

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ann Lousin

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

Interview # ISC-A-L-2015-052

Ann Lousin, a law professor at John Marshall Law and expert on the 1970 Illinois Constitution, 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: Nov. 12, 2015 Location: John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:43 / 1.72 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 27, 2016.

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

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Abstract

Ann Lousin, Illinois Statecraft-Pension Crisis, ISC-A-L-2015-052

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ann Lousin born in Chicago, Illinois in 1943, earned a BA degree in history from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa in 1960 and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School in 1968. Upon graduating, Ann worked part time with the Legal Aid Bureau. In 1970, she became a research assistant for the Illinois Constitutional Convention. When the convention ended, Ann remained on staff to draft the explanations of each section that were then presented to Illinois voters. Following the passage of the 1970 State Constitution, Lousin worked for the new Speaker of the House, W. Robert Blair, and in 1972 became the Parliamentarian for the 78th General Assembly. She joined the faculty at John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1975. She has taught there ever since. Ann teaches courses on the Illinois Constitution and has written books and numerous articles regarding that subject. She is considered as **the** expert on the Illinois Constitution.

This interview reviews how the pension clause became part of the 1970 State Constitution. Lousin also discusses some of the cases that interpret the meaning of the Constitution, especially those pertaining to pension issues. Noted for calling recent pension legislation a “bipartisan disaster,” Ann explains her rationale for that statement. Included in this interview is a discussion of Governor Edgar’s pension reforms in 1995, bond sales and pension holidays, early retirement and other benefit enhancements, the temporary income tax, and the unconstitutional nature of Senate Bill 1 in 2013. Ann mentioned some immediate concerns that may come about, and along recommended possible solutions.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1970 Illinois State Constitutional Convention; Home Rule in 1970 IL Constitution; Pension Clause in 1970 IL Constitution; governor’s veto powers, 1970 IL Constitution; Illinois Senate Bill 1 (SB 1 of 2013); IL Supreme Court ruling on SB-1; pensions and bipartisan disaster-retirement benefit enhancement; Illinois pension holidays; Illinois under funding of pension payments

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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