

Vote

# Stephen W. Sawyer

Wisconsin State Bar President-Elect



## Guiding Principals

After eight and a half years serving my country as a navy pilot, I left to pursue an education and career in law. I believe very strongly in the ideas of democracy, equality, fundamental fairness, and the rule of law. Law is the foundation and structure that keeps society from descending into chaos. It is what makes this world work for all of us, and it should strive to make the world work for each of us. There is a large tapestry that hangs in the law library at my law school, the University of Notre Dame, that reads “If you want Peace, work for Justice. – Pope Paul VI”. Law is that essential framework that helps us work towards equal justice for all.

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Respected Leader, Trusted Problem Solver & Lawyer with a  
Broad Base of Experience

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## Agenda Priorities

- **Address lawyer shortages** with strong campaign for public funding of programs to promote recruitment and retention of attorneys to “legal deserts”.
- **Increase taxpayer funding for indigent civil legal services** through aggressive lobbying to return funding for these vital services to the State Budget.
- **Promote respect for the legal system** through educational initiatives to teach civics in schools and community organizations within the state.



Please be sure to VOTE with links on the State Bar website from April 10th to April 25th.

For a full platform statement and biography, scan the QR code or visit the link below.



Learn More: <https://tinyurl.com/stephen-sawyer>

## Role of the State Bar of Wisconsin

The State Bar is a creation of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. SCR 10.01(2) states in part that, “the [State Bar] shall promote the public interest by maintaining high standards of conduct in the legal profession and by aiding in the efficient administration of justice.” I believe that the State Bar best maintains high standards of conduct by providing our legal practitioners with outstanding educational and practice resources, as well as quality opportunities to exchange ideas with other practitioners.

## Priorities

There are three issues that I believe need renewed emphasis from the State Bar of Wisconsin in order to aid in the efficient administration of justice, and if elected I would work to provide that emphasis. Those issues are as follows:

- **The shortage of lawyers serving less-populated areas of Wisconsin,**
- **The erosion of respect for our legal system and its value in the eyes of our citizens, and**
- **The lack of appropriate public funding for legal representation of the indigent.**

## Education & Experience

### Education

- 1983 - BS in Business Administration (major in Marketing) Colorado State University
- 1993 – MS in Business Management – Troy State University Florida Region
- 1996 – JD from the University of Notre Dame (with honors)

### Professional Experience

- **Current: Criminal Defense Attorney with Sawyer Law LLC, Stevens Point, WI**
- **Former: Finance and Financial Institutions Law, and Asst. DA – Milwaukee County**

### State Bar Leadership and Civic Involvement

- **Board of Governors (District 7) (7/1/2021 – present)**
- **Chair of the BOG Governance Committee (7/1/2023 – present)**
- **BOG Liaison to the Continuing Legal Education Committee**
- **Former President, Vice-President, & Secy/Treasurer of the Portage Co. Bar Assn.**
- **Member of the Criminal Law Section**
- **Board Member of the Portage County Legal Aid Society**
- **Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation**
- **Commissioner City of Stevens Point Redevelopment Authority (five years)**