

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Judge Michael Kick

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-078

Judge Michael Kick, a participant in the Illinois Civics Academy for Secondary Teachers, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 29, 2019 Location: Kankakee Community College, Kankakee Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:30 / 1.5 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 19, 2020.

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

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Interview being
processed

Abstract

Michael Kick J.D., *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2019-078

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Michael Kick was born in St. Louis, Missouri in January 1953. He grew up in Kankakee, Illinois and graduated from Eastridge High School in Kankakee in 1971. In high school, Michael was active in all sports-football, basketball, track, and baseball. Michael worked after high school before attending Kankakee Community College with an interest in law and history. He then went to the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana), graduating in 1980, majoring in philosophy. Michael then worked in Chicago and also attended law school at the John Marshall. In 1985, he earned his J.D. degree. From 1985-95, Michael was in a private law practice and also served as an assistant public defender. In 1995, he became States Attorney for Kankakee County. Beginning in 2000 to the time of this interview he has served as a circuit county judge for Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. This also included service as the Chief Judge of the Circuit. Judge Kick also has served on the juvenile and divorce courts.

Judge Kick discussed the Illinois Civics Academy for Secondary Teachers (ICAT) and the Jr. Edition for K-8 teachers, which have been held at Kankakee Community College. Judge Kick was a participant in this project, along with other attorneys and court officials. The Academy instruction focused on all three branches of government and was tied to the C3 Standards (College, Career, and Civic Life) along with the Illinois Social Studies Standards. Judge Kick also talked about *Lincoln's Hat*, which is a story read by judges as part of the Judges Association Civics Awareness project for primary and elementary students. He also reflected on why the judiciary is the least discussed of the three branches of government as part of Governmental Studies.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Civics education for elementary student; Illinois Civics Academy for Secondary Teachers (ICAT); Illinois Judges Association; *Lincoln's Hat*; education on the judicial branch of government; Abraham Lincoln as a subject of civics education; being a judge;

Notes 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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