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## Springfield Dispatch

### Day mixes humor with strategy

By Patrick Yeagle  
Law Bulletin staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — Brian D. Day joked that there's no Democratic or Republican way to fill a pothole. He said that's just one of the reasons he enjoys his work as a lobbyist and staff attorney for the Illinois Municipal League.

"One of most attractive things about local government law is that there's not a whole lot of partisan politics involved," Day said.

He said his work with the municipal league involves representing diverse municipalities on issues ranging from local taxation to pension reform.

"They all have the exact same concerns and same pressing issues," he said. "One of the fundamental concepts here at the municipal league is that the strength of Illinois depends on the strength of its communities. Having vibrant communities is a benefit to all the people of the state and the municipal league provides the opportunity to help improve the lives of citizens."

Day, 40, said he joined the Air Force after high school and served in Operation Desert Storm. When he returned from military service, Day said he went to college and then graduated from The John Marshall Law School in 2001. During law school, Day said he worked as a clerk in the Municipal Prosecutions Division of Chicago's Law Department.

After graduating from law school, Day said he worked at the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) from 2001 until 2008. The LRB is responsible for drafting legislation for the Illinois General Assembly and advising lawmakers about bills.

As a result of his time at the LRB, Day said one of his friends likes to introduce him to new people as "The Guy Who Drafted Rod Blagojevich's Gross Receipts Tax." The proposal, which would have taxed nearly all types of business transactions, was unpopular with many Illinois businesses and failed to pass the legislature.

Day said that experience illustrates the nonpartisan nature of the LRB, a theme he took with him when he started with the municipal league in 2008.

Day said he now lobbies and provides advice



Patrick Yeagle

#### Brian D. Day

Lobbyist and Staff Attorney  
Illinois Municipal League

**Age:** 40.

**Career highlights:** Staff attorney, Legislative Reference Bureau, 2001-2008; lobbyist and staff attorney, Illinois Municipal League, 2008-present.

**Law school:** The John Marshall Law School, 2001.

**Interests:** Playing jazz ukulele and fencing.

to municipalities facing legal questions regarding local government law.

"We get the hard questions," Day said with a laugh. "One of the interesting things about municipal law is that there are a lot of gray areas. It's a very statute-driven area of law and there are lots of cases where the statutes have some holes in them. It's always an interesting challenge to try to figure out things that fall

between the statutory cracks.”

Attorney Kurt P. Froehlich, a partner at Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley in Champaign, said he met Day at a meeting of the municipal league’s Home Rule Attorneys Committee, of which Froehlich is chairman.

Froehlich praised Day’s dedication and “tireless research” on municipal law issues.

“He’s very involved and very high-energy,” Froehlich said.

Day’s sense of humor makes him fun to work with, Froehlich said.

“He has a way of seeing the neat twists and funny features of just about everything,” Froehlich said.

Another attorney who works with Day

through the league said the same thing about Day’s sense of humor.

Katherine S. Janega, village attorney for Winnetka, said she and Day gave a presentation at a recent municipal league conference and the presentation contained “a thread of humor through the whole thing.”

“It was the most fun I’ve had doing a presentation in a long time,” Janega said. “By the time we finished, we high-fived each other because it felt so good and was such fun. Once you start working with him, you see how he finds the absurdity and humor in everything.”

But Day also knows how to be serious, Janega said.

“He is very diligent and very good to work with because he thinks as he goes through things, and he’s strategic,” she said.

Day lives in Springfield with his wife, Paree.

Day said he is teaching himself to play jazz ukulele and also enjoys the sport of fencing. He said fencing is similar to lobbying in that both require a level head.

“There’s very little sword fighting in municipal law,” Day said. “But part of the trick is that you want to try and stay calm. Don’t get flustered. People have a tendency to start swinging too wide when they get flustered. You’ve got to stay focused and controlled.”