

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mark Janus

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – General Interest Oral History project

Interview # IS-V-L-2018-066

Mark Janus, the plaintiff in the landmark Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court case of 2018, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft-General Interest Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 2 & Dec 19, 2018

Location: Illinois Information Service studio, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Justin Davsko & Mark Suszko, Illinois Information Service videographers.

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:34 + 2:08 / 1.57 + 2.13 = 3.7 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, working career, employment at the IL DHFS and views toward Fair Share AFSCME union dues

Session 2: Overview of the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court case

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 19, 2019.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Mark Janus, *Illinois Statecraft-General Interest*, IS-V-L-2018-066

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Mark Janus was born in January 1953 and grew up in Springfield, Illinois. As a young boy, both Mark's church and especially the Boy Scouts were important to him, leading him to become an Eagle scout. Following graduation from Springfield High School in 1971, he attended Illinois College in Jacksonville, graduating in 1975. (He earned a Master of Business Administration degree in 1980.) Over the next three decades Mark held a variety of jobs, working in both the private and public sector, including a period when he was a small business owner. In 2007 he began working at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, doing a job he found very rewarding. Janus was surprised, however, when he studied his first pay statement and discovered that he was paying dues to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) even though he was not a member of the union. Due to his position and pay status in state government, he was required by law to pay "Fair Share" dues covering all union expenses except those used for political activities.

In early 2015 Janus decided to file suit against AFSCME, claiming that his 1st Amendment freedom of speech rights were being violated due to the involuntary collection of dues to AFSCME. The Liberty Justice Center represented him on a pro bono basis and over the next three years argued the Janus case through the court system. For a time, the case was held in hiatus while Mark and his team waited to hear the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on a similar case, *Friedrichs v. California Teachers' Association*. That case ended in a 4-4 split following the unsuspected death of Antonin Scalia. In February 2018 Mark's case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, and the court's decision was announced on June 27, 2018; a 5-4 decision in Mark's favor. Throughout the experience, the case drew national attention and was at the center of an intense political debate.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Supreme Court Case; "Fair Share" union dues; Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services; *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*; Liberty Justice Center; Governor Bruce Rauner; *Harris v. Quinn*; *Friedrichs v. California Teachers' Association*; Justice Antonin Scalia; Boy Scouts of America; Illinois Policy Institute

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