



Kwame Raoul

Attorney General

Kwame Raoul (Democrat) was sworn in as the 42nd Attorney General of Illinois in January 2019. Born in Chicago to Haitian immigrants, Raoul brings a lifetime of legal and policy experience, advocacy and public service to the Office of the Attorney General.

Attorney General Raoul earned his undergraduate degree from DePaul University and his juris doctorate from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He began his legal career as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's office, handling matters at the trial and appellate level in the criminal, civil and juvenile divisions. He subsequently served as a senior staff attorney for the City Colleges of Chicago, primarily handling labor and employment matters. Raoul was also a partner at two national law firms, serving in health care and labor and employment practice groups.

In 2004, Attorney General Raoul was appointed to the Illinois Senate to represent the 13th Legislative District; he served as Senator for the next 14 years. In the Senate, Raoul served as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, vice chair of the Senate Criminal Law Committee and vice chair of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Commission. As a Senator, Raoul led negotiations and sponsored significant pieces of legislation that became law, including the abolition of the death penalty, mandatory background checks on private transfers of guns, law enforcement and criminal justice reform, workers' compensation reform, and some of the strongest voting rights protections in the nation.

Throughout his career, Attorney General Raoul has worked toward criminal justice reform. In addition to sponsoring legislation that ended the death penalty in Illinois, he spearheaded the creation of numerous diversion and second-chance programs for nonviolent offenders and expedited the process of record expungement for juveniles. He pushed through landmark law enforcement reform, including standards for police officer-worn body cameras and establishment of a statewide database of officers under investigation. Raoul passed a comprehensive criminal justice reform package aimed at reducing gun violence by cracking down on repeat offenders, while helping first-time violators find their way back into law-abiding society. Raoul has been recognized for his work on behalf of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, which included passage of the Safe Homes Act and the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights.

Among Attorney General Raoul's many other achievements in the Senate were expanded opportunities for minority and women-owned financial services firms, legislation protecting student athletes from brain injury due to concussions, the Illinois Voting Rights Act and the addition of a voting rights protection amendment to the Illinois Constitution. He was a leader in expanding Illinois Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act and is renowned for his work in support of health care access.

Raoul is the father of two college students, Che and Mizan.

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