

# Bukola M. Bello, M.A.

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## EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Springfield, Master of Arts in Legal Studies May 2006

Graduate Certificate in Law for Human Services and Social Work

Legal Assistant Certificate

GPA 3.5/4.0

Graduated with Honors

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science May 2003

## EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Oct 10 – VISION M.A.I., LLC

Current ***Principal***

- Develop, create and implement strategies to best represent client's interests to the Illinois General Assembly, staffers and related constituency groups.
- Monitor legislation to determine impact on participants, annuitants, beneficiaries, and employers.
- Track legislation through committees, floor action, conference committees and Executive offices; review amendments and report on their impact to designated person(s).
- Maintain knowledge of State, City of Chicago, and Chicago Public School budget issues and advise on potential impact.
- Assist in developing strategies to address underfunding and lead implementation of these strategies.
- Aid in strategic planning for the implementation of items under designated legislative agenda.
- Meet with clients on legislative matters and present written and oral reports.
- Arrange for clients to testify before legislative committees, either in person or in written form.
- Advise clients and participate in the establishment of legislative agenda (drafting of legislative proposals, introduction of legislation, and assistance in the development of position or policy papers).
- Prepare end-of-session reports including a review of all relevant legislation; review action on legislation during fall veto session and report on any matters that may impact clients.

Dec 08 - Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA)

July 11 ***Director of the Illinois Retirement Security Initiative***

- Principally responsible for all operations of a 15-member coalition comprised of education and labor unions and associations.
- Represented and promoted the agenda of the coalition by advocating and opposing pension legislation and interfacing with National coalition partners. Regular meetings with legislators, committee chairs, bill sponsors and staff to carry out IRSI's legislative agenda and educate members on the public policy implications behind all legislation.
- Responded to inquiries from members of the Illinois General Assembly, legislative staff, and national and local reporters on pension issues.
- Analyzed and drafted legislation, submitted policy recommendations, developed fact sheets and reports at the behest of the IRSI board of directors. Submitted written testimony in support or opposition to legislation corresponding to pensions and revenue. Testified in House and Senate Committees at the behest of the IRSI Steering Committee and Advisory Council.
- Responsible for all aspects of retirement benefit research, data collection, systems analysis, and the creation of policy recommendations for CTBA reports, presentations, press releases, briefs, positions papers, and fact sheets.

- Technical Advisor to the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus House Chairperson on pension legislation, education and revenue proposals.

Oct 06 - Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

Dec 08 ***Pension Analyst***

- Analyzed fiscal impact of proposed legislative changes related to pensions and retirement state systems.
- Prepared historical, statistical, and economic analyses pursuant to legislative requests.
- Authored ten published retirement reports, including the first ever published Handbook of Illinois Pension Case Law, and submitted over ninety-eight analytical summaries of legislation affecting the Illinois Pension Code.
- Researched revenue, finance issues, and special topic areas as assigned.
- Commission liaison to quarterly Attorney Roundtable meetings for state funded retirement systems.
- **Published reports:** The Handbook of Illinois Pension Case Law, The 2006 SERS Alternative Retirement Cancellation Payment Option, The Financial Condition of the Illinois Public Employee Retirement Systems, Directory of Illinois Public Retirement Systems and Pension Funds, August 2007 CGFA Monthly Briefing U.S. House Passes Sudan Divestment Bill, June 2008 CGFA Monthly Briefing U.S. Court Supreme Clarifies Fiduciary Duties in DC Plans, Illinois Public Employee Retirement Systems.

Aug 04- University of Illinois at Springfield

Aug 06 ***Pre-Law Center Graduate Assistant***

- Designed agenda, implemented flexible budget and organized the following programs:
  - “Vegetables and Organs” John Peter Altgeld Forum on Law and Public Service featuring Nathan Maddox, Assistant General Counsel of Illinois Secretary of State and Rhonda Jenkins Attorney at Law
  - John Peter Altgeld Forum on Law and Public Service featuring Justice Thomas Kilbride
  - Constitution Law Day Breakfast featuring Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.
- Researched and edited Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) Grant Program, and Diploma to License.

### **Honors, Activities, and Organizations**

Chicago Women in Government, Member 2013 - current

National Association of Securities Professionals (Chicago Chapter), Vice President 2009-2010

National Association of Securities Professionals (Chicago Chapter), Member 2009-current

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., 2007-current

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Springfield Board of Directors, 2007-2008

Service-Learning Task Force Group, Chair, 2006-2007

2006 Women of Excellence Award Certificate of Achievement

Positive Options, Referrals and Alternatives (P.O.R.A.) Legislative Liaison 2006-2007

District 186 Volunteer Recognition Award, 2006

Marketing and Advertising Chair for “Miracles on 13<sup>th</sup> Street” 2006

Community Volunteer Center Advisory Council 2006

Project Committee for Sprucing Up Springfield 2006

### **Relevant Graduate Coursework**

Legal Research and Citation, Legal Writing and Analysis, Administrative Law, Family Law, Public Advocacy, Business and Technical Writing, Legal Dispute and Resolution, Constitutional Law