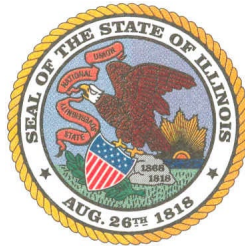


STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

BRENDAN A. MAHER
Chief Judge



WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
400 WEST STATE STREET, SUITE 215
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101
PHONE (815) 319-4800

For Immediate Release

October 15, 2026

Contact: Thomas R. Jakeway
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PRESS RELEASE

**ATTORNEY AARON C. BUSCEMI SELECTED
AS BOONE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

ROCKFORD, IL – Brendan A. Maher, Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court, is pleased to announce that the circuit judges of the 17th Circuit have selected Attorney Aaron C. Buscemi to serve as Boone County Public Defender. Mr. Buscemi’s appointment will take effect November 9, 2026.

Commenting on the selection, Presiding Boone County Circuit Judge Rob Tobin stated, “Aaron Buscemi brings valuable criminal defense experience to this position and understands the responsibility that comes with leading a Public Defender’s Office. Effective leadership requires supporting and developing staff, working collaboratively with justice system partners, and ensuring that every client receives capable, professional, and respectful representation. I am confident that Aaron understands the importance of each of these responsibilities and the role the Public Defender plays in the fair administration of justice.”

“I am honored by the judges’ confidence in me,” said Attorney Buscemi. “Returning to the Boone County Public Defender’s Office is an opportunity to come home, bring back the experience I’ve gained, and support the attorneys and staff in providing the strong, dedicated representation our community deserves.”

Mr. Buscemi completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa in 2000 and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2005. He began his legal career with the Boone County Public Defender’s Office in 2006, where he served for nearly 12 years, including time as First Assistant Public Defender. In January 2018, he joined DeRango & Cain, L.L.C., where he currently practices law, representing clients in felony and misdemeanor matters, juvenile delinquency proceedings, juvenile abuse and neglect cases, and civil, administrative, and appellate proceedings.

Mr. Buscemi is a member of the Boone County Bar Association, the Winnebago County Bar Association, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Winnebago County Bar Foundation and as a board member of Shelter Care. His community involvement includes serving as a mentor with Rockford Promise and volunteering as a soccer coach with the Bruce Samlan Soccer League.

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