

Bill Higgins, Jr.
Bedford County District Attorney

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BIOGRAPHY

After serving as First Assistant District Attorney of Bedford County for three years, Bill made the decision to run for District Attorney. While campaigning for District Attorney, Bill opened a general law practice, focusing primarily in the area of family law. In keeping with a campaign promise, he closed his practice when he was elected on November 4, 2003. He was sworn in on January 2, 2004, and at the time, he was the youngest District Attorney in Pennsylvania. In 2007, he was re-elected to serve a second term.

Bill proudly served as the Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association-Young Lawyers Division in 2007-2008. He has served on several panels and CLE programs sponsored by the PBA-YLD, including, "Using Your Law Degree as a Springboard into Politics," at the New Admittee Conference in March 2004; "Non-Traditional Legal Careers," and "Appellate Oral Argument Practicum," both at the YLD Summer Conference in July 2005; and "Criminal Law for the Non-Criminal Lawyer," in August 2008. He has served as a reverse mentor to experienced members of the Bar teaching them the benefits of online legal research through numerous "InCite" presentations. Bill has made countless presentations on Law Enforcement, Controlled Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence. Bill was instrumental in bringing the "Reality Tour" to Bedford County, a program where troubled teens experience an interactive tour of the county jail through the eyes of a heroin addicted teen, and he rarely turns down an opportunity to speak to young people about their future.

Bill is also a supporter of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, where he is a pledged Young Lawyer Life Fellow.

In addition to his PBA membership, Bill is a member of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association. He is also active in the Bedford Bar Association where he serves as Chair of the Continuing Legal Education committee.

Bill's greatest passion is the Pennsylvania High School Mock Trial program. He has been involved in the program since participating as a student himself. Since then, he has served the program in nearly every capacity, including serving as statewide coordinator from 2005-2008. Currently, Bill serves as one of the attorney coaches for Central High School, in Martinsburg, PA. Bill is honored to have been recently named the 2010 Michael K. Smith Excellence in

Service Award recipient for his work with the Pennsylvania High School Mock Trial program.

Bill actively supports his community. He served as President of the Bedford Rotary Club from 2007-2008, and President of the Bedford Lions Club from 2006-2007. He presently serves as the Regional Chairman for Region II of District 14-L of Lions International, and serves on the following boards: Downtown Bedford, Inc., United Way, Personal Solutions, Inc., Junior Achievement and Bedford County Regional Education Foundation.

He is a 2004 graduate of Leadership Bedford County, and has remained actively involved with that program by serving as the Judicial Session presenter each year since his graduation. Currently, Bill is enrolled in the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership (RULE) Program, a two year program that focuses on developing leaders in Pennsylvania's rural communities.

Bill Higgins earned his *Juris Doctorate* from Widener University School of Law, Delaware Campus, in 1999, and his B.A. in English from Villanova University, in 1996. In 2006, Bill was honored by Widener University as the Outstanding Recent Alumni.

Bill and his wife Amy were married in June, 2001, live in Bedford, and are the proud parents of two girls, Sara, 5, and Caroline, 2. They are expecting their third child in December.