

**MARIE LYNN TOUSSAINT**  
CANDIDATE FOR OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Name:** Marie Lynn Toussaint

**Website:** @citizensformarielynnntoussaint (Facebook)

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts University of Illinois Chicago; Paralegal Certificate Roosevelt University; Juris Doctorate John Marshall Law School

**Civic Involvement:** Member of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Member and co-founder of Haitian American Lawyers Association; President of the Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti; (CEDA) Community and Economic Development Association Entrepreneurship Program volunteer.

### **1. Why are you running?**

I am running for Oakton Community College Trustee for three reasons:

- to establish liaisons between the Courts and Oakton Community College to provide opportunities to those who have been through the criminal justice system.
- to increase workforce development between Evanston Township High School and Oakton Community College and also raise awareness of the technological opportunities offered by Oakton;
- to support and create policies upholding Oakton's commitment to freedom of expression.

### **2. What are your qualifications?**

I have been a practicing criminal defense for the past 25 years. As such, I have litigated and negotiated vigorously and passionately in the best interest of my clients. My extensive experience with diverse groups of individuals, ranging from young adults and their families to police officers, doctors, judges, court personnel, etc. make me uniquely qualified for Oakton Community College Trustee.

### **3. What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure on the board?**

I believe in affordable and accessible education, values which I believe Oakton already embodies. To further these values, I want to raise awareness about the resources, classes, and certification programs at Oakton to cultivate a reputation as an educational destination, not a stepping stone or placeholder to a four year college. Oakton is a leading institution in educational and training opportunities. It would be an honor to work with such a forward thinking institution to implement even more reforms that would benefit a larger population of the community. Oakton deserves to be held up for the educational standards it sets, not as a second-choice or "fallback."