



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Because Libraries Matter

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## **Press Release**

**The Illinois Library Association’s Public Policy Committee is honored to present this year’s Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award to Illinois State Senator Scott Bennett. The award is given to a worthy recipient from the Illinois library community—librarian, trustee, legislator, or library—who has contributed significantly to legislative development in the state of Illinois.**

Scott Bennett is the State Senator for the 52nd District. His district spans from the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to portions of East Central Illinois, including the towns of Champaign, Urbana, Danville, and Rantoul. In 2014, Bennett was appointed to fill the vacancy left when Mike Frerichs resigned after he was elected Treasurer of Illinois in the 2014 general election. Serving a broad constituency, Bennett has balanced political ideology with the needs and opinions of his constituents. In his short time in the legislature, he has shown himself to be a strong supporter of education and library issues. Senator Bennett was a Trustee on The Urbana Free Library Board from December 2010 through September 2014. In his short time in the legislature, he has shown himself to be a strong supporter of education and library issues. He was a primary sponsor for SB 2450 on local library appropriations. He collaborated with Senator Pat McGuire to share practical advocacy tips at the 2017 ILA Annual Conference program, “Effective Advocacy from a Primary Source.” Senator Bennett is also a repeat participant in ILA’s Legislative Meet-ups held every February and March, where the library community and its supporters can meet and discuss library-related issues with their legislators.

A fifth-generation Central Illinoisan, he grew up in Gibson City, graduated from Illinois State University and received his J.D. from University of Illinois College of Law. He is a one-time White House intern in the Clinton administration and also with U.S. Senator

Dick Durbin. He was a former Assistant State's Attorney for McClean and Champaign Counties, and was appointed Chairman of the Senate Criminal Law Committee. Due to district boundaries, he also serves as Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. As an attorney and prosecutor, Bennett has seen firsthand the dangers that accompany a lack of educational opportunities for community youth. He draws on those experiences to fight for education funding and economic development opportunities for the 52nd State Senate District. Bennett and his wife Stacy have two children.

The Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, October 9, during the 2018 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Peoria. The luncheon starts at 12:00 noon.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release