

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Eric Madiar

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis in Illinois* Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2015-028

Eric Madiar, attorney for the Illinois Senate Democrats, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 19 & Aug 31, 2015      Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 0:50 + 1:25 / 0.83 + 1.42 = 2.25 hrs.

Session 1: Early history of Illinois public pensions, and the 1970 Con Con

Session 2: Illinois pension history since 1970

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 24,  
2019.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

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# Abstract

Eric Madiar, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISC-A-L-2015-028

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Eric Madiar was born in January, in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Lake Park High School (Roselle, IL) in 1991 and earned a BA degree from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, and a Law Degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. His career includes work in a city and county clerk's office, the Illinois Commerce Commission, the House Democrats (2000-2007), and with the Senate Democrats from 2008 to the time of this interview in 2015. At the present time, Eric has established his own law practice in Springfield. He has authored many journal and law review articles covering Illinois's pension history.

In this interview, Madiar details the history of the five state pension systems beginning as far back as 1917. He discusses the funding levels prior to 1970 and the role of the Illinois Pension Commission. He has reviewed the transcripts from the 1970 State Constitutional Convention (Con Con) debate on the Constitution's newly created pension clause and the electorate's eventual adoption of the Constitution. Eric then covers major court cases that followed in subsequent years, helping define the language of the clause: these include Peters, Kraus, Buddell, and Kanerva, as well as Lindberg, McNamee, and Sklodowski. He also discussed those things that led to pension funding problems, efforts to deal with bond ratings through the 1989 structural change, pension reform legislation in 1995 during the Governor Jim Edgar administration, bond sales, and Senate Bill 1 in 2013, which attempted to reduce the state's long-term pension obligations. Finally, he examined the Illinois Supreme Court's ruling on SB 1 in 2015, and where the future may now go regarding pension reform.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois pension history prior to 1970; 1970 Illinois State Constitution's pension clause; court cases that defined the pension clause after its passage; Illinois pension funding problems; Illinois Senate Bill 1 (public pension reform) of 2013; *People ex rel. Sklodowski v. Illinois*;

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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