



ICRMT Risk Management forms new law enforcement practice to support ICRMT members law enforcement liability and safety programs.

The ICRMT has historically worked to develop the most complete insurance solutions and services for our members most sensitive areas of liability and safety. This involves developing and managing services, resources and solutions that can shape and influence liability and safety for our members most complex insurance interests. Recognizing the complicating conditions that Illinois law enforcement agencies face for liability management, the ICRMT has launched a new Law Enforcement Practice in 2022. This new service practice will be staffed by Ben Harmening and Josh Blackwell, both retired with decades of experience working in Illinois law enforcement. The ICRMT and the Law Enforcement Practice will continue to work closely and partner with the Legal Liability Management Institute (LLRMI) for policy and training solutions, and EJFlyke Consulting for additional training and liability support.

The Law Enforcement Practice team will be making onsite visits to the members with law enforcement operations in the coming weeks and months and designing new services and systems to enhance ICRMT members policy and training options. We look forward to servicing the members with this new model and practice.

This year, ICRMT members will be introduced to several new features to support law enforcement liability management, policy solutions, and training. Please bookmark or become familiar with the ICRMT.com webpage for additional information on benefits of the ICRMT and systems that support local government insurance solutions. Below are the bio's for Ben and Josh. Please contact me with any questions or additional details on this new ICRMT service.

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JOSH BLACKWELL

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Josh started at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office as a Tele-communicator in May 2006 after graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management, a minor in Aerospace Studies, and a concentration in Aviation Flight. In June 2007, he was sworn in as a part-time Deputy Sheriff and began the part-time police academy at Mobile Training Unit 13 while he continued working full-time. Upon graduation from the part-time academy in February 2008, Josh was promoted to a full-time Deputy Sheriff and assigned to the patrol division.

In May 2008, Josh completed an 80-hour training at the University of Illinois Police Training Institute to become a full-time certified Deputy Sheriff. While a Deputy Sheriff, he received a DUI enforcement award

from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists organization for outstanding DUI enforcement. In May of 2010, Josh was promoted to the East Central Illinois Task Force where he was assigned as an Inspector. During the assignment, he received an award from the Illinois M.E.G and Task Force Association for a narcotics investigation that led to the arrest of an individual distributing cocaine and possessing firearms.

In August 2011, Josh was promoted to Sergeant Deputy Sheriff and assigned back to patrol. During his time as a Sergeant, he supervised 2 shifts, conducted Field Training Operations for new Deputies, received an additional award from the Alliance Against Intoxicating Motorists for DUI enforcement, and in 2013 was 1 of 7 Deputies in the State of Illinois to be nominated for the Medal of Valor from the Illinois Sheriff's Association.

In March of 2018 Josh won a 4-way race for Sheriff in Douglas County, subsequently running unopposed in the general election and being sworn in as Sheriff in December of 2018. Josh held this position until his retirement from law enforcement at the end of June 2021. During his time as Sheriff, he conducted operational changes to the agency to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. Josh led upgrades to numerous systems and equipment to coincide with the rapidly evolving law enforcement landscape. He updated and created policy to reduce liability and ensure our actions were within compliance of Illinois law. Lastly, Josh served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Director's for MTU 13 during my time as Sheriff.



BEN HARMENING

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Ben has 20 years of law enforcement experience in corrections, patrol, investigations, and management. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois Police Training Institute Basic Correctional Officer program, finishing in the top five percent of his class, and the Law enforcement Officer program, finishing first in his class.

Ben began his law enforcement career in 2001 with the Menard County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer. In 2005, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Sheriff. During his time as a Deputy Sheriff, Ben conducted and led numerous investigations into a variety of felony crimes including homicide, illegal

drugs, burglary, sex crimes, arson, and other crimes against persons and property. He has conducted joint investigations with numerous law enforcement agencies including, Illinois State Police, FBI, ATF, and US Marshals.

In 2017-2018, Ben served as the Acting Chief Deputy Sheriff, overseeing all Sheriffs' Office operations including dispatch, corrections, court security, patrol, and investigations.