the blade of the knife to stop it from slashing too deeply into his throat. Reingold resisted just enough to survive, but said Pruitt and Petty ‘didn’t mean to leave me alive.’ Reingold said that Pruitt bizarrely apologized repeatedly as he stabbed him in the back and slashed at his throat. Petty stood watch and urged Pruitt to finish the job.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, Pruitt Had A Lengthy Criminal History And Had Repeatedly Violated The Terms Of His Parole

Both Jerome Pruitt And Victor Petty Were On Parole At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, “Their Role And Participation In The Crimes Exposed Weaknesses In How Parolees Are Tracked And Monitored In Illinois.” “Moments before jury selection was set to begin Monday at his attempted murder trial, Victor Petty changed his plea to guilty in connection with a Spring 2013 crime spree that left two Broadway business owners critically injured. Winnebago County Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced Petty to 15 years in prison for the March 14, 2013, attempted first-degree murder of Reingold Computer Exchange owner Randy Reingold. Petty is the second and final man to be charged and convicted in the four-day crime spree. His sentence matches the Oct. 1 sentence given to his accomplice, Jerome Pruitt. Before accepting terms of a plea bargain, McGraw asked about Reingold’s condition and was told by Winnebago County Assistant State’s Attorney Lise Lombardo that although scarred for life, he has made a full recovery. Reingold, 44, was brutally attacked during the armed robbery. [...] Both Pruitt and Petty were sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with the attempted armed robbery. But that sentence will be served concurrently with the 15-year attempted murder conviction. All other charges including all those related to the Happy Shop robbery and attack were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Petty must serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence, but gets credit for 591 days already served in jail. Both men were on parole at the time of the crime spree. Their role and participation in the crimes exposed weaknesses in how parolees are tracked and monitored in Illinois and in part led to the creation of a new prisoner re-entry system in Rockford and Winnebago County.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/27/14](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Special Investigation: How Parolee Jerome Pruitt Fell Through Cracks.”** [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

2003-2009: Jerome Pruitt Served Four Prison Sentences, Three For Drug Charges And The Fourth For Stealing A Vehicle, He Was Sentenced To 13 Years In Prison But Only Served Half Of That. “Pruitt has served four prison sentences, all between 2003 and 2009. Three were drug-related; the other was for stealing a vehicle. Each conviction was for crimes committed in Cook County. In the 10 years since his 18th birthday, Pruitt has been sentenced to 13 years in prison. He served half of that. He served half of a six-year prison sentence for his most recent conviction, in 2009, for the manufacture and delivery of cocaine. Pruitt was paroled and ordered to live at Pacific Garden and report to his parole officer, Jimmy Brown, as a condition of his release.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

- **Following His 2009 Release From Prison, Jerome Pruitt Repeatedly Violated The Terms Of His Parole And Was Arrested For Criminal Damage To Property And Fleeing Police.** “He served half of a six-year prison sentence for his most recent conviction, in 2009, for the manufacture and delivery of cocaine. Pruitt was paroled and ordered to live at Pacific Garden and report to his parole officer, Jimmy Brown, as a condition of his release. [...] Pruitt left Chicago almost immediately after his prison release, his arrest history shows. Two months later, on May 28, 2012, Rockford police observed him kicking in the back door of a house on West State Street and arrested him for criminal damage to property and fleeing police. Pruitt had been living in the house, in violation of his parole, according to the police report. Officer Michael Schissel arrived as Pruitt was heading out the back of the house with a suitcase. Pruitt ran when he saw the police; Schissel chased and caught him. Pruitt spent 12 days in the Winnebago County Jail, the amount of time it took him to negotiate a plea deal with the office of State's Attorney Joe Bruscato. [...] By Aug. 17, 2012, Pruitt was missing from the mission, and Corrections issued a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with parole reporting requirements. Rockford police found him here in October, arrested him and sent him back to corrections custody. In November, the Prisoner Review Board ruled that Pruitt had indeed violated his parole. Then the board let him go.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/22/13](#)]

At The Time Of The Attempted Murder, Victor Petty Was On Parole From Peoria County For Theft And Obstructing Justice. “Pruitt, who is on parole from Cook County for a drug violation, was charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery in connection with the Reingold Computer Exchange robbery; and attempted armed robbery of the post office. Petty, on parole from Peoria County for theft and obstructing justice was charged with the same offenses in connection with the same stores, and with attempted murder and aggravated battery in connection with the crime at the Happy Shop.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

- **Darin Petty, Victor Petty’s Father Said He Had Been Released From Prison On January 4th, Just Three Months Before The Attack And Had Been Frequently Incarcerated Over The Prior Five To Six Years.**
“Darrin Petty, 47, of Peoria, talked to his son, Victor Petty, Thursday, for the first time since Victor’s arrest. ‘I told him, ‘If you did this, you deserve to be punished. You don’t need to be on the streets.’ ‘The elder Petty also reached out to the Register Star Thursday to learn more about the conditions of the stabbing victims. ‘I would like to reach (out) to them and tell them how sorry I am for my son’s actions.’ Darrin Petty said he did not know if his son has a drug habit. ‘Over the past five to six years he’s been incarcerated so much he hasn’t had a chance to have a drug problem.’ Darrin Petty said his son was released from prison on Jan. 4. He said Victor wanted to return to Peoria, but it was the Illinois Department of Correction’s decision to parole him to Winnebago County. ‘I could not allow Victor to live with me,’ Darrin Petty said. ‘That ought to tell you something. I could not allow him to live with me, his sisters and brothers. He’s burned too many bridges.’”
[Rockford Register Star, [3/22/13](#)]

NOTE: As of March 2024, [Victor Petty](#) and [Jerome Pruitt](#) were both incarcerated in Illinois with projected parole dates in December 2025.

McGraw Sentenced A Man Convicted Of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To Under The Minimum Recommended Prison Sentence

McGraw Sentenced A Man Convicted Of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault To 15 Years In Prison Even Though The Minimum Recommended Sentence For The Charge Was 16 Years

In An Appeal, A Defendant Argued McGraw Erred In Sentencing Him To One Year Less Than The Minimum Recommended Term for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault By Sentencing Him To 15 Years Instead Of The Minimum 16

A Defendant Argued McGraw Erred In Sentencing Him To One Year Less Than The Minimum Recommended Term for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault By Sentencing Him To 15 Years Instead Of The Minimum 16. “After a jury trial, defendant, Kevin M. Oldaker, was convicted of home invasion (720 ILCS 5/12-11(a)(1) (West 2010)); aggravated criminal sexual assault (720 ILCS 5/12-14(a)(1) (West 2010)); and armed violence (720 ILCS 5/33A-2 (West 2010)) predicated on aggravated battery (720 ILCS 5/12-4(a) (West 2010)). The trial court sentenced him to concurrent prison terms of 10 years for home invasion and armed violence and a 15-year prison term for aggravated criminal sexual assault, to be served consecutively to the other sentences. [...] Defendant’s second contention on appeal is that the trial court erred in sentencing him to one year less than the minimum term for aggravated criminal sexual assault. He notes that the aggravated-criminal-sexual-assault statute makes his offense (in which the aggravating factor was that he ‘used a dangerous weapon other than a firearm’) (720 ILCS 5/12-14(a)(1) (West 2010)) ‘a Class X felony for which 10 years shall be added to the term of imprisonment imposed by the court.’ 720 ILCS 5/12-14(d)(1) (West 2010). Therefore, because a Class X felony has a minimum prison term of 6 years (730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-25(a) (West 2010)), the trial court was required to sentence defendant to no less than 16 years in prison.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

- **McGraw Was The Presiding Judge Over People v. Oldaker In The Circuit Court of Boone County.**
[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

2016 IL App (2d) 140341-U
No. 2-14-0341
Order filed August 9, 2016

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court of Boone County.
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
v.	)	No. 10-CF-447
KEVIN M. OLDAKER,	)	Honorable
Defendant-Appellant.	)	Joseph G. McGraw, Judge, Presiding.

[Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

- **The Appellate Court Found That Defendant Requested This Sentence Modification On The Assumption That His Conviction Of Armed Violence Would Be Reversed, However The Conviction Was Upheld.**
“Defendant requests that we modify his sentences by adding one year to that for aggravated criminal sexual assault, bringing it up to the 16-year minimum, and compensating for this addition by subtracting one year from his sentence for home invasion. This would result in the same aggregate prison term as defendant now has: a total of 25 years’ imprisonment. Defendant is clearly proceeding on the assumption that his conviction of armed violence will be reversed, so that he will not be subject to the 10-year sentence for that offense. However, we have affirmed defendant’s conviction of armed violence. Therefore, to modify the other two sentences as defendant requests would result in (1) a 10-year sentence for armed violence; (2) a concurrent 9-year sentence for home invasion; and (3) a 16-year sentence, to be served consecutively to the others, for aggravated criminal sexual assault. Thus, instead of totaling 25 years’ imprisonment (10 + 15), as now, defendant’s terms would total 26 years’ imprisonment (10 + 16). Therefore, we construe defendant’s claim of error to depend on the reversal of his conviction of armed violence; not only does his argument read this way, but we shall not presume that, in the event that all of his convictions stand, defendant wants a longer total time of incarceration. Under these unique circumstances, we deem his argument consciously waived (Ill. S. Ct. R. 341(h)(7) (eff. Jan. 6, 2013)) and consider it no further.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, People v. Oldaker, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

The Second District Appellate Court Acknowledged That The 15 Year Sentence Handed Down By McGraw Was One Year Less Than The 16-Year Recommended Minimum For Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault

The Second District Appellate Court Of Illinois Acknowledged That The 15 Year Sentence Handed Down By McGraw Was One Year Less Than The 16-Year Minimum For Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.


“Defendant requests that we modify his sentences by adding one year to that for aggravated criminal sexual assault, bringing it up to the 16-year minimum, and compensating for this addition by subtracting one year from his sentence for home invasion. This would result in the same aggregate prison term as defendant now has: a total of 25 years’ imprisonment. Defendant is clearly proceeding on the assumption that his conviction of armed violence will be reversed, so that he will not be subject to the 10-year sentence for that offense. However, we have affirmed defendant’s conviction of armed violence. Therefore, to modify the other two sentences as defendant requests would result in (1) a 10-year sentence for armed violence; (2) a concurrent 9-year sentence for home invasion; and (3) a 16-year sentence, to be served consecutively to the others, for aggravated criminal sexual assault. Thus, instead of totaling 25 years’ imprisonment (10 + 15), as now, defendant’s terms would total 26 years’ imprisonment (10 + 16). Therefore, we construe defendant’s claim of error to depend on the reversal of his conviction of armed violence; not only does his argument read this way, but we shall not presume that, in the event that all of his convictions stand, defendant wants a longer total time of incarceration. Under these unique

circumstances, we deem his argument consciously waived (Ill. S. Ct. R. 341(h)(7) (eff. Jan. 6, 2013)) and consider it no further.” [Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, *People v. Oldaker*, Case #2-14-0341, Order, [8/9/16](#)]

June 2024: Kevin Oldaker Was A Registered Child Sex Offender And Was Listed As Non-Compliant, Meaning He Failed To Maintain Accurate Registration Records As Required By Law

As Of June 2024, Kevin Oldaker Was A Registered Child Sex Offender And Was Listed As Non-Compliant, Meaning He Failed To Maintain Accurate Registration Records As Required By Law. [Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

Child Sex Offender Information (as of 2/27/2024)							
Name:	OLDAKER, KEVIN M						
Alias Name(s):							
Date of Birth:	4/7/1974						
Alias DOB(s):							
Height:	5'07"	Weight:	180-lbs.	Sex:	M	Race:	W
Address:	DEKALB, IL 60115						
Crime Information							
Sexual Predator	VICTIM WAS 16 YEARS OF AGE OFFENDER WAS 29 AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE						
Crimes:	CRIMINAL SEXUAL ABUSE/VIC 13-17 FREDATORY CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT						
County of Conviction:	DuPage						



NON-COMPLIANT
Offender has failed to maintain accurate registration records as required by law.

[Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [6/13/24](#)]

McGraw Lowered Bail For A Man Arrested On Murder Charges And Gave Lenient Sentences To Defendants Convicted Of Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Child Endangerment, And Murder, Putting Illinoisians At Risk

McGraw Sentenced A Woman Found Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment To Only Four Years' Probation, Despite The Prosecutor Recommendation Of A 22-Year Prison Sentence

McGraw Found Illinois Woman Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Allowed Her Infant To Starve To Death

McGraw Found Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Allowed Her Infant To Starve To Death, McGraw Ruled Lund Did Not Intend To Kill Her Son But Was Reckless

2014: McGraw Found Kayla Lund Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter And Child Endangerment After She Did Not Seek Medical Attention As Her Infant Son, Jaxon, Starved To Death. “McGraw in July found Kayla Lund, 25, not guilty of first-degree murder in the Sept. 22, 2011, death of Jaxon, her infant son. McGraw ruled Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and endangerment of a child. [...] McGraw said Lund had ‘recklessly’ not sought medical attention for Jaxon as he lost weight.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **McGraw Ruled Kayla Lund Did Not Intend To Kill Her Son, But Said Lund Was Reckless And Did Not Care For The Child Like A Reasonable Person.** “McGraw also ordered Lund to perform 500 hours of community service, fined her \$1,000 and ordered her to pay fees for probation services and DNA testing. He ordered her to undergo psychological evaluation and mental health treatment as necessary. McGraw ruled in

July that prosecutors did not prove Lund intended to kill Jaxon. However, he said Lund was reckless and did not care for the infant like a reasonable person.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Prosecutors Argued Kayla Lund’s Actions Were “Cruel And Heinous Behavior,” Although She Never Brought Jaxon To A Doctor, Lund Went To Her Own Doctors Appointments In The Weeks Before He Died

The Prosecution Alleged Kayla Lund’s Actions Were “Cruel And Heinous Behavior” As Her Son Lost Weight For Several Weeks And She Did Not Seek Medical Attention. “Lund was charged with 24 counts of first degree murder for allegedly starving her 7-week-old son Jaxon Betts to death. The prosecution also alleged Lund's actions were ‘cruel and heinous behavior’ because Jaxon had been losing weight for several weeks and she didn't seek medical attention. The bench trial before Judge McGraw began July 7 and ran all last week. Paramedics were called to 608 Wheeler Ave. on Sept. 22, 2011 for an infant who wasn't breathing. Jaxon was pronounced dead after paramedics were unable to revive him. Lund took the stand last week and said Jaxon was throwing up most of his food so she fed him less formula, but increased the frequency of the feedings. She based this on information she was given from the pediatrician of her other children who experienced similar feeding problems. Prosecutors called their own medical expert in child starvation during the trial, who testified Jaxon was at a healthy weight of over 7 pounds when he was born. Jaxon weighed just over 4 pounds at the time of his death. Lund kept Jaxon clothed or away from other people in the last couple weeks before his death, prosecutors claimed.” [Beloit Daily News, [7/15/14](#)]

The Prosecution Argued That Although Kayla Lund’s Son Never Saw A Doctor, Lund Went To Her Own Doctors Appointments In The Weeks Before He Died. “In requesting a prison term of 22 years, prosecutors Marilyn Hite Ross and Pamela Wells argued the death of two of Lund’s children was an indication that the circumstances that led to Jaxon’s death could be repeated. Although Jaxon never saw a doctor, Lund went to her own doctor appointments in the weeks before he died, Hite Ross said. ‘The defendant’s needs always come before her children,’ Hite Ross said. ‘Jaxon’s needs didn’t come second, and they didn’t come third. They didn’t come at all.’ McGraw, however, said the circumstances were unlikely to occur again. And over the arguments of prosecutors, McGraw ruled that probation would not deprecate or belittle the seriousness of the verdict.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: “Horrific Autopsy And Crime Scene Photos” Presented During The Bench Trial Showed Kayla Lund’s Son “Died Skeletal And Emaciated”

Rockford Register Star: “Horrific Autopsy And Crime Scene Photos” Presented During The Bench Trial Showed Kayla Lund’s Son “Died Skeletal And Emaciated.” “Horrible autopsy and crime scene photos shown to McGraw during a bench trial in July showed Jaxon died skeletal and emaciated. McGraw found that Lund starved her son and failed to provide him with commonsense medical care. But McGraw pointed to the mixed testimony of family who witnessed feedings and testified that Lund was a loving mother. McGraw said Winnebago County prosecutors were unable to prove Lund intended to kill the baby and he found her not guilty of first-degree murder.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/14/14](#)]

September 2014: McGraw Sentenced Kayla Lund To Four Years’ Probation

September 2014: McGraw Sentenced Kayla Lund To Four Years’ Probation, She Faced Up To 14 Years In Prison For Involuntary Manslaughter And Up To 10 Years For Endangering The Life Of A Child Causing Death. “A South Beloit mom’s infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won’t spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years’ probation. [...] Lund had faced up to 14 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter and up to 10 years for endangering the life of a child causing death. Four years is the maximum number of years of probation under those charges.” [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: “A South Beloit Mom’s Infant Son Lived Just 49 Days Before He Died Of Starvation. But She Won’t Spend A Day In Prison After Chief Judge Joseph McGraw Sentenced Her

Monday To Four Years' Probation. "A South Beloit mom's infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won't spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years' probation. McGraw in July found Kayla Lund, 25, not guilty of first-degree murder in the Sept. 22, 2011, death of Jaxon, her infant son. McGraw ruled Lund guilty of involuntary manslaughter and endangerment of a child. Autopsy photos showed Jaxon died emaciated, skin hanging loose from his skeleton. McGraw said Lund had 'recklessly' not sought medical attention for Jaxon as he lost weight. 'I heard some horrible evidence,' McGraw said. 'I saw some pretty horrible pictures.'" [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

The Prosecutor On The Case Asked For A 22-Year Sentence, Which McGraw Said Was 'Unnecessary'

The Winnebago County State's Attorney Prosecutors Asked For A 22-Year Prison Sentence For Kayla Lund. "A South Beloit mom's infant son lived just 49 days before he died of starvation. But she won't spend a day in prison after Chief Judge Joseph McGraw sentenced her Monday to four years' probation. [...] Winnebago County State's Attorney prosecutors asked for a 22-year prison sentence. And they asked that if McGraw gave Lund probation, that he order her not to have any more children." [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **McGraw Said That Imprisoning Kayla Lund Was Unnecessary.** "Winnebago County State's Attorney prosecutors asked for a 22-year prison sentence. And they asked that if McGraw gave Lund probation, that he order her not to have any more children. McGraw said the law did not require prison time, that putting Lund behind bars was not necessary to protect the public and that ordering her not to have children would be unconstitutional. Lund got credit for serving 845 days, most of which was under house arrest. Lund was put on house arrest in 2012 after being charged with Jaxon's death. Prior to house arrest, she spent about three weeks in Winnebago County Jail." [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Another One Of Kayla Lund's Children Died Previously And Lund Was Found To Be Medically Neglectful, Though She Was Not Charged With A Crime At The Time

2009: Kayla Lund's Infant Son, Lukas, Died Of Asphyxia. "Although prosecutors pointed out that Jaxon was the second of Lund's four children to die within two years, McGraw placed little or no weight on testimony and evidence regarding the June 9, 2009, death of her son Lukas. [...] The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner's office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap on a thick blanket." [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

- **Kayla Lund Was Not Charged With Any Crime In Connection To The Death, But The Department Of Child And Family Services Did Find Her To Be Medically Neglectful Of Her Son.** "Lund was never charged with any crime in connection with Lukas' death. The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner's office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap on a thick blanket. Although no testimony about Lukas was heard during her bench trial, a supervisor from the Department of Child and Family Services was allowed to testify at Monday's sentencing hearing. A DCFS investigation found Lund was medically neglectful because she had not picked up an albuterol prescription for Lukas' asthma, and she never told the boy's father about his medical condition, she said." [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

Rockford Register Star: "Although Prosecutors Pointed Out That Jaxon Was The Second Of Lund's Four Children To Die Within Two Years, McGraw Placed Little Or No Weight On Testimony And Evidence Regarding The June 9, 2009, Death Of Her Son Lukas." "Although prosecutors pointed out that Jaxon was the second of Lund's four children to die within two years, McGraw placed little or no weight on testimony and evidence regarding the June 9, 2009, death of her son Lukas. Lund was never charged with any crime in connection with Lukas' death. The infant boy was in the care of his father and his girlfriend in South Beloit when he died, according to the Rock County, Wisconsin, coroner's office, of positional asphyxia after being put down for a nap on a thick blanket. Although no testimony about Lukas was heard during her bench trial, a supervisor from the Department of Child and Family Services was allowed to testify at Monday's sentencing hearing. A DCFS

investigation found Lund was medically neglectful because she had not picked up an albuterol prescription for Lukas' asthma, and she never told the boy's father about his medical condition, she said. Lund never attended parenting classes or grief counseling offered by DCFS. Public defenders Nick Zimmerman and Edward Light argued Lund was not responsible for Lukas' death and that the medical condition was not connected to his death." [Rockford Register Star, [9/16/14](#)]

McGraw Sentenced A Man Found Guilty Of Sexual Abuse To Only 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment – Where He Could Be Released At Particular Times – Despite The Crime Being Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison

2020: A Rockford Man, Michael Lambert, Was Found Guilty Of Criminal Sexual Abuse Committed In 2018

November 2018: Michael Lambert, Of Rockford, Committed Criminal Sexual Abuse. “27-year-old Michael Lambert was found guilty of Criminal Sexual Abuse on Monday, for a crime committed in November 2018.” [WTVO, [8/4/20](#)]

- **According To Illinois Sex Offender Registry, Michael J Lambert Was An Adult Sex Offender, At The Time Of The Crime, The Victim Was 25 Years Of Age And Lambert Was 27.** [Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [2/26/24](#)]



[Illinois State Police, Sex Offender Registration Search, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

August 2020: Michael Lambert Was Found Guilty In A Trial Where McGraw Was The Judge. “Michael Lambert was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse following a bench trial before Judge Joseph McGraw, according to Winnebago County State’s Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross.” [WIFR, [8/4/20](#)]

October 2020: McGraw Sentenced Michael Lambert To 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment, Despite Criminal Sexual Abuse Being Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison

McGraw Sentenced Michael Lambert To 30 Months’ Probation, But Only 90 Days Of Periodic Imprisonment. “Michael Lambert was found guilty of criminal sexual abuse following a bench trial before Judge Joseph McGraw, according to Winnebago County State’s Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross. He was then sentenced to 30 months’ probation and to serve 90 days periodic imprisonment in the Winnebago County Jail by Judge Joseph McGraw.” [WIFR, [10/5/20](#)]

Criminal Sexual Abuse Was A Class 4 Felony Punishable By Up To Three Years In Prison. “Criminal sexual abuse is a class 4 felony with a sentencing range of up to 30 months probation or 1-3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by one year of mandatory supervised release.” [WIFR, [10/5/20](#)]

According To Illinois Law, Periodic Imprisonment Allowed A Defendant To Be Released For Periods Of Time, During Which They Could Work, Seek Employment, Or Engage In Other Designated Activities

Illinois Law Stated Periodic Imprisonment Was A Sentence “During Which The Committed Person May Be Released For Periods Of Time.” “Sentence of periodic imprisonment. (a) A sentence of periodic imprisonment is a sentence of imprisonment during which the committed person may be released for periods of time during the day or night or for periods of days, or both, or if convicted of a felony, other than first degree murder, a Class X or Class 1 felony, committed to any county, municipal, or regional correctional or detention institution or facility in this State for such periods of time as the court may direct. Unless the court orders otherwise, the particular times and conditions of release shall be determined by the Department of Corrections, the sheriff, or the Superintendent of the house of corrections, who is administering the program.” [Illinois General Assembly, 730 ILCS 5/5-7-1, accessed [1/12/24](#)]

- **During Periodic Imprisonment, A Person Could Be Released To Work, Go To School, And Attend To Family Needs.** “A sentence of periodic imprisonment may be imposed to permit the defendant to: (1) seek employment; (2) work; (3) conduct a business or other self-employed occupation including housekeeping; (4) attend to family needs; (5) attend an educational institution, including vocational education; (6) obtain medical or psychological treatment; (7) perform work duties at a county, municipal, or regional correctional or detention institution or facility; (8) continue to reside at home with or without supervision involving the use of an approved electronic monitoring device, subject to Article 8A of Chapter V; or (9) for any other purpose determined by the court.” [Illinois General Assembly, 730 ILCS 5/5-7-1, accessed [1/12/24](#)]

McGraw Sentenced A Man Twice Convicted Of Murder To 10 Years Less Than His Previous Sentence For His First Conviction; The Mother Of The Victim’s Daughter Said McGraw’s Sentence Was Too Light

After A Man Twice Found Guilty Of Murder Appealed And Received A New Trial, McGraw Shortened His Sentence From His First Conviction By 10 Years

2018: McGraw Sentenced Lorenzo Kent Jr To 45 Years In Prison For Fatally Shooting Donmarquis Jackson After Hunting Him Down At Home, The Sentence Was 10 Years Less Than The Term Of His First Sentence. “A Rockford man said only that ‘I’m not a gang member’ before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he’s already spent in jail. Rockford resident Janet Jackson, 31, with whom Donmarquis Jackson has one daughter, said while she’s grateful that Kent was convicted, the 45-year sentence was too light. ‘It’s going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter,’ Janet Jackson said, noting their daughter was 5 years old when her father was killed. ‘It’s an everyday struggle.’[...] Kent faced a term of 45 years to natural life behind bars for the murder, but state law barred him from being sentenced to more than 55 years, the term of his first sentence.” [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

- **Lorenzo Kent Jr Had Been Convicted Twice Of The Murder Of Jackson, State Law Barred Him From Being Sentenced To More Than 55 Years, The Term of His First Sentence.** “A Rockford man said only that ‘I’m not a gang member’ before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he’s already spent in jail. [...] Kent twice has been convicted of Jackson’s murder. Kent was convicted of first-degree murder in April 2014 and sentenced to 55 years in prison, but appealed. He received a new trial and was convicted in November 2017 during a second jury trial. Before he could be sentenced, Kent’s defense attorney, Assistant Public Defender Chrissie Lee, asked for a new trial, contending the former judge, Fernando Engelsma, committed a series of errors that entitled Kent to a new trial. Kent faced a term of 45 years to natural life behind bars for the murder, but state law barred him from being sentenced to more than 55 years,

the term of his first sentence. Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Gadow called for the 55 years, saying Kent stalked Jackson and enlisted three teenagers to try to lure him outside to be shot. 'It was a fatal shot to the back that perforated his heart and took his life,' Gadow said. Lee asked for the 45-year term, arguing that Kent had a 'chaotic and dysfunctional' childhood. Kent's father, who currently is in prison for a sex crime, was abusive to Kent and Kent's mother often, Lee said. Both parents were drug addicts and mentally ill, Lee said, and when Kent was removed from his parents, he was abused in foster care." [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

The Mother Of The Victim's Daughter Said The Sentence McGraw Handed Down Was Too Light, "It's Going To Be A Lifetime For Me And My Daughter"

Janet Jackson, Who Had A Five-Year-Old Daughter With Donmarquis Jackson, Said The Sentence McGraw Handed Down Was Too Light: "It's Going To Be A Lifetime For Me And My Daughter." "A Rockford man said only that 'I'm not a gang member' before he was sentenced on Thursday to 45 years in prison for fatally shooting a man in the back after hunting him down at home. Judge Joseph McGraw handed down that sentence to Lorenzo Kent Jr., 28, for the May 6, 2013, fatal shooting of Donmarquis Jackson, 30. He granted Kent credit for the 1,996 days he's already spent in jail. Rockford resident Janet Jackson, 31, with whom Donmarquis Jackson has one daughter, said while she's grateful that Kent was convicted, the 45-year sentence was too light. 'It's going to be a lifetime for me and my daughter,' Janet Jackson said, noting their daughter was 5 years old when her father was killed. 'It's an everyday struggle.' Their daughter, now 10, asks her daily what her father was like. 'His ashes came the day she started kindergarten,' Janet Jackson said. 'That's the memories we have.' Kent twice has been convicted of Jackson's murder." [Rockford Register Star, [10/25/18](#)]

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To 'Reduce The Jail Population'

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To "Reduce The Jail Population." "The new chief judge in charge of the local court system says he too will be focused on court efficiency that can reduce the jail population. Judge Joseph McGraw begins his two-year term as chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit on Sunday. McGraw was unanimously selected by his fellow circuit judges Sept. 28 as the new chief judge. He succeeds Chief Judge Janet Holmgren, who has served in that role since May 2007. Holmgren will remain a circuit judge and likely be assigned to a court call." [Rockford Register Star, 10/13/11]

- **McGraw Inherited A Backlog Of 95,000 Unsettled Cases When He Became Chief Judge.** "Boone and Winnebago County courts began the year with a backlog of more than 95,000 unsettled cases. That's after a small dent was made in 2011 in the amount of uncompleted cases crawling through the courts. Chief Judge Joe McGraw, who became the top judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court on Jan. 1, said the task of whittling away at that backlog will be among his top priorities." [Rockford Register Star, [2/7/12](#)]

While McGraw Was A Judge, Winnebago County Courts Consistently Struggled With "Pervasive" Delays And A Large Case Backlog, Allowing A Suspected Murderer To Go Free And Forcing A Family To Wait Over Six Years For Justice In A Murder Case**While McGraw Was Chief Judge And Presiding Criminal Judge, Winnebago County Courts Faced "Pervasive" Delays**

2012-2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court, A Role Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court

2012-2017: McGraw Served As The Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court, A Position Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court

2012-2017: McGraw Served As Chief Judge In The 17th Judicial Circuit Court. “But it's more than just political messaging this time with top Republicans believing that McGraw's judicial background will allow the candidate to speak with authority on issues ranging from urban crime to immigration while setting up a contrast with Sorensen, who was a television meteorologist before running for and winning office last year. McGraw served as a judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which covers Boone and Winnebago counties, for more than two decades until retiring in July, including as chief judge from 2012 to 2017. He was also the presiding judge over the criminal division from 2004 until his retirement.” [Pantagraph, [10/11/23](#)]

Rockford Register Star Op-Ed: The Chief Judge Of The 17th Judicial Circuit Court Was Responsible For The Overall Administrative Responsibilities Of The Court. “Congratulations to Judge Joe McGraw, who was selected Wednesday to serve as the chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court. The chief judge is responsible for the overall administrative responsibilities of the court, and McGraw will have plenty of challenges as he tries to make the court system more efficient. Bookings are down, but the Winnebago County Jail population is up, indicating there's a clog in the system. The average number of days an inmate spends in jail is 21, up eight days from a decade ago. There are a couple dozen inmates who have been in jail since July 2008 or earlier. Remember, most inmates are awaiting trial; they have not been convicted of a crime. One of McGraw's tasks will be to remove the obstacles that keep people in jail longer than necessary. Unless he can help unclog the system, the jail could be full in four years, a frightening thought. He has a few months to put his plan together, or build on the plans of his predecessor, Janet Holmgren. McGraw does not officially become chief judge until Jan. 1.” [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

Before Taking On The Role Of Chief Judge, McGraw Said He Would Address The Case Backlog In The Circuit Court System And Decrease The Jail Population

2012: Boone And Winnebago County Courts Began The Year With A Backlog Of More Than 95,000 Unsettled Cases, McGraw Said Working Through That Backlog Would Be Among His Top Priorities. “Boone and Winnebago County courts began the year with a backlog of more than 95,000 unsettled cases. That’s after a small dent was made in 2011 in the amount of uncompleted cases crawling through the courts. Chief Judge Joe McGraw, who became the top judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court on Jan. 1, said the task of whittling away at that backlog will be among his top priorities. New judge time has been added to Boone County courts, several judges have taken on new responsibilities, and the Winnebago and Boone County boards have each allocated money to hire more prosecutors and public defenders. Those moves will help the 17th clear cases more quickly, McGraw said, but continued evaluation of court time is needed to ensure judges can adjudicate as many cases as possible.” [Rockford Register, [2/6/12](#)]

- **McGraw: “Everything Is On The Table, Everything Is Up For Review. ... If Something Isn’t Working, We’re Not Wedded To It.”** “New judge time has been added to Boone County courts, several judges have taken on new responsibilities, and the Winnebago and Boone County boards have each allocated money to hire more prosecutors and public defenders. Those moves will help the 17th clear cases more quickly, McGraw said, but continued evaluation of court time is needed to ensure judges can adjudicate as many cases as possible. ‘We can’t create more court time, but we can use it more efficiently,’ he said. ‘Everything is on the table, everything is up for review. ... If something isn’t working, we’re not wedded to it.’ The 17th Circuit had more than 98,600 cases filed in 2011, and 82,000 were generated in Winnebago County, according to statistics the court released last month. That was nearly 10 percent fewer cases than 2010 and 19 percent fewer than 2009, largely because of a drop in the number of traffic cases, which have declined along with the number of police and deputies on the street. About 3,100 more cases were closed than filed last year in Boone and Winnebago County courts. It’s the second straight year the 17th Circuit has whittled away at its backlog. Filings outpaced the number of cases closed each year from 2002 to ’08, according to the court statistics.” [Rockford Register, [2/6/12](#)]

Rockford Register Star Opinion: According To Reporter Kevin Haas, McGraw Said He Would Review How Each Judge Was Used, In Order To Address Each Judge’s Case Load. “Holmgren, who has served two two-year terms as chief judge, last month presented the County Board a 16-page memo with statistics and initiatives to

speed up the system. Holmgren's memo was in response to a frustrated County Board that held up part of a \$250,000 request from the court system for personnel. Board members were upset at how slowly cases were moving through the system, which led to the growing jail population. The board voted unanimously Thursday to give the court system the money. Maybe that means board members think Holmgren's initiatives were on the right track. Of course, McGraw has ideas of his own. He told Register Star reporter Kevin Haas he will review how each judge is used. That's a good move because some judges are busier than others because of the kinds of cases they handle. McGraw sees opportunities for consolidation and reconfiguration that could make the system more efficient." [Rockford Register Star, Opinion, [10/2/11](#)]

May 2012: McGraw Asked For Patience In Addressing Court System Speeds And Jail Overcrowding And Said "Things Turn Gradually. The Changes That We Have Made, I Do Believe, Will Bear Fruit." "Four Winnebago County politicians will have their pay frozen for a year while a fifth will get a raise after the November election, County Board members decided Thursday. The board also decided that officers who guard the Winnebago County Jail deserve a raise. 'These men and women are putting their lives on the line,' board member John Cabello said. 'They have to deal with people that will never give anybody respect, and they provide a level of service that is unmatched.' The pair of salary votes were two of a handful of decisions made Thursday night after the board spent about two-thirds of its two-hour, 15-minute meeting discussing ways to speed up the court system and alleviate jail crowding with leaders of the criminal justice system. Chief Judge Joe McGraw asked board members for patience. In time, he said, they will see the effects of changes that have been implemented, which included adding felony court time and personnel for the public defender, state's attorney and circuit clerk. The board has been considering hiring an outside consultant to study the court system. 'Things turn gradually. The changes that we have made, I do believe, will bear fruit,' McGraw said." [Rockford Register Star, [5/25/12](#)]

McGraw Said One Of His Focuses As Chief Judge Was To "Reduce The Jail Population." "The new chief judge in charge of the local court system says he too will be focused on court efficiency that can reduce the jail population. Judge Joseph McGraw begins his two-year term as chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit on Sunday. McGraw was unanimously selected by his fellow circuit judges Sept. 28 as the new chief judge. He succeeds Chief Judge Janet Holmgren, who has served in that role since May 2007. Holmgren will remain a circuit judge and likely be assigned to a court call." [Rockford Register Star, 10/13/11]

2004-2023: McGraw Served As The Presiding Judge Of The 17th Judicial District Court's Criminal Division, Which Covered Boone And Winnebago Counties

2004-May 2023: McGraw Was A 17th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Presiding Over The Criminal Division. Circuit Judge Joseph G. McGraw has announced his retirement effective July 5, 2023. Judge McGraw was appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in January 2002 and was elected to his position in November 2002. He served as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017. [...] Judge Joseph G. McGraw is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A. - 1978) and Northern Illinois University - College of Law (J.D. - 1985). He was the Presiding Judge in Boone County from 2002 - 2003. He has served as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 2004 to present." [17th Judicial Circuit Court, Press Release, [5/3/23](#)]

- **Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court Covered Boone And Winnebago Counties.** [State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]



[State of Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit Court, accessed [1/22/24](#)]

2010-2020: Winnebago County Courts Saw “Pervasive” Delays And Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner”

Winnebago County Courts Had Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner” And Took On Average About 4 Months Longer Than The National Standard To Move Felony Cases

2020: Rockford Register Star: Winnebago County Courts Had “Long Struggled To Move Cases Through The System In A Timely Manner.” “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. The National Center for State Courts standard is for 98% of felony cases to conclude within 180 days, but in Winnebago County the average is about four months longer.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]

- **Winnebago County Took On Average About Four Months Longer Than The National Standard To Move Felony Cases.** “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. The National Center for State Courts standard is for 98% of felony cases to conclude within 180 days, but in Winnebago County the average is about four months longer.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]
- **2010-2020: In 6 Of 10 Years, Winnebago County Saw More Cases Filed Than Closed.** “Courts in Winnebago County have long struggled to move cases through the system in a timely manner. [...] In six of the past 10 years the county has seen more cases filed than closed, adding to a large backlog.” [Rockford Register Star, [3/21/20](#)]

2012-2019: Winnebago County Jail Saw Chronic Understaffing And “Pervasive” Delays As Staff “Shrank Steadily”

2019: Winnebago County Jail Saw Chronic Understaffing And “Pervasive” Delays. “Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. Judges and others close to the situation say the delays are a direct result of the staffing shortages at the heart of a nearly two-year budget battle that prompted Sheriff Gary Caruana in March to sue the Winnebago County Board. The delays became more common after Caruana cut jail staff in an effort to achieve the budget restrictions enacted by the board. Today, the jail employs 147 corrections officers, the fewest in the building's 12-year history. The delays affect anyone who uses the courts, from prosecutors and defense attorneys to defendants, victims and witnesses. [...] Chief Judge Eugene Doherty called the delays ‘recurrent and pervasive.’” [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]

- **Staff At The Jail “Shrank Steadily,” Since Its Opening In 2007.** “Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. [...] When the jail opened in 2007, it employed 202 correctional officers. Staffing levels shrank steadily in the following years. The current staff level is down 20 people since 2016, when the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees filed a grievance against the sheriff and requested a federal mediator be brought in because the shrinking staffing levels were considered a violation of the health and safety provision of the guards’ collective bargaining agreement.” [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]

February 2012: The Winnebago County Jail Had 17% More Prisoners Than The Jail Averaged Per Day In 2010. “The Winnebago County Jail had more than 1,000 inmates Wednesday. That's nothing new lately, but it's about 17 percent more prisoners than the 856 the jail averaged per day in 2010. Chief Judge Joe McGraw told members of the Winnebago County Board Public Safety Committee on Wednesday that the use of GPS-based electronic devices to monitor the accused while out on bond would benefit the courts. He said the 17th Judicial Circuit Court has continued to meet with vendors of electronic monitoring devices as it explores how a program could be implemented in Winnebago County. The committee is in favor of using the electronic devices, its chairman Rick Pollack said. But he said it won't commit money to the initiative until members see whether the county's other jail reduction efforts are effective. The Winnebago County Board committed about \$680,000 this

year to hire four attorneys and an investigator for the public defender's office, two prosecutors and an investigator for the state's attorney's office, two probation officers, and two court clerks in an effort to speed up the court system. McGraw has also restructured some court calls in an effort to increase efficiency.” [Rockford Register Star, [2/29/12](#)]

In One 2012 Case, A Suspected Murderer Was Allowed To Go Free Because His Speedy Trial Rights Were Violated

In Winnebago County, 58% Of People In Jail On Felony Charges Were There Longer Than The Speedy-Trial Requirement Of Trial Within 120 Days, Which Was Grounds For Accused To Be Released

2012: Under McGraw, 58% Of People In Jail On Felony Charges Were There Longer Than The Speedy-Trial Requirement Of Trial Within 120 Days. “It takes an average of 13 appearances in Winnebago County court before a felony case is resolved. Fifty-eight percent of people in jail on felony charges are there longer than the speedy-trial requirement of a trial within 120 days. Cash bonds more than tripled between 2007 and 2010 for the accused who want out of jail while awaiting trial.” [Rockford Register Star, [12/30/12](#)]

- **Defendants Who Were Held In Jail and Invoked The Constitutional Right To A Speedy Trial Have 120 Days In Which To Get To Trial.** “Chronic understaffing at the Winnebago County Jail is affecting the pace of justice because often there are too few correctional officers to transport inmates to court in a timely fashion. Judges and others close to the situation say the delays are a direct result of the staffing shortages at the heart of a nearly two-year budget battle that prompted Sheriff Gary Caruana in March to sue the Winnebago County Board. [...] Judge Joseph McGraw said both victims and defendants have rights that must be considered. Defendants who are held in jail and who invoke the constitutional right to a speedy trial have 120 days in which to go to trial. For crime victims, what's known as Marsy's Law says that they have a right ‘to a timely disposition of the case’ after an arrest. ‘Each time we get off track, there’s a consequence somewhere,’ McGraw said. ‘It's kind of maddening when you think of it. A door or two down my guy is waiting in a holding cell.’” [Rockford Register Star, [5/1/19](#)]
- **Violating Defendants’ Rights To A Speedy Trial Was Grounds For An Accused Murderer To Be Released.** “A man suspected in the January 2011 killing of 25-year-old Charles Spivey was expected to go free after his speedy trial rights were violated, but prosecutors have brought new charges, keeping him in the Winnebago County Jail. In new charges, prosecutors say Antwan T. Maxey, 28, resisted when police attempted to arrest him in May 2011, that he fled from police and continued to resist even when he was apprehended with the help of a canine unit 10 days later in Machesney Park. All previous murder-related charges against Maxey were tossed out of court March 9 by Judge Ronald White. Maxey had demanded a speedy trial and White ruled Winnebago County prosecutors had missed the 120-day deadline, violating his constitutional rights.” [Rockford Register Star, [11/9/12](#)]

A 2015 Murder Case Took More Than Six Years To Get Justice, With The Murderer Having The Longest Time Awaiting Trial Of Any Inmate In Winnebago County Jail

2015: John Carlos Boose, Of Rockford, Illinois, Beat His Wife, Regina Poe, To Death. “A Rockford man was found guilty Friday of fatally beating his wife. A Winnebago County jury convicted John Carlos Boose, 51, of first-degree murder for the Jan. 30, 2015, beating death of his 46-year-old wife, Regina Poe.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

2021: Boose Was Found Guilty For First-Degree Murder For The Death Of His Wife. “A Rockford man was found guilty Friday of fatally beating his wife. A Winnebago County jury convicted John Carlos Boose, 51, of first-degree murder for the Jan. 30, 2015, beating death of his 46-year-old wife, Regina Poe.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

Boose's Case Took More Than 6 Years To Reach Trial – The Longest Of Any Inmate In Winnebago County Jail. “Boose's case stretched on for more than six years before trial. No inmate inside the Winnebago County Jail had awaited trial longer than Boose, county records show.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

Regina Poe's Son: “It Shouldn't Take Five Years To Get Justice.” “By most accounts, Jan. 30 was just another in a long list of court appearances for John Boose. For Maurice Simmons, it was the first time he saw his grandmother cry. After more than 100 court appearances stretching over more than five years, Boose walked in and out of court that day no closer to standing trial on charges that he killed his wife, Regina Poe. The hearing was held on the five-year anniversary of her death. That's when the normally tough shell of Simmons' grandmother Algurtia Poe finally cracked. ‘I'm going to be 33. I've never seen my grandmother cry until that day,’ said Simmons, one of Regina's four sons. ‘Her exact words were, ‘He killed my baby. I'm ready for justice.’ [...] ‘It shouldn't take five years to get justice,’ Maurice Simmons said.” [Rockford Register Star, [4/23/21](#)]

Seniors' Issues

Significant Findings

✓ McGraw accepted \$5,000 and an endorsement from Mike Johnson, who proposed drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Social Security

McGraw Accepted \$5,000 And An Endorsement From Mike Johnson, Who Proposed Drastic Cuts To Social Security And Medicare

December 2023: McGraw Received \$5,000 From Mike Johnson's PACs

December 2023: Mike Johnson's PAC American Revival Donated \$5,000 To McGraw's Congressional Campaign. According to FEC Receipts, American Revival PAC gave \$5,000 to Judge Joe for Congress on December 29th, 2023. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

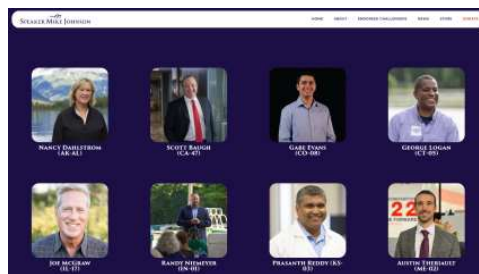
Source name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
AMERICAN REVIVAL PAC	JUDGE JOE MCGRAW FOR CONGRESS	12/29/2023	\$5,000.00

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Mike Johnson's Leadership PAC.** [FEC, Committee Profiles, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

McGraw Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson

May 2024: McGraw Was Listed As One Of Mike Johnson's Endorsed Challengers. [Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]



[Speaker Mike Johnson, accessed [5/22/24](#)]

June 2024: McGraw's Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was Endorsed By Mike Johnson.



Mike Johnson
Speaker
Elise Stefanik
Congresswoman
Darin LaHood
Congressman

[Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, Endorsements, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

June 2024: Johnson Made A Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw And Said He Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen”

June 2024: McGraw Appeared With Mike Johnson At The Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner. “Johnson appeared along with 16th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and 17th District candidate Joe McGraw ahead of the Tazewell County Republican Party’s Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday. McGraw, a retired judge, faces Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen in November. Freshman Sorensen last won the seat with a 52-48 margin, filling an open spot left by retiring Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos.” [WCBU, [6/1/24](#)]

Politico: Johnson Said He Made The Trip To Peoria To Support McGraw. “Johnson stood with Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) and Joe McGraw, a retired judge who’s challenging incumbent Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen in the IL-17 District in November. Johnson said he made the trip to Peoria to support McGraw. ‘[Voters] are going to look for somebody who is a grownup to represent them,’ Johnson said. ‘Somebody who has a great resume and will be a great leader and, I think, will represent the real interest and values of the people in the district.’” [Politico, [6/3/24](#)]

Quad City-Times: Johnson Said McGraw Was “One Of The Best (Candidates) That We've Ever Seen.” “McGraw, a retired circuit court judge from Rockford, was recruited into the race by national Republicans and easily won the party primary in March. Johnson called McGraw ‘one of the best (candidates) that we've ever seen.’ ‘He's been a guy who's stood for law and order his whole career,’ Johnson said. ‘He has acumen in all these areas. He's professional, he's smart, he knows what he's doing and he's gonna come in on day one and help us to fix these problems.’” [Quad City-Times, [6/1/24](#)]

McGraw Said He Had A “Great Evening” With Johnson At The Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner. “Great evening at the Tazewell & Peoria Lincoln Day Dinner with house speaker Mike Johnson and Congressman Darin LaHood! Caught up with old friends and made a whole lot of new ones -- all committed to flipping #IL17! The energy and excitement continues to grow. Onward to victory!” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [6/1/24](#)]

As Chair Of The Republican Study Committee, Johnson Proposed Drastic Cuts To Social Security And Medicare

Johnson’s Republican Study Committee Proposed Cutting Medicare By Raising The Eligibility Age

Johnson’s Republican Study Committee Budget Proposed Cutting Medicare By Raising The Eligibility Age. “Adjust the Medicare Eligibility Age to Reflect Life Expectancy: Since Medicare’s creation in 1965, advances in science and medical technology have increased average life expectancy. This is a great miracle, but it does put additional stresses on the solvency of the Medicare program. As a result, the amount of time a Medicare beneficiary is expected to be covered by the program has increased from 14.6 years in 1965 to over 19 years in 2015. As beneficiaries continue to live longer, the ratio of workers to retirees shrinks threatening the solvency of Medicare. In 1965 there were 4.5 workers per Medicare beneficiary. That number shrunk to 3.3 workers in 2011, 3.1 in 2015, 2.8 in 2018 and is expected to continue to decrease to 2.3 workers per beneficiary by 2030. To address the increased demands on Medicare, this budget proposes increasing the age of Medicare so it is aligned with the normal retirement age for Social Security and then indexing this age to life expectancy, ensuring Medicare remains available for future generations.” [Republican Study Committee, Budget, [FY 2020](#)]

Johnson’s Republican Study Committee Called For Raising The Retirement Age To 69 And Eventually 70 Years Old

Johnson’s Republican Study Committee Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age To 69 And Eventually 70 Years Old. “The goal of the Social Security Reform Act is to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security for this and future generations. It does so by modernizing the program, phasing out antiquated elements and bringing together a number of commonsense ideas to make the system work better for today’s workers and retirees. Many of the specific policies included in this legislation have bipartisan support and have been included in proposals put forward by members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and well-respected non-partisan organizations. Adjust the Retirement Age to Reflect Longevity: The bipartisan Social Security Amendments of 1983 phases in an increase in the Social Security full retirement age over time, beginning at 65 and reaching 67 by 2022 for those born in 1960 and later. The Social Security Reform Act would continue this gradual increase of the normal retirement age at a rate of three months per year until it reaches 69 for those reaching age 62 in 2030. The RSC Budget recognizes that, due to Congressional inaction, the Social Security Reform Act’s retirement age increase would need to be extended, likely to age 70, to achieve long-range sustainable solvency. Further, the existing 5-year gap between the normal and early retirement ages would be maintained as the full retirement age is incrementally adjusted.” [Republican Study Committee, Budget, [FY 2020](#)]

Tax Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ 2024: McGraw repeatedly said if elected to Congress he would “kill the death tax once and for all.”
- ✓ McGraw’s campaign website said he would cut taxes on American factories to bring back good-paying jobs.
- ✓ April 2024: Part of McGraw’s “economic agenda for #IL17” was lowering middle class taxes.

Estate Tax

2024: McGraw Repeatedly Said If Elected To Congress He Would “Kill The Death Tax Once And For All”

McGraw’s Campaign Website Said He Would “Kill The Death Tax Once And For All.” “Judge Joe learned the value of a dollar early on. Growing up, he worked at his family’s business forging horseshoes – he knows what it means to sweat for a paycheck. Washington, D.C. mway have forgotten what hard work and fiscal responsibility looks like, but Judge Joe never will. In Washington, he’ll stop the out-of-control spending that is driving inflation and crushing family budgets, and he’ll cut taxes on American factories to bring good-paying jobs home. He’ll defend family farmers and kill the death tax once and for all. Judge Joe will stand up for us, and restore our district to the economic powerhouse it once was.” [Judge Joe McGraw For Congress, accessed [2/6/24](#)]

April 2024: Part Of McGraw’s “Economic Agenda For #IL17” Was Ending The Death Tax “Once And For All.” “An economic agenda for #IL17: ✓ Lower middle class taxes ✓ Kill the death tax once and for all ✓ High-paying manufacturing jobs ✓ Focus on American-made energy ✓ More vocational educational opportunities” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/24/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/24/24](#)]

Manufacturing Taxes

McGraw’s Campaign Website Said He Would Cut Taxes On American Factories To Bring Back Good-Paying Jobs

McGraw’s Campaign Website Said He Would Cut Taxes On American Factories To Bring Back Good-Paying Jobs. “In Washington, he’ll stop the out-of-control spending that is driving inflation and crushing family budgets, and he’ll cut taxes on American factories to bring good-paying jobs home. He’ll defend family farmers and kill the death tax once and for all. Judge Joe will stand up for us, and restore our district to the economic powerhouse it once was.” [Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [6/10/24](#)]

Middle Class Taxes

April 2024: Part Of McGraw's "Economic Agenda For #IL17" Was Lowering Middle Class Taxes

April 2024: Part Of McGraw's "Economic Agenda For #IL17" Was Lowering Middle Class Taxes. "An economic agenda for #IL17: ✓ Lower middle class taxes ✓ Kill the death tax once and for all ✓ High-paying manufacturing jobs ✓ Focus on American-made energy ✓ More vocational educational opportunities" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/24/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/24/24](#)]

Trade & Outsourcing Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw said, sarcastically, “That's all we need, more Chinese influence on our economy here and more Chinese people here, whether it's buying farmland or building factories.”
- ✓ McGraw said it was time to get tough on China and said the C.C.P. was poisoning Americans by providing subsidies to exporters of the precursor chemicals used to make fentanyl.
- ✓ McGraw said one lesson learned from dealing with COVID-19 was realizing the U.S.’s reliance on China for pharmaceuticals and microchips.
- ✓ McGraw said China had ripped the U.S. off for a long time and “instead of buying minerals, natural resources from China, we should be mining our own.”
- ✓ McGraw said one of his top priorities would be “bringing manufacturing jobs home.”
- ✓ McGraw said the U.S. used to lead in manufacturing and workers were paid good wages until “politicians (both Ds & Rs) sold us out and left working men and women high and dry.”
- ✓ McGraw said fewer Illinoisans worked in manufacturing compared to 1990 because bad trade policies shipped goods overseas and regulatory burdens were implemented by politicians.

China

McGraw: “That's All We Need, More Chinese Influence On Our Economy Here And More Chinese People Here, Whether It's Buying Farmland Or Building Factories”

McGraw: “That's All We Need, More Chinese Influence On Our Economy Here And More Chinese People Here, Whether It's Buying Farmland Or Building Factories. And You Gotta Ask Yourself Who Is Behind The Wheel Here? Who Is Behind The Wheel? They're Doing Things That Are Good For China And In America Illegals In IL.” MCGRAW: “My opponent had a press release a while back where he talked about in the Quad Cities they need a clinic where kids 10 to 12 can get puberty blockers. He said that will cause the district to thrive. [...] He's in favor of every extreme environmental move that hampers farmers that hampers business. He and Biden are lockstep in all the trade policies that have sent jobs overseas, making our communities weaker. He's all in on electric cars, even if the public is not all in. That is like a fair trade deal for China because they provide the batteries and the cars and everything else. So that's all we need, more Chinese influence on our economy here and more Chinese people here, whether it's buying farmland or building factories. And you gotta ask yourself who is behind the wheel here? Who is behind the wheel? They're doing things that are good for China and in America illegals in IL you how much they pay for healthcare? (*audience says nothing*). Nothing. Zero. Everyone else including vets including everyone of you here pay a premium, you pay a copay, you pay a deductible. You do not get it free. For people who have broken the law and come here illegally they are being cultivated as future Democratic voters, teaching them to be on the dole. They are also getting free healthcare, free housing. The list goes on and on and on. And who is an afterthought? Who is left in last place? You folks. All of you. Pardon me?” [Audience:] “And veterans taken out of homes to.” MCGRAW: “And veterans, all veterans. You know two of my kids served and I know a number of men and women who were in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they've sacrificed so much and they continue to have scars from their service. They should be treated with not only

respect but if we are going to assist anyone or aid anyone it should be our veterans, American vets and not people who have come here illegally.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 18:05, 19:24, 4/16/24] (AUDIO)

McGraw Said It Was Time To Get Tough On China And The C.C.P. Was Poisoning Americans By Providing Subsidies To Exporters Of The Precursor Chemicals Used To Make Fentanyl

McGraw Said It Was Time To Get Tough On China And The C.C.P. Was Poisoning Americans By Providing Subsidies To Exporters Of The Precursor Chemicals Used To Make Fentanyl. “The Chinese Communist Party is poisoning Americans by providing subsidies to exporters of the precursor chemicals used by the cartels to make fentanyl. It's time to IMMEDIATELY GET TOUGH ON CHINA.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/23/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/23/24](#)]

McGraw Said One Lesson Learned From Dealing With COVID-19 Was Realizing The U.S.’S Reliance On China For Pharmaceuticals And Microchips

McGraw Said One Lesson Learned From Dealing With COVID-19 Was Realizing The U.S.’S Reliance On China For Pharmaceuticals And Microchips. “In a recent conversation on WMOI radio station, McGraw discussed his candidacy and expressed his intent to bring the values of the 17th Congressional District to Washington rather than vice versa. He identified economy as one of his primary concerns. [...] Furthermore, McGraw highlighted lessons learned from dealing with COVID-19, particularly America's heavy reliance on China for pharmaceuticals and microchips. According to his campaign website, McGraw intends to ‘crack down on China when they cheat economically.’ A former prosecutor, private attorney, and retired Circuit Court judge, McGraw announced his candidacy for the 17th Congressional District in mid-October.” [Rock Island Today, [1/24/24](#)]

McGraw Said China Had Ripped The U.S. Off For A Long Time And “Instead Of Buying Minerals, Natural Resources From China, We Should Be Mining Our Own”

McGraw: “We Need To Bring Technology Back Home. We Need To Bring The Manufacturer Of Prescription Drugs Back Home. Instead Of Buying Minerals, Natural Resources From China, We Should Be Mining Our Own.” “The 17th Congressional District extends from Bloomington-Normal west through Peoria, up to the Quad Cities and along Illinois’ northwestern border before wrapping back around to Rockford. ‘I think the biggest issues in Peoria are the kinds of issues that are affecting every manufacturing town in America,’ McGraw said. “Our technology has been shipped overseas; our jobs been shipped overseas. China's been ripping us off for a long time now. ‘We need to bring technology back home. We need to bring the manufacturer of prescription drugs

back home. Instead of buying minerals, natural resources from China, we should be mining our own. We should be developing our own petroleum industry and natural gas industry.” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Said China Had Ripped The U.S. Off For A Long Time And “Instead Of Buying Minerals, Natural Resources From China, We Should Be Mining Our Own.” “McGraw retired as a circuit court judge on July 5 after more than 20 years on the bench. He is hoping to unseat first-term Democrat Eric Sorensen, who defeated Esther Joy King in last year’s election for the seat vacated when Democrat Cheri Bustos’ retired. McGraw said he’s optimistic he can flip a House seat that’s been in Democratic hands for more than a decade because he’s focused on ‘pocketbook issues.’ [...] ‘I think the biggest issues in Peoria are the kinds of issues that are affecting every manufacturing town in America,’ McGraw said. ‘Our technology has been shipped overseas; our jobs been shipped overseas. China’s been ripping us off for a long time now. ‘We need to bring technology back home. We need to bring the manufacturer of prescription drugs back home. Instead of buying minerals, natural resources from China, we should be mining our own. We should be developing our own petroleum industry and natural gas industry.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

Made In America

McGraw Said One Of His Top Priorities Would Be “Bringing Manufacturing Jobs Home”

Dispatch-Argus: McGraw Said His Top Priorities Included “Securing The U.S.-Mexico Border, Energy Independence And Bringing Jobs Back To The U.S.” “McGraw also laid out his top priorities, including securing the U.S.-Mexico border, energy independence and bringing jobs back to the U.S. Rather than forms of energy from outside of the country, he said, the U.S. needs to become a net exporter of energy to lower the price of all energy forms. One of the biggest concerns he has heard from residents is how are they going to afford necessities and make ends meet.” [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

McGraw Said He Would “Strive To Bring Manufacturing Jobs Home,” And “End The Corruption By Banning Politicians From Becoming Lobbyists, Reining In The Bureaucrats Who Nobody Elected And Nobody Wants, And Ensuring Congress Balances The Budget They Got Paid.” “There’s something wrong when big-city liberals would rather demonize honest cops than crack down on criminals, when politicians in Washington care more about illegal immigrants than the safety and security of our own citizens, and when the exporting of good manufacturing jobs, combined with record inflation, crushes families’ economic viability. ‘Eric Sorensen is part of the problem; he votes with Biden’s failed agenda nearly 100% of the time.’ McGraw said he’ll fight ‘the reckless spending agenda of the Democrats that is driving inflation and crushing family budgets,’ will ‘strive to bring manufacturing jobs home,’ and ‘end the corruption by banning politicians from becoming lobbyists, reining in the bureaucrats who nobody elected and nobody wants, and ensuring Congress balances the budget before they get paid.’” [Sauk Valley, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw: “I Think The Biggest Issues In Peoria Are The Kinds Of Issues That Are Affecting Every Manufacturing Town In America. Our Technology Has Been Shipped Overseas; Our Jobs Been Shipped Overseas.” “McGraw retired as a circuit court judge on July 5 after more than 20 years on the bench. He is hoping to unseat first-term Democrat Eric Sorensen, who defeated Esther Joy King in last year’s election for the seat vacated when Democrat Cheri Bustos’ retired. McGraw said he’s optimistic he can flip a House seat that’s been in Democratic hands for more than a decade because he’s focused on ‘pocketbook issues.’ [...] ‘I think the biggest issues in Peoria are the kinds of issues that are affecting every manufacturing town in America,’ McGraw said. ‘Our technology has been shipped overseas; our jobs been shipped overseas. China’s been ripping us off for a long time now.’” [WCBU, [10/11/23](#)]

McGraw Cited “The Exporting Of Good Manufacturing Jobs, Combined With Record Inflation, Crush[ing] Families’ Economic Viability” When He Announced His Congressional Run. “There’s something wrong when big-city liberals would rather demonize honest cops than crack down on criminals, when politicians in Washington care more about illegal immigrants than the safety and security of our own citizens, and when the exporting of good

manufacturing jobs, combined with record inflation, crushes families' economic viability,' McGraw said in a statement." [Rock River Current, [10/11/23](#)]

February 2024: McGraw Said He Would Fight To Protect American Manufacturing Jobs. "My parents ran a manufacturing business where I worked forging horseshoes, so I learned early on the value of a hard day's work & the importance of American industry. That's why, when I get to Congress, I'm going to fight tooth and nail to protect American manufacturing jobs!" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/2/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [2/2/24](#)]

McGraw Said The U.S. Used To Lead In Manufacturing And Workers Were Paid Good Wages Until "Politicians (Both Ds & Rs) Sold Us Out And Left Working Men And Women High And Dry"

McGraw Said The U.S. Used To Lead In Manufacturing And Workers Were Paid Good Wages Until "Politicians (Both Ds & Rs) Sold Us Out And Left Working Men And Women High And Dry." "The U.S. used to lead the world in manufacturing. American workers made quality products in the USA and were paid good wages that supported their family. Then the politicians (both Ds & Rs) sold us out and left working men and women high and dry. [...] it's time we do the right thing & bring back our manufacturing jobs!" [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/2/24](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [5/2/24](#)]

Outsourcing Jobs

McGraw Said Fewer Illinoisans Worked In Manufacturing Compared To 1990 Because Bad Trade Policies Shipped Goods Overseas And Regulatory Burdens Were Implemented By Politicians

McGraw Said Fewer Illinoisans Worked In Manufacturing Compared To 1990 Because Bad Trad Policies Shipped Goods Overseas And Regulatory Burdens Were Implemented By Politicians. "4 more factories close in Illinois. Today, 346k fewer Illinoisans work in manufacturing compared to 1990. Why? Because bad trade policies shipped our good jobs overseas and regulatory burdens implemented by do-nothing politicians made it harder for businesses to succeed in IL. [...] That changes when we flip #IL17." [Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/12/24](#)]

Judge Joe McGraw @judgejoemcgraw · Apr 12
4 more factories close in Illinois. Today, 346k fewer Illinoisans work in manufacturing compared to 1990. Why? Because bad trade policies shipped our good jobs overseas and regulatory burdens implemented by do-nothing politicians made it harder for businesses to succeed in IL.

Judge Joe McGraw @judgejoemcgraw · Apr 12
That changes when we flip #IL17.



Illinois hit by mass layoffs as four factories close
From newsweek.com

58

[Judge Joe McGraw, Twitter, [4/12/24](#)]

Veterans & Military Family Issues

Significant Findings

- ✓ McGraw supported an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which would ban certain books from Department of Defense schools.
- ✓ McGraw's son Joe McGraw was in the Navy and went to the Naval Academy.
- ✓ McGraw's daughter, Kathleen McGraw, was in the Marine Corps.
- ✓ Both of McGraw's parents served in the military and were WWII veterans.

NDAА

McGraw Supported An Amendment To The National Defense Authorization Act That Would Ban Certain Books From Department Of Defense Schools

McGraw Supported An Amendment To HR 2670, The National Defense Authorization Act, That Would Ban Certain Books In Military-Funded Schools

McGraw Supported House Resolution 2670 AM No. 35 Which Would Ban Certain Books That Included Explicit Content, And Or A “Positive Portrayal Of Gender Identity.” McGraw completed the Illinois Family Institute's Voter Guide in 2024. The Illinois Family Institute asked federal candidates if they supported or opposed: “5 | H.R. 2670 Am. No. 35 (2023) would prohibit subjecting children in military-funded schools to books containing pornographic content and/or a positive portrayal of gender identity.” McGraw answered: “Support.” [Illinois Family Institute Voter Guide, Illinois Primary 2024, [2/20/24](#)]

Introduced By Rep Lauren Boebert, House Resolution 2670 Would Prevent The Department Of Defense From Purchasing And Having Certain Books In Their Libraries

Rep. Lauren Boebert Introduced An Amendment To The NDAA Which Would Prevent The Department Of Defense Education Activity Schools “From Purchasing And Having Pornographic And Radical Gender Ideology Books In Their Libraries.” “The National Defense Authorization Act is typically a bipartisan project in Congress and is necessary to keep the military running. But amendments added by several Republicans, including Rep. Lauren Boebert of Silt, have led to another culture-war conflict in Congress as Democrats argued the bill's focus on social issues weakens its military substance and threatens the bill's viability. [...] Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools ‘from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.’ DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school.” [Colorado Newsline, [7/14/23](#)]

- **When Introducing Her Amendment, Boebert Cited Examples Of Books She Claimed Were “Explicit” Including Multiple LGBTQ-Themed Books.** “Boebert introduced three amendments that got onto the bill, including one that prevents Department of Defense Education Activity schools ‘from purchasing and having pornographic and radical gender ideology books in their libraries.’ DODEA schools are for military-connected students from kindergarten through high school. ‘Speaking as a mother of four boys, enough is enough. I don't send my boys to school to receive indoctrination from the woke mob or to be sexualized by groomers,’ Boebert said when introducing the amendment. ‘And the same can be said for our service members, who are also

parents sending their children to DODEA schools.’ Boebert cited examples of books she found in DODEA libraries that she claimed include sexually explicit material, as well as multiple LGBTQ-themed books. Book bans targeting material about LGBTQ people, particularly transgender people, have increased across the U.S. and in Colorado. Colorado’s representatives voted along party lines on Boebert’s amendment, with Democrats opposed.” [Colorado Newswire, [7/14/23](#)]

Veterans

McGraw’s Son Joe McGraw Was In The Navy And Went To The Naval Academy

McGraw Said His Son Was In The Navy. [McGraw:] “And we’ve got a navy, where uh they’re more interested in transgender admirals than dealing with the problem. My son in the Navy, and he was at a port in the US and ships would come in key personnel aboard warships were taken off the warships because they had refused the COVID vaccination. We are talking about captains, we are talking about highly skilled technicians and if uh warships are anything they are technical. So they would be taken off these ships because they were political dissenters. And those ships would sit in the harbor because we didn’t have enough people to replace them and send them back out. Just think about that. Our government is so upside down with their priorities.” [Joe McGraw, Public Safety Town Hall, 13:33, 4/16/24]

McGraw’s Son Went To The US Naval Academy. “Two years ago, Joe McGraw stood on the football field at Rockford Lutheran High School and got an uneasy feeling. He had just received the Dog Tag Award, which represents a hero killed in the line of duty. It’s a recognition given to an athlete on the school’s football team who works hard and is a leader both on and off the field. ‘Getting that award just really exaggerated the contrast between my cushy civilian life and the lives of people my age - 18- and 19-year-old guys - who are going off to war,’ said McGraw, 19, of Rockford. ‘That didn’t sit right with me, so I felt like I had to serve (in the military) as well.’ McGraw, the son of 17th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw, entered the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, last year to major in political science.” [Rockford Register Star, 6/5/17]

McGraw’s Daughter, Kathleen McGraw, Was In The Marine Corps

McGraw’s Daughter, Kathleen, Was In The Marine Corps. “Lt. Kathleen McGraw, USMC, with her proud parents.” [LZ Peace Memorial, accessed [1/12/24](#)]



[Lt. Kathleen McGraw, USMC, with her proud parents](#)

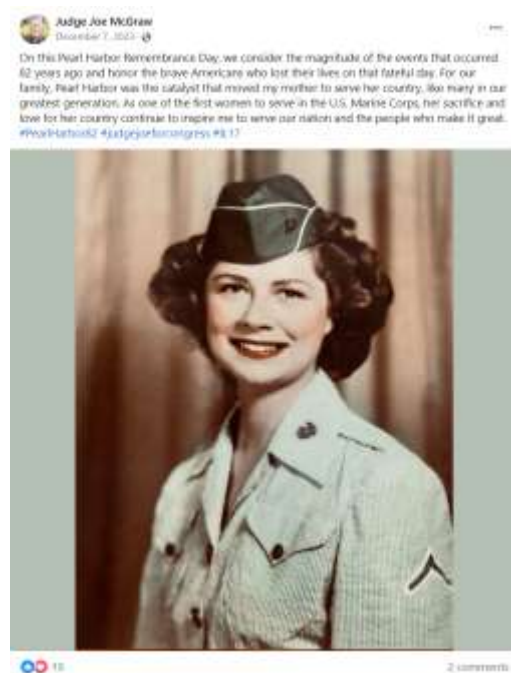
[LZ Peace Memorial, accessed [1/12/24](#)]

Both Of McGraw’s Parents Served In The Military And Were WWII Veterans

McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Website Said He Was The Son Of Two WWII Veterans. “Judge Joe grew up the son of two WWII veterans who owned their own small business. Patriotism was instilled in him at a

young age, and he knows that given a level playing field no country can outcompete American workers and American businesses.” [Judge Joe McGraw, Issues, accessed [5/30/24](#)]

McGraw’s Mother Was One Of The First Women To Serve In The US Marine Corps. “On this Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we consider the magnitude of the events that occurred 82 years ago and honor the brave Americans who lost their lives on that fateful day. For our family, Pearl Harbor was the catalyst that moved my mother to serve her country, like many in our greatest generation. As one of the first women to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps, her sacrifice and love for her country continue to inspire me to serve our nation and the people who make it great. #PearlHarbor82 #judgejoforcongress #IL17” [Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/7/23](#)]



[Judge Joe McGraw, Facebook, [12/7/23](#)]

McGraw’s Father Was A World War II Combat Veteran And Formed A Family Business To Manufacture Horseshoes For Harness Racers. “One of the thing McGraw wants voters to know about him is he comes from a blue-collar background. He said his mother immigrated from Italy, became a citizen and served in the Marine Corps and his father is World War II combat veteran. His father also formed a family business with his great-uncles for horseshoes for harness racers. ‘I grew up in that environment working hard, knowing the value of the dollar,’ he said. ‘My parents taught us three primary lessons which are instilled in me to this day love God, love your family and love your country.’” [Dispatch-Argus, [10/13/23](#)]

American Funds [BA]	Over \$50,000,000		Interest	\$1	\$200	\$1	\$200
American Funds [BA]	\$15,001	\$50,000	Tax-Deferred	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DWS Tax Exempt Money Fund [BA]	\$1,001	\$15,000	Tax-Deferred	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Midland Bank [BA]	\$250,001	\$500,000	Dividends	\$1	\$200	\$1	\$200
Northwest Bank [BA]	\$50,001	\$100,000	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total:	\$50,316,004*	\$50,665,000*	Total:	\$2	\$400	\$2	\$400

[Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

**NOTE: McGraw's 2024 disclosure appeared to mistakenly list the value of one asset of American funds as worth over \$50,000,000 while his 2023 disclosure previously listed that asset as worth \$250,001-\$500,000.*

2024: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income In The Preceding Year

2024: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income In The Preceding Year. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

Liabilities

2024: McGraw Listed No Liabilities On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

Positions

2024: McGraw Listed No Positions On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

NOTE: See biography for positions McGraw should have disclosed.

Agreements

2024: McGraw Listed No Agreements On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

2024: McGraw Listed No Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2024 Candidate Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/5/24](#)]

2023 – Federal Personal Financial Disclosure

Net Worth

2023: McGraw Had An Estimated Net Worth Between \$531,005 And \$1,115,000

2023: McGraw Had An Estimated Net Worth Between \$531,005 And \$1,115,000. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

Earned Income

January – October 2023: McGraw Reported \$273,471.03 In Earned Income

2023: McGraw Reported \$273,471.03 In Earned Income From The State Of Illinois. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

January – October 2023: McGraw Earned Income		
Source	Type	Amount
State of Illinois	Salary	\$111,609.00
State of Illinois	Salary	\$111,609.00
State of Illinois	Pension	\$47,128.03
State of Illinois	Teaching Salary	\$3,125.00
Total:		\$273,471

[Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

2023: McGraw Reported \$220,942.12 In Earned Income In The Preceding Year

2023: McGraw Reported \$220,942.12 In Earned Income From The State Of Illinois. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

2023: McGraw Earned Income In The Preceding Year		
Source	Type	Amount
State of Illinois	Salary	\$214,692.12
State of Illinois	Salary	N/A
State of Illinois	Pension	N/A
State of Illinois	Teaching Salary	\$6,250.00
Total:		\$220,942

[Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

Assets & Unearned Income

January – October 2023: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income

January – October 2023: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

January – October 2023: McGraw Assets & “Unearned” Income						
SP/DC/JT	Asset	Year-End Value		Type Of Income	Amount Of Income	
		Min	Max		Min	Max
	American Funds [IH]	\$250,001	\$500,000	Interest	\$1	\$200
	American Funds [IH]	\$15,001	\$50,000	Tax-Deferred	N/A	N/A

	DWS Tax Exempt Money Fund [MF]	\$1,001	\$15,000	Tax-Deferred	N/A	N/A
	Midland Bank [BA]	\$250,001	\$500,000	Dividends	\$1	\$200
	Northwest Bank [BA]	\$15,001	\$50,000	None	N/A	N/A
	Total:	\$531,005	\$1,115,000	Total:	\$2	\$400

[Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

2023: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income In The Preceding Year

2023: McGraw Reported Between \$2 And \$400 In Unearned Income In The Preceding Year. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

Liabilities

2023: McGraw Listed No Liabilities On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

Positions

2023: McGraw Listed No Positions On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

NOTE: See biography for positions McGraw should have disclosed.

Agreements

2023: McGraw Listed No Agreements On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source

2023: McGraw Listed No Compensation In Excess Of \$5,000 Paid By One Source On His Personal Financial Disclosure Report. [Joe McGraw 2023 Public Financial Disclosure Report, filed [10/13/23](#)]

2023 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

Assets

2023: McGraw Disclosed Three Assets Worth More Than \$10,000 At The End Of The Preceding Calendar Year Including His Home, Retirement Funds, And Social Security. McGraw disclosed three assets with the description “my home. retirement funds. social security” under the prompt “if you have any single asset that was worth more than \$10,000 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list ‘none’ below.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Income

2023: McGraw Disclosed No Sources Of Income In The Preceding Year In Excess Of \$7,500 Excluding The Filing Position Or Assets Sold Resulting In Excess Of \$7,500 In Capital Gains In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no sources of income or assets under the prompt “excluding the position for which you are

required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$7,500 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$7,500 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list 'none' below." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Debts

2023: McGraw Disclosed No Single Debt In The Preceding Calendar Year Exceeding \$10,000 Excluding Debts Incurred On Terms Available To The General Public Such As Mortgages, Student Loans, And Credit Card Debts. McGraw disclosed no debts under the prompt "excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$10,000, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list 'none' below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Government Employment

2023: McGraw Disclosed No Employment With Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no employment with any other units of government in the preceding year under the prompt "list the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Lobbyists

2023: McGraw Disclosed No Economic Or Familial Relationships With Any Registered Illinois Lobbyists In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no relationships with lobbyists under the prompt "if you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list 'none' below." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Honoraria

2023: McGraw Disclosed His Role As An Adjunct Faculty For The Illinois Appellate Prosecutor As A Source Of A Gift Or Honoraria In Excess Of \$500 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed his role as "Illinois Appellate Prosecutor-Adjunct faculty" as a source of a gift or honoraria in excess of \$500 received during the preceding calendar year under the prompt "list the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list 'none' below" [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

Familial Employment With Public Utilities

2023: McGraw Disclosed No Familial Relations Who Were Employed By A Public Utility In Illinois. McGraw disclosed no familial relations who were employed by a public utility in Illinois under the prompt “list the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2023, filed [4/24/23](#)]

2022 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

Assets

2022: McGraw Disclosed One Asset, His Residence, As Worth More Than \$10,000 At The End Of The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed one asset with the description “Residence [address redacted]” under the prompt “if you have any single asset that was worth more than \$10,000 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list ‘none’ below.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Income

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Sources Of Income In The Preceding Year In Excess Of \$7,500 Excluding The Filing Position, Or Assets Sold Resulting In Excess Of \$7,500 In Capital Gains In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no sources of income or assets under the prompt “excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$7,500 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$7,500 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list ‘none’ below.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Debts

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Single Debt In The Preceding Calendar Year Exceeding \$10,000 Excluding Debts Incurred On Terms Available To The General Public Such As Mortgages, Student Loans, And Credit Card Debts. McGraw disclosed no debts under the prompt “excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$10,000, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list ‘none’ below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Government Employment

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Employment With Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no

employment with any other units of government in the preceding year under the prompt “list the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Lobbyists

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Economic Or Familial Relationships With Any Registered Illinois Lobbyists In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no relationships with lobbyists under the prompt “if you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list ‘none’ below.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Honoraria

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Sources Of Gifts Or Honoraria In Excess Of \$500 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no sources of a gift or honoraria in excess of \$500 received during the preceding calendar year under the prompt “list the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list ‘none’ below” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

Familial Employment With Public Utilities

2022: McGraw Disclosed No Familial Relations Who Were Employed By A Public Utility In Illinois. McGraw disclosed no familial relations who were employed by a public utility in Illinois under the prompt “list the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2022, filed [4/15/22](#)]

2021 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

NOTE: The format of Illinois’ statements of economic interest changed in 2022, the two disclosures above differ from the disclosures below.

Ownership

2021: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2021: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Professional Services

2021: McGraw Listed His Position As A Trial Advocacy Instructor For The Illinois Appellate Prosecutor As A Professional Service Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed “Illinois Appellate Prosecutor - Trial Advocacy Instructor” as a professional service rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Assets

2021: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Lobbyists

2021: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Entities

2021: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Government Employment

2021: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the

statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

Honoraria

2021: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2021, filed [4/26/21](#)]

2020 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2020: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2020: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Professional Services

2020: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Assets

2020: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Lobbyists

2020: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Entities

2020: McGraw Listed His Role As An Adjunct Faculty At Judson University As A Source Of Income In Excess Of \$1,200 During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed “Judson University, Elgin IL” an entity and “adjunct faculty” as the position held under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Government Employment

2020: McGraw Disclosed “None (Adjunct Faculty – IL. St. Appellate Prosecutor)” Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed “none (adjunct faculty – IL. St. Appellate Prosecutor)” under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

Honoraria

2020: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2020, filed [5/8/20](#)]

2019 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2019: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2019: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Professional Services

2019: McGraw Listed Two Instructor Roles At Judson University And At Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor As Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw listed “Instructor, Judson University” and “Instructor, Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor” under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Assets

2019: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Lobbyists

2019: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Entities

2019: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Government Employment

2019: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

Honoraria

2019: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2019, filed [4/29/19](#)]

2018 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2018: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2018: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Professional Services

2018: McGraw Listed Two Instructor Roles At Judson University And At Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor As Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw listed “Instructor, Judson University” and “Instructor, Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor” under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Assets

2018: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Lobbyists

2018: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Entities

2018: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Government Employment

2018: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

Honoraria

2018: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2018, filed [4/23/18](#)]

2017 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2017: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2017: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an

officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Professional Services

2017: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Assets

2017: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Lobbyists

2017: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Entities

2017: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Government Employment

2017: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

Honoraria

2017: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the

name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2017, filed [4/27/17](#)]

2016 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2016: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2016: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Professional Services

2016: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Assets

2016: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Lobbyists

2016: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

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2016: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Government Employment

2016: McGraw Disclosed Employment Under The State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed employment under “State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor” under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

Honoraria

2016: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2016, filed [4/22/16](#)]

2015 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2015: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2015: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Professional Services

2015: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Assets

2015: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Lobbyists

2015: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Entities

2015: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Government Employment

2015: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Honoraria

2015: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2015, filed [4/28/15](#)]

Ownership

2014: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2014: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

Professional Services

2014: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

Assets

2014: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

Lobbyists

2014: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

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held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2014, filed [4/15/14](#)]

Government Employment

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2013 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2013: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2013, filed [4/30/13](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2013: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2013, filed [4/30/13](#)]

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Assets

2013: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2013, filed [4/30/13](#)]

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2012 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2012: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess

of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2012, filed [4/23/12](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2012: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt “list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2012, filed [4/23/12](#)]

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Honoraria

2012: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt "list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2012, filed [4/23/12](#)]

2011- Statement Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2011: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt "list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2011: McGraw Listed No Positions At Professional Organizations From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no positions under the prompt "list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

Professional Services

2011: McGraw Listed No Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no professional services rendered under the prompt "list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

Assets

2011: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt "list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year." [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

Lobbyists

2011: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

Entities

2011: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

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Honoraria

2011: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2011, filed [4/27/11](#)]

2010 – Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest

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Positions With Income >\$1,200

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2005 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

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2004 – Illinois Statements Of Economic Interest

Ownership

2004: McGraw Disclosed No Entities In Which He Held Ownership Interest In Excess Of \$5,000 Market Value, Or Which Resulted In An Excess Of \$1,200 In Dividends In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed no ownership interest in any entity under the prompt “list the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business in the State of Illinois, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were derived during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Positions With Income >\$1,200

2004: McGraw Listed His Law Practice, Joseph G. McGraw Ltd, As A Professional Organization From Which He Received Income Greater Than \$1,200 In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed “Joseph G. McGraw, Ltd. P.O. Box 1451 Rockford, IL 61105” as the name and address of his “law” practice under the prompt

“list the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Professional Services

2004: McGraw Listed Referral Fees From Attorneys James Gesmer, David Monteleone, Gregory Barrett, And The Law Firm Of Guyer And Enichen As Professional Services Rendered From Which Income Exceeded \$5,000 In The Preceding Year. McGraw disclosed “referral fees from Attorneys James Gesmer, David Monteleone, Gregory Barrett, and the law firm of Guyer + Enichen” under the prompt “list the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the State of Illinois) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Assets

2004: McGraw Disclosed No Assets From Which A Capital Gain Of \$5,000 Or More Was Realized During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no assets under the prompt “list the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Lobbyists

2004: McGraw Disclosed No Lobbyists With Whom He Had A Close Economic Association. McGraw disclosed no lobbyists with whom he had a close economic association with under the prompt “list the identity of any compensated lobbyist with whom the person making the statement maintains a close economic association, including the name of the lobbyist and specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal on whose behalf that person is lobbying.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Entities

2004: McGraw Listed No Entities Doing Business In The State Of Illinois From Which Income In Excess Of \$1,200 Was Derived During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw listed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Government Employment

2004: McGraw Disclosed No Employment Under Units Of Government Other Than The Government Unit The Statement Of Economic Interest Was Filed Under In The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no employment under the prompt “list the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

Honoraria

2004: McGraw Disclosed No Entities From Which Honoraria Singly Or In Aggregate Was Valued Over \$500 Were Received During The Preceding Calendar Year. McGraw disclosed no entities under the prompt “list the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.” [Illinois Statement Of Economic Interest, Joseph G. McGraw 2004, filed [4/28/04](#)]

NOTE: 2004 was the earliest available date of Illinois statements of economic interest [available online](#).

Appendix II – Campaign Finance

Items of Interest

- ✓ 2023-2024: McGraw’s congressional campaign raised \$525,135.69 and spent \$199,944.80.
 - 2023: McGraw received \$5,000 from the Leadership PAC of House Speaker Mike Johnson, who led legal efforts to overturn the 2020 election.
 - December 2023: McGraw received \$3,300 from Elizabeth Uihlein, a GOP Megadonor who along with her husband, was a major contributor to groups spreading election falsehoods.
- ✓ 2022-2024: McGraw received \$124,725 from Members of Congress who co-sponsored iterations of the Life at Conception Act.
- ✓ 2023-2024: McGraw received \$89,100 from Members of Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 election.
- ✓ 2002: McGraw raised a total of \$168,280.00 and spent a total of \$160,229.88 in his run for IL 17th Circuit Court.
 - 2001-2003: McGraw loaned \$79,850 to his 2002 campaign for Circuit Court Judge and repaid himself \$4,902.15 in partial loan repayments and loan reversal.
 - March-December 2002: McGraw made \$14,057.98 in in-kind contributions to his 2002 campaign for circuit court.

Federal Campaign Committee

2024: McGraw’s Congressional Campaign Raised \$525,135.69 And Spent \$199,944.80

McGraw 2024 Congress Campaign Committee Funds									
Cycle	Total Receipts						Total Disbursements		
	Total	Indivs	Party Cmtes	Other Cmtes	Candidate Cntribtns	Loans	Total	Operating Expdts	Refunds
2024	\$525,135.69	\$241,918.92	\$0	\$167,025	\$0	\$0	\$199,944.80	\$199,544.80	\$400

[FEC Committee Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

As Of May 2024, McGraw’s Campaign Committee Received \$0 From Corporate PACs

As Of May 14th 2024, McGraw Received \$0 From Corporate PACs. [FEC Disbursements Search, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

Receipts

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act

2022-2024: McGraw Received \$124,725 From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Co-Sponsored Iterations Of The Life At Conception Act			
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Amount(s)	Congressional Session(s) Member Cosponsored Life at Conception Act
Building America's Republican Representation PAC	Andy Barr (KY-06)	\$1,500	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	\$4,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Fight On PAC	Ashley Hinson (IA-02)	\$1,000	118th , 117th
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	\$2,000	118th , 117th
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Upper Hand Fund	Bill Huizenga (MI-02)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Guthrie for Congress	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	\$1,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Bringing Republican Excellence to Town PAC	Brett Guthrie (KY-02)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	\$3,300	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$3,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th
CMR Political Action Committee	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	\$1,000	117th , 116th
LaHood for Congress	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Abraham Lincoln PAC	Darin LaHood (IL-16)	\$5,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	\$3,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Vitoria PAC	David Valadao (CA-21)	\$2,500	117th
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th

Buddy PAC	Earl “Buddy” Carter (GA-01)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	\$1,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Bilirakis for Congress	Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	\$3,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Jake Ellzey for Congress	Jake Ellzey (TX-06)	\$2,000	118th , 117th
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	\$4,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Volunteers for Shimkus	John Shimkus (IL-15)	\$2,500	116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Armstrong for Congress	Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL)	\$3,125	117th , 116th
Bucshon for Congress	Larry Bucshon (IN-08)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	\$3,300	118th , 117th
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
Miller-Meeks for Congress	Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-01)	\$2,000	117th
Support Taxfighters & Elect Effective Leaders PAC	Michelle Steel (CA-45)	\$3,500	117th
American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	\$5,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	\$2,500	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	\$4,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 112th
Latta for Congress	Robert E. Latta (OH-05)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
America’s First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	\$3,000	117th , 116th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	\$2,000	118th , 117th , 116th
Republicans United To Defend You PAC	Rudy Yakym (IN-02)	\$1,000	118th
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	\$1,000	118th , 117th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$2,000	113th , 112th
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$5,000	113th , 112th

Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	<u>\$4,000</u>	113th , 112th
Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	<u>\$2,500</u>	118th , 116th , 115th , 114th , 113th , 112th
Emmer for Congress	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	<u>\$2,000</u>	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Electing Majority Making Effective Republicans (EMMER PAC)	Tom Emmer (MN-06)	<u>\$5,000</u>	117th , 116th , 115th , 114th
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	<u>\$2,500</u>	118th , 117th
	TOTAL:	\$124,725	

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); H.R. 431, introduced [1/20/23](#); H.R. 1011, introduced [2/11/21](#); H.R. 616, introduced [1/16/19](#); H.R. 681, introduced [1/24/17](#); H.R. 816, introduced [2/9/15](#); H.R. 1091, introduced [4/8/13](#); H.R. 374, introduced [1/20/11](#)]

2023-2024: McGraw Received \$89,100 From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election

2023-2024: McGraw Received \$89,100 From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election. [FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); New York Times, [1/7/21](#)]

McGraw Contributions From Members Of Congress Who Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election		
Committee/PAC	Associated Candidate	Amount(s)
Debbie Lesko for Congress	Debbie Lesko (AZ-08)	<u>\$3,000</u>
Andy Harris for Congress	Andy Harris (MD-01)	<u>\$4,000</u>
August Pfluger for Congress	August Pfluger (TX-11)	<u>\$2,000</u>
Conservative Leadership in Elections PAC	Ben Cline (VA-06)	<u>\$1,000</u>
Dr. Brian Babin for Congress	Brian Babin (TX-36)	<u>\$3,300</u>
Carol for Congress	Carol Miller (WV-01)	<u>\$3,000</u>
Cut The Bull PAC	Carol Miller (WV-01)	<u>\$2,000</u>
Meuser for Congress	Daniel Meuser (PA-09)	<u>\$1,000</u>
Kustoff for Congress	David Kustoff (TN-08)	<u>\$3,000</u>
David Rouzer for Congress	David Rouzer (NC-07)	<u>\$2,000</u>
Buddy Carter for Congress	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	<u>\$2,000</u>
Buddy PAC	Earl "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)	<u>\$1,000</u>
E-PAC	Elise Stefanik (NY-21)	<u>\$10,000</u>
Do Right Bayou PAC	Garret Graves (LA-06)	<u>\$1,500</u>
Friends to Elect Dr. Greg Murphy to Congress	Gregory F. Murphy (NC-03)	<u>\$2,000</u>
RVFPAC	Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)	<u>\$3,000</u>
Texans for Jodey Arrington	Jodey Arrington (TX-19)	<u>\$4,000</u>
Dr. John Joyce for Congress	John Joyce (PA-13)	<u>\$2,000</u>
Lisa McClain for Congress	Lisa McClain (MI-09)	<u>\$3,300</u>
JAM PAC	Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)	<u>\$2,500</u>

American Revival PAC	Mike Johnson (LA-04)	\$5,000
First in Freedom PAC	Richard Hudson (NC-09)	\$2,500
Rick W. Allen for Congress	Rick Allen (GA-12)	\$4,000
America's First PAC	Robert Wittman (VA-01)	\$3,000
Ron Estes for Congress	Ron Estes (KS-04)	\$2,000
Graves for Congress	Samuel Graves (MO-06)	\$1,000
Scalise for Congress	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$2,000
The Eye of the Tiger PAC	Steve Scalise (LA-01)	\$5,000
Walberg for Congress	Tim Walberg (MI-05)	\$4,000
Conservative Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC	Tom Cole (OK-04)	\$2,500
Victory and Freedom PAC (VAF PAC)	Virginia Foxx (NC-05)	\$2,500
	Total:	\$89,100

[FEC, Judge Joe McGraw for Congress, accessed [5/15/24](#); New York Times, [1/7/21](#)]

NOTE: The above chart used a New York Times list of members of the House who voted to overturn the 2020 election, which was crosschecked with receipts from Judge Joe McGraw for Congress found on FEC.gov.

2023: McGraw Received \$5,000 From The Leadership PAC Of House Speaker Mike Johnson, Who Led Legal Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election

December 2023: American Revival PAC Gave \$5,000 To Judge Joe For Congress. According to the Federal Election Commission, American Revival PAC contributed \$5,000 to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on December 29, 2023. [FEC Campaign Finance Data Search, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

- **American Revival PAC Was Congressman Mike Johnson's Leadership PAC.** American Revival PAC was the leadership PAC of Louisiana Republican Congressman Mike Johnson. [FEC Committee Profiles, American Revival PAC, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

HEADLINE: Johnson Played Leading Role In Effort To Overturn 2020 Election. [New York Times, [10/25/23](#)]

Rep. Mike Johnson Led An Amicus Brief In Support Of A Lawsuit Seeking To Invalidate 2020 Election Results In Four States. "Mike Johnson, the Louisiana congressman who was elected speaker of the House of Representatives on Wednesday after a three-week standoff among Republicans, took the lead in filing a brief in a lawsuit that sought to overturn Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election win. [...] Johnson then organized more than 100 House Republicans to sign onto an amicus brief filed in support of a lawsuit from Texas' Republican Attorney General, Ken Paxton, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate Biden's wins in four states that gave him his winning margin in the Electoral College — Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin." [Associated Press, [10/26/23](#)]

December 2023: McGraw Received \$3,300 From Elizabeth Uihlein, A GOP Megadonor Who Along With Her Husband, Was A Major Contributor To Groups Spreading Election Falsehoods

December 2023: McGraw Received \$3,300 From Elizabeth Uihlein. According to the Federal Election Commission, Elizabeth Uihlein gave a \$3,300 contribution to Judge Joe McGraw for Congress on December 19th, 2023. [FEC Candidate and Committee Viewer, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

ProPublica: Liz And Dick Uihlein Of Illinois Were Major Contributors To Groups Spreading Election Falsehoods, And Were The Number 1 Federal Campaign Donors For Republicans In 2022. "Dick and Liz

Uihlein of Illinois are the largest contributors to Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano, who attended the Jan. 6 rally and was linked to a prominent antisemite, and have given to Jim Marchant, the Nevada Secretary of State nominee who says he opposed the certification of Joe Biden’s election victory in 2020. They are major funders to groups spreading election falsehoods, including Restoration of America, which, according to an internal document obtained by ProPublica, aims to ‘get on God’s side of the issues and stay there’ and ‘punish leftists.’ Flush with profits from their shipping supply company, the Uihleins have emerged as the No. 1 federal campaign donors for Republicans ahead of the November elections, and the No. 2 donors overall behind liberal financier George Soros. The couple has spent at least \$121 million on state and federal politics in the last two years alone, fighting taxes, unions, abortion rights and marijuana legalization.” [ProPublica, [10/26/22](#)]

HEADLINE: “Billionaire Megadonor Couple Funding Election Denial With Extensive Influence Machine And Dark Money Network.” [Open Secrets, [9/15/23](#)]

State Campaign Committee

2002: McGraw Raised A Total Of \$168,280.00 And Spent A Total Of 160,229.88 In His Run For Illinois 17th Circuit Court

2002: According to the Illinois Secretary of State, McGraw raised \$168,280.00 and spent \$160,229.88 in his run for Illinois 17th Circuit Court.

McGraw State Campaign Finance History			
Cycle	Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee	Raised	Spent
2002	Citizens to Elect Joe McGraw	\$168,280.00	\$160,229.88
	Total	\$168,280.00	\$160,229.88

[Illinois State Board Of Elections, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#); Expenditures, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

- **2001-2003: Citizens To Elect Joe McGraw, McGraw’s Illinois Campaign Committee, Raised \$168,280.00.** [Illinois State Board Of Elections, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#)]
- **2002-2003: Citizens To Elect Joe McGraw, McGraw’s Illinois Campaign Committee, Spent \$160,229.88.** [Illinois State Board Of Elections, Expenditures, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

NOTE: McGraw ran to retain his circuit court seat in 2008, 2014, and 2020 but did not appear to raise or spend any campaign funds.

2001-2003: McGraw Loaned \$79,850 To His 2002 Campaign For 17th Circuit Court And Repaid Himself \$4,902.15 In Partial Loan Repayments And Loan Reversal

2001-2003: McGraw Loaned \$79,850 To His Campaign For 17th Circuit Court. From 2001 to 2003, McGraw loaned \$79,850 to his campaign for 17th circuit court judge. [Illinois Secretary Of State, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

2001-2003: McGraw Loans To Citizens To Elect Judge Joe McGraw	
Date	Amount
2/27/2003	\$1,850
10/25/2002	\$30,000
9/30/2002	\$40,000
9/15/2002	\$3,000
12/3/2001	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$79,850

[Illinois Secretary Of State, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

2002-2003: McGraw Repaid Himself \$4,902.15 In Partial Loan Repayments And Loan Reversal. From 2002 to 2003, McGraw repaid himself \$4,902.15 in partial loan repayments and loan reversal from his campaign for 17th circuit court judge. [Illinois Secretary Of State, Expenditures, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

2002-2003: McGraw Loan Repayments And Loan Reversal	
Date	Amount
5/28/2003	\$100
4/23/2003	\$1,802.15
10/9/2002	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$4,902.15

[Illinois Secretary Of State, Expenditures, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

Notable Receipts

March-December 2002: McGraw Made \$14,057.98 In In-Kind Contributions To His 2002 Campaign For Circuit Court

March-December 2002: Joseph G. McGraw Ltd., McGraw’s Legal Practice, Made \$14,057.98 In In-Kind Contributions Of “Administrative Employee Labor” And “Office Space & Misc Supplies” To McGraw’s Campaign For Circuit Court. [Illinois Secretary Of State, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

2002: Joseph G. McGraw Ltd In-Kind Contributions To Citizens To Elect Joe McGraw		
Date	Description	Amount
12/27/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$546.32
12/13/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$390.23
12/10/2002	Office Space & Misc Supplies	\$100
11/29/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$702.42
11/15/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$702.42
11/10/2002	Office Space & Misc Supplies	\$100
11/1/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
10/18/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
10/18/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
10/4/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
10/1/2002	Office Space & Misc. Supplies	\$100
9/20/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
9/6/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$741.44
9/1/2002	Office space & Misc. Supplies	\$100
8/23/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$702.42
8/9/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$702.42
8/1/2002	Office Space & Misc. Supplies	\$100
7/26/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$663.39
7/12/2002	Administrative Support Labor	\$663.39
7/1/2002	Office space and misc. supplies	\$100
6/28/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$624.37
6/14/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$624.37
6/1/2002	Office space & misc. office supplies	\$100
5/31/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$624.37
5/17/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$312.19

5/3/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$312.19
5/1/2002	Office space and misc office supplies	\$100
4/19/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$312.19
4/5/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$290.66
4/1/2002	Office space & misc. office supplies	\$100
3/22/2002	Administrative Employee Labor	\$290.66
3/8/2002	Administrative employee labor	\$145.33
3/1/2002	Office space & misc. office supplies	\$100
	Total:	\$14,057.98

[Illinois Secretary Of State, Receipts, accessed [2/13/24](#)]

