



## J. William Roberts

### Partner

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J. William Roberts is Senior Partner and serves as Special Counsel to management of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. He served as the firm's first national Managing Partner, from 1997 to 2016. Bill maintains an active legal practice in the firm's Chicago and Springfield offices, concentrated in complex civil and criminal litigation, government relations and gaming law.

### Professional Background

Bill's career has been dedicated to public service through several prominent positions in various levels of government.

Bill served as Chief Legal Counsel to Illinois Governor Jim Edgar from 1995 to 1997. As the primary legal adviser for the governor, he managed a large portfolio of litigation, and acted as liaison with the general counsel of executive branch departments, boards and commissions. He also had responsibility for numerous Illinois regulatory agencies, including the Illinois Gaming Board, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of Public Health and Professional Regulation.

Bill served as United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois from 1986 to 1993. During that time, he was director of the Banca Nazionale del lavoro (BNL) Task Force, a complex inter-agency investigation of criminal conduct related to \$5.5 billion in loans made by the Atlanta branch of an Italian bank to Iraq before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. In 1992 Bill also served as Chairman of the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys and as a Senior Advisor to the Attorney General in Washington D.C. Prior to becoming United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, he was State's Attorney of Sangamon County.

Bill's professional activities are significant. He is a Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. He served for six years on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association and as Chairman of the Criminal Justice Section Council of the Illinois Bar Association. Bill served as President of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association and was a member of the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association. He held the position of President of the Sangamon County Bar Association.

Bill has served as Chairman of the Task Force on Professional Practice in the Illinois Justice Systems. He is past Chancellor and a Founding Regent of the Illinois Academy of Lawyers. In addition, he is past President of the Lincoln

### Practices

Commercial Litigation  
Government  
Regulatory Investigations and Compliance Counseling  
White Collar Defense & Internal Investigations

### Industries

Gaming

### Education

J.D., Washington University  
School of Law  
B.A., Illinois Wesleyan  
University

### Admissions

Illinois  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois  
U.S. Supreme Court



Douglas Inn of Court.

He served as counsel to the Minority Caucus of the Special Investigative Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives, which returned an Article of Impeachment against then Governor, Rod Blagojevich, in January 2009.

In the fall of 2005, Bill completed intensive training in mediation from the faculty of Pepperdine University School of Law's top-ranked Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution.

## Honors & Awards

- Recipient, Edmund J. Randolph Award for Outstanding Service (the U.S. Department of Justice's highest award)
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2006 – 2024; Gaming Law, 2006 – 2024
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® as the Gaming Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Chicago, 2016, 2019, and 2021
- Recipient, Illinois State Bar Association's Board of Governors Award for Significant Service to the Legal Profession and the Public, June 2006
- Profiled by *Leading Lawyers Magazine* in, "Don't Underestimate This 'Country' Lawyer," published in the September 2007 Business Edition
- Selected annually since 2007 as the "#1 Business Lawyer in Downstate Illinois" by *Leading Lawyers Magazine*
- Since 2006, Mr. Roberts has been named annually as one of the Top 100 Business Lawyers in the state of Illinois by *Leading Lawyers Magazine*
- Since 2007, Mr. Roberts has also been included in *Leading Lawyers Magazine's* Top 100 Leading Lawyers in Illinois (in all areas of law)
- Member of the Leading Lawyers Advisory Board since 2003
- Holds the AV® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for ethics and legal ability
- Recognized as a "Super Lawyer" by *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine, 2005–2014
- In May 2006 Mr. Roberts was elected to the Board of Trustees of Illinois Wesleyan University. In 2003, he was the recipient of the University's Distinguished Alumni Award, which is presented annually to an alumnus who has made a distinguished contribution to society, has achieved professional distinction or has demonstrated civic leadership.

## Personal

Mr. Roberts is a life member of the International Chili Society.

## Community/Civic Activities

- United Way of Springfield, Past President
- Memorial Medical Center Foundation, Board of Directors
- Illinois Wesleyan University, Board of Trustees