

# 2017 COOK COUNTY EMPLOYEE CANDIDATE STATEMENT

FOR THE TRUSTEE ELECTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 25, 2017

- **Candidate Name:** Kevin Ochalla
- **Position Sought:** Cook County Employee Trustee
- **Current Job Title:** Assistant Public Defender, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
- **Total Years of Service:** 14 Years



**Biographical Information:** My name is Kevin Ochalla and I am asking for your support to be elected Trustee representing Cook County employees on our Pension Fund Board. I am running for Trustee because I am committed to ensuring that our retirement benefits are there for all members of the fund when we need them.

For fourteen years I have worked in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender as an Assistant Public Defender, most recently assigned to the office's Homicide Task Force. I am strongly committed to protecting and defending the rights of individuals. This spirit of advocacy has led me to become active in my union, AFSCME Council 31, where I have served in various roles from steward to president of Local 3315. It is also why I now seek to serve on the Cook County Pension Board.

I have been a licensed attorney since graduation from New England Law in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001. In law school I focused on criminal law, with additional interests in administrative and business law.

In 2014, when unconstitutional legislation was introduced to cut county employee pension benefits, I joined in the fight to defeat that measure. I vow to keep that fighting spirit as a Trustee to make sure that, in exchange for our years of dedicated service, the promise of a secure retirement is kept. As Trustee I will work to ensure the pension fund is fiscally sound and can continue to provide the retirement benefits so essential to us all.

Thank you for your consideration and vote on October 25, 2017.