

William A. Yoder Bio

Judge Yoder obtained his BS Degree from Purdue University in 1982 and his JD from The John Marshall Law School in 1985.

He spent three years in private practice during which time he also served as an assistant public defender. He became an assistant state's attorney in 1988, where he rose to the position of Chief Felony Prosecutor in McLean County. After leaving the State's Attorney's Office, Bill spent eleven years in private practice as a partner at the John W. Yoder Law Firm where he concentrated in criminal law.

He was appointed McLean County State's Attorney in December of 2002 and was elected to additional four-year terms in 2004 and 2008.

During his tenure as State's Attorney, he was involved in the successful development and implementation of the McLean County Drug Court and the McLean County Mental Health Court. He was also involved in the development of the McLean County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, a council charged with evaluating the efficiencies of, and recommending positive changes within, the criminal justice system.

In December of 2011, he was appointed Associate Judge.

In 2017, Judge Yoder was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Judicial Education. He served as a member of the Needs Assessment Workgroup charged with developing the criminal law curriculum for judicial education. He also served as a Topic Editor on the Criminal Law Judicial Bench Book Committee.

In 2018, Judge Yoder was elected to the position of Circuit Judge. He currently serves as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division in McLean County.

Judge Yoder has served as a Co-Chair for the Criminal Law section of the Illinois Judicial Educational Conference on multiple occasions and is currently serving in that capacity for the 2026 Conference. He has also served as faculty on various criminal topics.

Judge Yoder has previously presided over the Logan County Drug Court and the McLean County Recovery (mental health) Court and is currently presiding over a major felony courtroom.

Judge Yoder is married to McLean County Coroner Kathy Yoder and is the father of four daughters.