

Joe Whalen bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Joe was born in Cambridge, MA on March 21, 1960. He attended local schools through 12th grade in the greater Boston, MA area graduating in 1977 from Malden Catholic High School. In 1981, he received his Bachelors Degree in Sociology and in 1985 his law degree both from Boston University.

Playing one year of high school football, one year of track and two years of soccer, Joe was something of an athlete in high school, or at least tried to be . . . breaking his wrist two years in a row while playing neighborhood football may not have landed him at the top of the coach's list.

You'll find that the values and principles learned and maintained by Joe as he achieved Life Rank in the Boy Scouts continue to serve him well today.

Spending six summers at Boy Scout camp, four as a camper and two on staff, Joe has many exciting experiences that he could share. One would be the time that he nearly drowned while doing the one mile swim . . . he was however successful in his perseverance. A somewhat humorous memory would be the year that all four Whalen boys attended camp simultaneously. During the "calling out" you would hear Whalen 1, 2, 3 and finally . . . Whalen 4. How many Whalens would a troop make?

As an after school and summer job, Joe enjoyed working with the Boys & Girls Club of America. With an increasing number of children left at home with no adult care or supervision, young people need to know that someone cares about them. With the Boys & Girls Club offering that and more, Joe found great fulfillment in his role as a counselor. Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

Joe's career path has always been that of a public servant. Fresh out of law school, he served as the Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County, MA from 1985 – 1990. From 1990 – 1993, he worked in private practice with a small Worcester, MA law firm. From 1993 – 1999, he served as a MA Assistant Attorney General in Boston. When the MA Attorney General lost his bid to be elected governor, Joe felt it was a good time to move south. So in 1999, Joe accepted a position with the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. He currently serves as an associate Solicitor General and is responsible for coordinating & supervising the State's legal work in state & federal appellate courts. He says "We assess each case based on the facts and the law, and handle the case accordingly." This month he was in Cincinnati, OH, representing the State's interests in the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Joe finds tremendous

satisfaction in his work and is proud of the fact that that he and his staff have made a positive difference in the lives of the people they serve.

When asked about his favorite hobbies, Joe said, "Well, other than Habitat, I try to make time for my three children." Joe also teaches paralegal studies part-time, at Kaplan Career Institute in Nashville. He's also a big sports fan; living in Franklin, TN for the past eleven years, one might surmise that Joe would have adopted the Tennessee Titans and the Nashville Predators. However you will find that his two favorite Pro Sports teams would still be the New England Patriots and the Boston Bruins.

Joe began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County at the very beginning of the Beasley Place subdivision homes. That would have been Habitat High's Shawn Otey February/March 2009 build. As far as the Habitat mission, he says that he can't say it any better than anybody else has already said it. But with his schedule taking him out for the 2010 spring build season, Joe says **"I now realize how much I miss Habitat when I'm away. I'm so glad to be back as a Crew Leader. Habitat has become like a second family to me."** Welcome back Joe!