

Richard R. Boykin

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Government relations attorney Richard Boykin was born in Jackson, Mississippi and raised in the Englewood community in Chicago. Richard spent a portion of his childhood living on public assistance. He attended Chicago Vocational High School and accepted an athletic scholarship to Central State University in Ohio. Richard graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1990. In 1991, Richard began his legal education at the University of Dayton School of Law. He graduated in 1994.

At Barnes & Thornburg, LLP Richard advocates the interests of significant institutions headquartered in the Midwest before state and local government in Illinois, as well as federal legislative and executive agencies in Washington, D.C. Richard offers a proven ability to assist people and organizations to achieve distinct objectives when working with and through all levels of government.

Richard's experience is extensive and includes challenges pertaining to appropriations, postal, healthcare, education, telecommunications and municipal advocacy. He counsels clients having issues before major committees in Washington, D.C., such as Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce.

Valued for his proven ability to work across party lines, Richard's non-partisan approach to problem-solving and resolute focus on productive communication is supported by his integrity, work ethic and absolute dedication to those he serves. Having spent decades developing relationships at all levels of government, Richard offers clients the knowledge of how government works and who the decision-makers are in order to help them realize their tangible goals.

Richard served as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) of Chicago for nine years, where he was responsible for a staff of 22 professionals. He also served as Rep. Davis' liaison to federal, state, county and city officials, and interacted with business and individual constituents within the Seventh Congressional District, which includes the central business district (Chicago Loop) of Chicago and a significant tract of residential territory extending west from downtown Chicago. Prior to serving as Rep. Davis' chief of staff, he served as his legislative director.

Prior to his service with Rep. Davis, Richard worked as a Congressional Black Caucus fellow for former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) He also served as an LBJ intern for U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D- Ill.), focusing on education issues.

In addition, Richard has worked with the members and staff of the Congressional Black Caucus on multiple issues. Most recently, he led the

Education

University of Dayton School of Law, J.D., 1994

Central State University, B.A., 1990

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

caucus' initiative focusing attention on the State of the African American Male, as well as a task force designed to improve relations between law enforcement organizations and the African American community. In August 2011, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn appointed Richard to the Business Enterprise Council, which focuses on increasing minority and women participation in state contracts. He was a previous member of the firm's Legal Personnel Administration Committee, and served as the Federal Relations practice group co-chair for three years.

In 2014 Richard was elected and sworn in as a Cook County Commissioner representing the First District. As a county commissioner, Richard was committed to improving the lives of residents of the First District, which included the Westside of Chicago and communities like Austin and Garfield Park. Richard fought to reduce gun violence by successfully taxing firearm ammunition, doubling the penalty for illegal assault weapon possession, and implementing a Seven Point Plan to reduce violence in our communities. He partnered with the Cook County Sheriff, local police chiefs and members of the community to find and implement solutions.

While in office, Richard worked tirelessly to bring resources back to the First District. He forged partnerships between community groups and government entities resulting in over \$42 million in county funds being invested in the First District. He strengthened relationships between business owners, corporations (PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Comcast and Ferrara Pan) and the community to create job training programs and scholarships.

As a county commissioner Richard demanded a Department of Justice investigation into allegations of Human and Civil Rights violations at the Homan Square Police site. Richard led the initiative to place a referendum question regarding expanded funding for mental health treatment on the November 2014 ballot. The referendum was county-wide and passed with over 1.4 million votes. Richard passed an ordinance that banned county law enforcement officials from using chokeholds.

Notably, Richard hosted a weekly radio show called The Bridge Builder, which sought to empower, educate and enlighten the public about government and politics that impact their daily lives. He is a regular guest speaker at conferences and events.

Professional and Community Involvement

Member, American Bar Association

Board member, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind

Board member, Dr. Martin Luther King Dream Classic

Board member, StreetWise

Former member, Cook County Board of Commissioners, 2014-2018

Honors

Broadview Chamber of Commerce Civic Leader of the Year, 2018

Central State University Achievement Hall of Fame Inductee, 2015

Martin Luther King Dream Classic Award

National Association of Community Health Centers Service Award

John C. Stennis Leadership Award

Westside Branch NAACP Humanitarian Award

Barnes & Thornburg Camille B. Conway Diversity Award

References

The Honorable Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman, 7th Congressional District

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Paula Goedert, Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

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Jim Ryan, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Constellation Brands

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Jerry Reinsdorf, Owner, Chicago White Sox & Chicago Bulls

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