

John Milhiser Bio

John Milhiser has a decades-long history as a prosecutor in both state and federal court, which includes service as United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois (2018-2021) and State's Attorney in Sangamon County, Illinois (2010-2018). A 1997 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, John began his legal career as an Assistant State's Attorney. John's experience as a prosecutor is wide-ranging. He has tried to jury verdict murder, reckless homicide, home invasion, armed robbery, criminal sexual assault, and other felony cases. John started diversion programs and worked to establish specialty courts in Sangamon County. A strong advocate for victims, John implemented a courthouse facility dog to help comfort victims of violent crime.

As U.S. Attorney, John was the chief federal law enforcement official for 46 counties across Central Illinois. John led the office through the longest government shutdown in history and during the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping operations running and providing essential law enforcement functions. As U.S. Attorney, John successfully prosecuted murderers, violent criminals, child predators, drug dealers, embezzlers, and human traffickers. John also focused on building strong partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement and with the community.

When his time as U.S. Attorney ended, John devoted a year to teaching high school government, history, and English in an alternative high school program at Lawrence Education Center in Springfield. In 2023, in collaboration with other former U.S. Attorneys from around the country John founded the American Center for Law and Public Safety, a bi-partisan organization dedicated to safeguarding the rule of law, civil liberties, and the Constitution through education, research, recruitment, and advocacy.

John grew up in a military family, moving across the country and overseas. Since 1997, John has called Springfield, Illinois home. He has been actively involved in the community and has served on the Boards of the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center, Helping Hands Homeless Shelter, Memorial Behavioral Health Mental Health Centers, Sangamon County Juvenile Justice Council, Illinois State's Attorneys Association, Illinois State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Board of Governors, DCFS Child Death Review Team, and the Springfield Public Schools Foundation. From 2004 through 2008, John was an adjunct professor at Springfield College in Illinois/Benedictine University, where he taught courses in public speaking and state & local government. Since 2022, John has volunteered as a part-time golf coach at Illinois College. John and his wife Gail have two daughters.