

Sharon Gibbs McIlquham Announces Bid for Chippewa County Judge's Seat Candidate has deep roots in county, broad legal experience

Sharon Gibbs McIlquham, a Chippewa County attorney with broad experience in law and public service, has announced her candidacy for the Chippewa County Circuit Court Branch 3 judge's seat.

McIlquham has accumulated vast experience in family, criminal and civil law since her admission to the Wisconsin Bar in 1992. In addition to her strong legal background, McIlquham has a long record of community service, currently serving her first term on the Chippewa Falls School Board and serving on the Lafayette Town Board since 2005, a position in which she succeeded her father, the late Howard Gibbs.

"I'm running for judge in Chippewa County to have the opportunity to continue my long-standing commitment to public service and utilize my broad legal experience to independently, fairly, and impartially apply the law," McIlquham said.

Since 2001, McIlquham has served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for Eau Claire County, in which she has been responsible for prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases while also handling guardianships and protective placements, mental health commitments, paternity, child support, zoning and real estate matters. Previously as an associate with the Herrick and Hart law office, McIlquham gained experience in family, criminal, and real estate law and civil litigation.

As a former adjunct professor at Chippewa Valley Technical College, McIlquham has taught criminal, juvenile and constitutional law to Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academy students.

McIlquham gives back to the community in many ways. She has served on boards for the Western Wisconsin Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Master Singers, and the Eau Claire Children's Theatre. She served as chairperson for the Walk to Cure Diabetes for 14 years, and was a Chippewa Falls Music Association volunteer for eight years and has been a volunteer for the Chippewa County Humane Association.

Through her professional work, McIlquham has been involved with the Drug Endangered Children Initiative, the Substance-free Pregnancy and Recovery Coalition, the Child Advocacy Center Multi-Disciplinary Team, the Child Death Review Team, and the Juvenile Justice Collaborating Council.

"As a Chippewa County Circuit Court judge, I will continue the ongoing practice of treating those who appear in our courtrooms with respect and allow them the opportunity to be heard fairly and impartially," McIlquham said.

McIlquham grew up in the town of Lafayette and attended Stillson Elementary, Chippewa Falls High School, UW-Platteville, and Hamline University School of Law. She seeks the Branch 3 judge position to be vacant next year due to the retirement of the Honorable Judge Steve Cray.