



For Immediate Release
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MADIGAN ADDS TO OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced the appointment of a second public access specialist to address the large number of inquiries by the public, local governments and the media about the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that have come to her office since she created the position of Public Access Counselor in December 2004.

Madigan has appointed attorney Scott B. Sievers, of Springfield, to the position of Assistant Public Access Counselor (PAC) to work with Public Access Counselor Terry Mutchler. Both work closely with Michael Luke, Chief of Madigan's Public Access and Opinions Division.

Sievers started on May 16, 2006.

Madigan created the division to ensure that public bodies understand the requirements of the OMA and the FOIA and conduct their business openly and that the public has access to government information to which it is entitled. Madigan said in its first year, more than 75 percent of matters brought to the Public Access Counselor were requests from Illinois citizens. In addition, Madigan said her office has participated in more than 75 training sessions across the state for citizens, government officials and members of the media to gain a better understanding of the OMA and FOIA.

Sievers, a former reporter and associate attorney in the Springfield firm of Donald M. Craven, P.C., received his law degree in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was a member of the Law Review and Invitational Moot Court Team. He also is a 1997 graduate of the Public Affairs Reporting program at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

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