

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kirk Dillard

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project

Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-030

Kirk Dillard, Governor Jim Edgar's Chief of Staff from 1991 to 1993, and thereafter a state Senator, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: September 29, 2009      Location: Dillard campaign headquarters, Lisle, IL

Date: November 9, 2009      Location: Dillard campaign headquarters, Lisle, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL Foundation Contract employee & Rozanne Flatt

Total Pages: 37 + 34 = 71      Total Time: 2:03 + 2:05 / 2.07 + 2.08 = 4.15 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 02/01/2010.

Session 1: Early career and work with Jim Thompson as legislative liaison

Session 2: Private law practice & service with Governor Jim Edgar

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
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# Abstract

## Kirk Dillard, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-030

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Kirk Dillard was born on June 6, 1955 in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in the western Chicago suburb of Hinsdale. He enrolled in Western Illinois University with the intention of becoming a physician, but he soon became interested in political science. Upon graduating, he worked as a legislative staff intern with the Illinois Senate Republicans, and then attended law school at DePaul University. In 1981, during his last year in law school, he returned to state government as a legislative liaison for Governor Jim Thompson's administration. From 1983 to 1987, he worked as Governor Thompson's Director of Legislative Affairs.

In 1987, Dillard left government service and spent the next several years building a private law practice with Lord, Bissell and Brook, a Chicago based law firm, working primarily on product liability cases. He was also appointed to serve as a judge on the Court of Claims by Governor Thompson. In 1990, he was offered a partnership in the law firm, but at the same time he was asked to assist Secretary of State Jim Edgar in his run for governor. Dillard agreed, often traveling with Edgar throughout the state. Following the election, Governor-elect Edgar asked Dillard to serve as his Chief of Staff. He served in that capacity until 1994, when he stepped down to make a run for the Illinois Senate representing the 24th District in DuPage County. During his time as Chief of Staff, Dillard was intimately involved with such issues as the budgetary crisis Edgar faced, other legislative matters, and the Flood of 1993. Dillard was making his own run for governor at the time of these interviews.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Western Illinois University; DePaul University Law School; Governor Jim Thompson; Governor Jim Edgar; Michael Madigan; Legislative Liaison program; James 'Pate' Philip; Lt. Governor Robert Kustra; Mike Lawrence; Joan Walters; Illinois state government budget crisis of 1991-1993; Flood of 1993; Paula Wolff; Al Grosboll; Phil Rock; Lee Daniels; David Shapiro

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