

# PRESERVATION FORWARD



## 2024 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS INFLUENCER

### JAY ROWELL

*Executive Director, HIRE360*

Jay Rowell is the Executive Director of Chicago-based HIRE360, a unique partnership between developers, general contractors, the hospitality industry, and trade unions designed to connect underrepresented populations to opportunities. Rowell launched the nonprofit in 2020, building it into an organization with a \$14 million annual budget and over 30-person staff in four years. As Executive Director, Rowell has raised millions to fund pre-apprenticeship training for diverse candidates and for capital loans to help scale MBE/WBE businesses.

Rowell has a track record of helping organizations prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. He previously served as the Deputy Treasurer for Illinois, where he oversaw the state's \$31 billion portfolio, as well as the Treasury's banking and financial services activities. In that role, he helped to dramatically increase the number of minority- and women-owned firms managing the State's investments. Rowell also re-envisioned the Illinois 529 College Savings programs—earning Morningstar's highest ratings—and implemented a multimillion-dollar retirement savings program covering over 100,000 employees.

Before joining the Treasurer's office, Rowell was the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, he overhauled the State's \$8 billion a year unemployment insurance program. Further, he improved the agency's process of connecting people with available jobs, created a no-cost HR recruiting program and launched a new job board to better match job seekers' skill sets with the needs of potential employers.

Rowell's additional experience includes serving as Director of the Illinois Senate Democratic Victory Fund and Deputy Director of the Office of the City Clerk of Chicago. At Illinois Senate Democratic Victory Fund, he worked with labor unions and Senate Caucus members to raise over \$6.4 million for Democratic candidates while managing a staff of over 100. While working at the Clerk's Office, Rowell greatly expanded transparency by putting 27 years of City Council Ordinances and searchable, live streaming city council meetings and secured funding for a legislative portal.

Rowell earned his law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communication at American University. He is Vice Chair of District 97 Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention & Monitoring and a member of several community organization boards, including the Park District of Oak Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Illinois Birth Center Task Force. He also serves on the Selection Committee for Governor Edgar's Fellows Program. He lives in Oak Park with his wife and two daughters.