

MIKE WALLER

Lake County State's Attorney 1990-2012

*Mike
Waller*

I was privileged to serve as Lake County State's Attorney from 1990 to 2012. One of my most important and rewarding responsibilities as State's Attorney was the leadership and direction of the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. The Center, one of the first in the nation, was established under the leadership of Fred Foreman in 1987. I was the Chief Deputy State's Attorney in 1987 and was involved in its inception.

The Center, a multi-disciplinary and cooperative effort, was established to deal with the difficult problem of child sexual abuse more effectively. The goal was to treat children with sensitivity and compassion and hold offenders accountable. At that time very few of these most difficult cases were being handled effectively in the courts. This began to dramatically change with the establishment of the LCCAC.

From its humble beginning in downtown Waukegan, the Center has evolved to a state-of-the-art program and facility in Gurnee. During my tenure as State's Attorney, we added many new positions and programs to the Center. A key development in this evolution was the acquisition of the current building, the former Gurnee Post Office. That more central location provided the space necessary to expand staff and programs, and its location promoted greater interaction and cooperation with other agencies. Vitaly important services for children were enhanced and expanded.

The establishment of the LCCAC resulted in more cases being investigated and more charges were being brought against offenders. Children were being questioned in a safe, non-threatening environment and were not being further traumatized by the investigative process. The efforts of the Center's professionals positively impacted children and their families.

The past thirty-five years has proven the success of the multi-disciplinary and cooperative approach of the LCCAC. Many child abusers have been brought to justice. Many children have been helped by their interaction with the Center's dedicated professionals.

As we look to the future, we should rededicate our efforts to continuing the outstanding record of the Center. Nothing is more important in the criminal justice system than protecting children. The work of the Center in that effort is vitally important.

I am very proud of my years of involvement with the LCCAC.

“AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE SHOULD REDEDICATE OUR EFFORTS TO CONTINUING THE OUTSTANDING RECORD OF THE CENTER.”

