

FRED FOREMAN

LCCAC Founder / Lake County State's Attorney 1980-1990

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Foreman*

This year we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. In 1987, I was in my third term as Lake County States Attorney and then also President of the National District Attorneys Association in Alexandria, Virginia. District Attorney Bud Cramer from Huntsville, Alabama was a member of the Board who presented the multi-disciplinary model for addressing the increase of child abuse in the communities and courts throughout the United States. His model became the inspiration for the creation of the National Children's Advocacy Center.

In Lake County in 1987, almost 3,000 children were reported as abused or neglected, almost four times the 1979 rate. Our office formed a Task Force to examine the incidence of child sexual abuse. Task Force members included assistant states attorneys, victim-witness advocates, Lake County law enforcement, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The Lake County Board adopted our proposal for the establishment of the Center at a home in Waukegan. Although funding and resources were limited, the County Board approved our use of incentive funds that we received from our successful collection of child support by our Child Support Enforcement Division. The Center was staffed by volunteers and employees from each agency. Remodeling of the house was provided by volunteer electricians, carpenters, plumbers and often public service workers supervised by Adult Probation. Our initial furnishings came from the forfeiture of furniture and cash from drug prosecutions.

Over the past thirty-five years our program became a model for the American Prosecutors Research Institute. Our Executive Director, Laura Notson, spoke to many national conferences and our assistant states attorneys became a resource for training other prosecutors.

In 1990 I was appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois by President George H.W. Bush. Chief Deputy States Attorney Mike Waller was appointed States Attorney and offered the leadership necessary to expand the services of the Center and the move to the current location in Gurnee. Mike served as States Attorney until his retirement in 2012. Mike Nerheim was elected States Attorney in 2012 and continued the dedication and leadership to make the Center the success that it is today. Our current States Attorney Eric Rinehart will continue the support and dedication to the Center.

During my term as Chief Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit from 2012-2014 we worked closely with Executive Director Carrie Flanigan and the Friends of the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center to maintain the resources and quality of services offered. Thank you all for your continual support and service.

My wife Stephanie, also a Friend and volunteer, and I look forward to joining you at the Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center's and its enormous contribution to the children and citizens of Lake County.

“OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS, OUR PROGRAM BECAME A MODEL FOR THE AMERICAN PROSECUTORS RESEARCH INSTITUTE.”

