

FOR: Illinois Bar Foundation

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***News Release***

**Peoria Attorney Elected to Board of Directors  
Of Illinois Bar Foundation**

**CHICAGO, IL, July 21, 2015** – Sonni Choi Williams, Deputy Corporation Counsel for the city of Peoria, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF), the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), and will serve a one-year term.

The foundation raises funds for distribution to Illinois nonprofit organizations whose mission is to provide free legal services to those with limited means. It also provides assistance to lawyers who can no longer support themselves due to incapacity. In 2015 the foundation took on the responsibility of a statewide expansion of the Illinois Justice Corps to provide trained part-time student volunteers to serve as guides in courthouses. This year the foundation will distribute more than \$850,000 in funds.

Williams is a Gold Fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation Fellows Program. Locally, she is a past member of the Peoria County Bar Association (at-large board member) and serves on its Diversity Committee (past chair for two terms), the Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee (past chair), the CLE Committee, and Government and Public Interest Law committees. She served on the PCBA's Young Lawyers Committee (past chair) and the Special Committee on Mentoring (past chair). Williams is a master member of the Abraham Lincoln Inns of Court in Peoria. She is also a Commissioner on the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, a chair member of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission Hearing Board, and a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association (Board member), and Illinois Municipal League.

Active in the ISBA, she served six years on its Assembly, chaired the Standing Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Law, and was a member of the Task Force on Diversity which lead to the Diversity Leadership Council. Until recently, she served on the Standing Committee on Judicial Evaluations-Outside Cook County and currently serves on the Local Government Law Section Council as board liaison. In 2010, she was presented with the ISBA Board of Governors Award in recognition to her service and contribution to the Association and the Bar of Illinois.

Williams received a B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1994 and a J.D. from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 1999.

The Illinois Bar Foundation is located at 20 S. Clark St., Suite 910, Chicago, IL 60603. Call (312) 726-6072 or visit [www.illinoisbarfoundation.org](http://www.illinoisbarfoundation.org).