

☛ **05hr\_SC-VHSMASBGR\_Appt\_Bablitch\_pt01**



☛ **Stephen E. Bablitch**

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2005-06**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Veterans, Homeland Security,  
Military Affairs, Small Business and Government  
Reform (SC-VHSMASBGR)**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform**

**Bablitch, Stephen**, of Whitefish Bay, as Secretary of the Department of Administration, to serve for the term ending at the pleasure of the Governor.

September 28, 2005 Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

January 3, 2006 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas and Breske.  
Absent: (1) Senator Wirch.

#### Appearances For

- Steve Bablitch, Madison — Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Administration

#### Appearances Against

- None.

#### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

#### Registrations For

- Mindy Walker, Madison — Office of Governor Jim Doyle
- Diane Craney, Madison — Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)
- Susan McMurray — AFSCME

#### Registrations Against

- None.

January 3, 2006

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas and Breske.

Absent: (1) Senator Wirch\*.

\* - POLLING

Moved by Senator Kanavas, seconded by Senator Breske that  
**Bablitch, Stephen** be recommended for confirmation.

Ayes: (5) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas, Breske and  
Wirch\*.

Noes: (0) None.

CONFIRMATION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0



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Daniel Lindstedt  
Committee Clerk

## **HISTORY FOR BABLITCH, STEVEN**

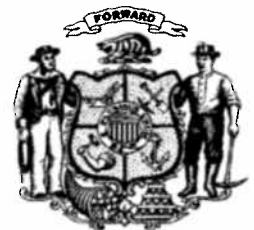
of Whitefish Bay, as Secretary of the Department of Administration, to serve for the term ending at the pleasure of the Governor.

2005

09-28. S. Read and referred to committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**JIM DOYLE**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

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**GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT**

**NAME:** Stephen Bablitch

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson St., 10th Floor  
Madison, WI 53702

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** stephen.bablitch@doa.state.wi.us

**RESIDES IN:** Whitefish Bay, WI

**TELEPHONE:** (608) 266-1741 (w)

**OCCUPATION:** Secretary  
Department of Administration

**APPOINTED TO:** Secretary of the Department of Administration

**TERM:** A term to expire at the pleasure of the  
Governor

**SUCCEEDS:** Marc Marotta

**SENATE CONFIRMATION:** Yes

**DATE OF APPOINTMENT:** October 3, 2005

**DATE OF NOMINATION:** September 12, 2005



**JIM DOYLE**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

BABLITCH ST

September 12, 2005

To the Honorable, the Senate:

I am pleased to nominate and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint Stephen Bablitch to be the Secretary of the Department of Administration to serve a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor.

Mr. Bablitch will be available to the Senate for hearings and my staff will assist in any way they can.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle  
Governor



**JIM DOYLE**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

---

September 13, 2005

Mr. Stephen E. Bablitch  
Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson St., 10th Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Mr. Bablitch:

I am pleased to appoint you as Secretary of the Department of Administration, effective October 3, 2005. Your experience, knowledge, and dedication will be a true asset to my administration and a great benefit to the people of Wisconsin.

Your salary will be \$125,000 annually and you will be assigned to Executive Salary Group 8. This is an unclassified position serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

I look forward to working with you to find creative ways of delivering services and implementing positive change for the citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle  
Governor

cc: Susan Goodwin  
Pat Thyse, HR Director, DOA







Vets

**JIM DOYLE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

---

September 13, 2005

Mr. Stephen E. Bablitch  
Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson St., 10th Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Mr. Bablitch:

I am pleased to appoint you as Secretary of the Department of Administration, effective October 3, 2005. Your experience, knowledge, and dedication will be a true asset to my administration and a great benefit to the people of Wisconsin.

Your salary will be \$131,767 annually and you will be assigned to Executive Salary Group 8. This is an unclassified position serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

I look forward to working with you to find creative ways of delivering services and implementing positive change for the citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle  
Governor

cc: Susan Goodwin  
Pat Thyse, HR Director, DOA



**JIM DOYLE**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

---

**GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT**

**NAME:** Stephen Bablitch

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson St., 10th Floor  
Madison, WI 53702

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** stephen.bablitch@doa.state.wi.us

**RESIDES IN:** Whitefish Bay, WI

**TELEPHONE:** (608) 266-1741 (w)

**OCCUPATION:** Secretary  
Department of Administration

**APPOINTED TO:** Secretary of the Department of Administration

**TERM:** A term to expire at the pleasure of the  
Governor

**SUCCEEDS:** Marc Marotta

**SENATE CONFIRMATION:** Yes

**DATE OF APPOINTMENT:** October 3, 2005

**DATE OF NOMINATION:** September 12, 2005

**COMPENSATION:** \$131,676



BABLITCH ST  
VETS



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
***ETHICS BOARD***

James R. Morgan  
Chairman  
Paul M. Holzem  
Dorothy C. Johnson  
Richard Warch  
Courtney L. Hunt

On the capitol square at:  
44 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, STE 601  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-2800  
phone: 608/266-8123  
fax: 608/264-9319  
ethics@ethics.state.wi.us  
<http://ethics.state.wi.us>

October 3, 2005

Roth Judd  
Director

Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs,  
Small Business and Government Reform:

The attached Statement of Economic Interests is provided with regard  
to Governor Jim Doyle's nomination of Stephen Bablitch to the position  
of Secretary, Department of Administration.

Sincerely,  
STATE OF WISCONSIN ETHICS BOARD

# Statement of Economic Interests

Open ~~Closed~~ to Public Inspection  
Filed in 2005 for calendar year 2004 by

**Bablitch, Stephen E.**  
Investment Board  
Member-

MAR 14 2005  
3/23/05 CK

FOR EXPLANATIONS, EXAMPLES AND EXCEPTIONS SEE THE INSTRUCTIONS OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://ethics.state.wi.us>  
Still have questions? For priority service send an e-mail to: [ethics@ethics.state.wi.us](mailto:ethics@ethics.state.wi.us); otherwise leave a detailed message at (608) 266-8115  
ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED

As of December 31, 2004

## Part A

1. List STOCKS, BONDS, limited partnerships, Wisconsin governmental securities, and mutual and money market funds you or your family held (minimum \$5,000). "✓" one

	\$50,000 or less	More than \$50,000
<b>Stocks/options/futures</b>		
Wellpoint Health Networks Inc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SEE ATTACHMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bonds</b>		
Bexar Texas Met Water Works		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chicago IL LT GO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chicago IL Met Wtr GO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clark County Met Wtr GO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Detroit MI Wtr Supply Sys		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laporte Indiana Multi School GO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada St Hwy Inpt Mtr Vehicle Rev		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<del>NY State Department of Transportation</del>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Perth Amboy New Jersey GO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island St GO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Limited partnerships</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Wisconsin governmental securities</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mutual or money market funds</b>		
AEGIS Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>American Express AXP New Dimensions Fund Class A</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>American Express Trust Equity Index II</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>American Express Trust Income Fund</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>Artisan International</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Artisan International Small Cap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Artisan Mid Cap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>Buffalo High Yield Fund</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Buffalo Small Cap Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Calamas Growth Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Causeway International Value Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<del>Fidelity Contrafund</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Goldman Sachs High Yield Fund		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Goldman Sachs Institutional		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<del>Land Lease US Real Estate Secured Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Longleaf Partners Small Cap Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Marisco Focus Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Marisco Growth Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	<del>✓</del>
<del>Marshall &amp; Ilsley Money Market</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Oakmark Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Oakmark Select Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Pimco Real Return Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Pimco Total Return Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Primor Core Equity</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Primor Small/Mid Cap Equity Portfolio</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Schwab Money Market Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Tweedy Browne Global Value Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Vanguard 600 Index Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Vanguard Intermediate Term Tax Exempt</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Vanguard Long Term Corp Bond Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Vanguard Short Term Bond Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>Vanguard Small-Cap Value Fund</del>	<del>✓</del>	
<del>White Oak Growth Stock</del>	<del>✓</del>	
SEE ATTACHMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. List **BUSINESSES** and **INCOME-PRODUCING REAL ESTATE** in which you or your family had a 10% or greater ownership interest.

Name of business (if any) or business activity or address of real estate	Municipality	State	If real estate, list County	Describe nature of business
NONE				

a) For each general partnership, or entity not doing business in Wisconsin, that you listed in Item #2, list the **GENERAL PARTNERS**, or the **OFFICERS** and **DIRECTORS**.

Business	Partners, or officers and directors	City	State
N/A			

b) For each enterprise you listed in Item #2 that is an unincorporated business, a subchapter S corporation, a service corporation (SC), a limited liability company (LLC), a partnership, or income-producing real estate, list **BUSINESSES**, **ORGANIZATIONS**, and any **LOBBYISTS** that were **CUSTOMERS**, **CLIENTS**, or **TENANTS** that paid the enterprise \$1,000 or more in calendar year 2004.

Businesses, organizations, lobbyists that were customers, clients, or tenants	City	State
N/A		

3. List the specific location of **WISCONSIN REAL ESTATE** in which you or your family had an interest (except your principal residence and real estate whose location you listed in item 2).

Location of property			Nature of interest
Street address or fire number	Municipality	County	(e.g., own, lease, option, easement, land contract)
6671 Forest Lake Road	Land O'Lakes	Vilas	own

4. List ORGANIZATIONS of which you or a family member was an OFFICER or DIRECTOR.

Business or organization	City	State	Position
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Milwaukee	WI	CEO, Chairman
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association	Chicago	IL	Director
Cobalt Corporation	Milwaukee	WI	CEO, Chairman

5. List ORGANIZATIONS THAT AUTHORIZED YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER TO REPRESENT THEM in their dealings with others as an attorney-at-law, agent, spokesperson, or representative (unless listed in item 4 or 7).

Business or organization	City	State
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Milwaukee	WI
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association	Chicago	IL
Cobalt Corporation	Milwaukee	WI

6. List CREDITORS to which you or your family owed \$5,000 or more

Creditor	City	State	"✓" one	
			\$50,000 or less	More than \$50,000
M&I Bank	Milwaukee	WI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part B

For calendar year 2004

7. List your and your family's EMPLOYERS (\$1,000 or more of income) in 2004.

Name of employer (If State of Wisconsin, identify agency or institution)	City	State	Nature of employer's business
Cobalt Corp. WELLPOINT	Milwaukee	WI	Insurance & Related Business

8. List OTHER SOURCES from which you or your family received INCOME of \$1,000 or more in 2004.

Source of income	City	State
Dewitt, Ross and Stevens	Madison,	WI

9. List individuals and organizations that provided you with ENTERTAINMENT or GIFTS (more than \$50) in 2004

Name of provider	City	State
NONE		

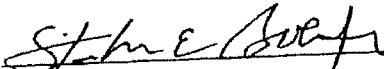
10. List, for 2004, sources of HONORARIA and payment of EXPENSES related to your state government duties (more than \$50) not previously reported to the Ethics Board.

Payer	Approximate value of expenses	Amount of honorarium	Circumstances of receipt
NONE			



is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. If any part has been left blank, I have done so intentionally because there is nothing to report.

Daytime phone # (414) 963-9954

  
Signature of person filing

sbablitch@wi.rr.com

Date

E-mail address

The information sought in this form is required by §§19.43 and 19.44, *Wisconsin Statutes*. Failure to file a completed form may result in a forfeiture of up to \$500. Statements of Economic Interests are open for public inspection. The Ethics Board will notify you of the identity of any person who examines your Statement. In accordance with §15.04(1)(m), *Wisconsin Statutes*, the Ethics Board states that no personally identifiable information is likely to be used for purposes other than those for which it is collected.

Mail or fax to: Wisconsin Ethics Board, 44 E. Mifflin St., Suite 601, Madison, WI 53703-2800; Fax: (608) 264-9319

### Ethics Board's comments about the Statement you filed last year to help you complete this one.

- In Item 1, checking accounts, savings accounts or bonds, certificates of deposit, annuities, insurance contracts, securities issued by the federal government or a government outside Wisconsin, or a pension plan or retirement account whose investments you or your family do not direct (such as the Wisconsin Retirement System), do not have to be listed.

*Eth1 Personalized. For use in 2005*

**STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST  
STEPHEN BABLITCH  
STATE OF WISCONSIN INVESTMENT BOARD**

**STOCKS (\$50,000 or less)**

MARKS AND SPENCER PLC	AKTIEBOLAGET ELECTROLUX
VODAFONE GROUP PLC	UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LTD
DANSKE BK	UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LTD
SCHOTTISH POWER PLC	GKN PLC
CENTRICA PLC	KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS PLC
REXAM PLC	UBS AG CMN
BENETTON GROUP SPA	BUNZL PLC
KT CORPORATION	NEDCOR LTD
TDK CORPORATION	TOYOTA MOTORS
TELECOMUNICACOES BRASILEIRAS S.A.	FUNAI ELECTRIC CO. LTD
CHINA MOBILE HONG KONG LTD	BT GROUP PLC
TELEFONOS DE MEXICO SA	DIAGEO PLC
PETROLEO BRASILEIRO SA	
UNITED MICROELECTRONICS CORPORATION	SWISS REINSURANCE
ZURICH FINANCIAL SERVICES	AMCOR LTD
J. SAINSBURY PLC	DEUTSCHE BANK
COCA COLA FEMSA SA	FRANCE TELECOM SA
NOKIA CORP	ENI S.P.A.
ABN AMRO HOLDINGS N.V.	FORTIS N.V.
KOREA ELECTRIC POWER	SEKISHI HOMES LTD
BOOTS GROUP PLC	REPSOL YPF SA
BARCLAYS PLC	BANK FUKUOKA LTD
AEGON N.V.	SANOFI-AVENTIS
BOC GROUP PLC	DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG
ROYAL DUTCH PETROLEUM COMPANY	VOLKSWAGON AG
ALPS ELECTRIC LTD	OLYMPUS CORPORATION
THOMSON SA	UPM - KYMMENE CORPORATION
BAE SYSTEMS PLC	TOTAL SA
LLOYDS TSB GROUP PLC	ENDESA S.A.
WOLTERS KLUWER	SHELL TRNS & TRADING PLC
FUJI HEAVY IND LTD	VALEO
HEINEKEN BV	FUJI PHOTO
SHISEIDO CO, LTD	NESTLE S.A.
UNILEVER	NOVARTIS
ANGLO AMERICAN PLC	CANON INC
E.ON AG	NIPPON TELEG & TELEPHON

HACHIJUNI BANK LTD	GANNETT CO INC
SUMITOMO MITSUI FINL GROUP	HARRAHS ENTERTAINMENT INC
KAO CORPORATION	KNIGHT RIDDER INC
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK	NEW YORK TIMES CO
DBS GROUP HOLDINGS	BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES
RIO TINTO PLC	MGM MIRAGE
GLAXO SMITH KLINE PLC	COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL CORP
BNP PARIBAS	AVON PRODUCTS INC
HONDA MOTORS LTD	CHEVRON TEXACO CORP
BANK OF IRELAND	AMER INTL GROUP INC
MINEBEBA CO LTD	PRAXAIR INC
UNIVERSAL HEALTH SVC	LINEAR TECHNOLOGY CORP
LEE ENTERPRISES INC	TYCO INTERNATIONAL LTC
BANK OF HAWAII CORPORATION	GANNETT CO INC
CHITTENDEN CORPORATION	3M CO
ALLIANCE GAMING CORP	LOWES COMPANIES INC
PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC	WAL MART STORES
STERIS CORP	MEDTRONIC INC
HCA INC	FIRST DATA CORP
CALLAWAY GOLF	MICROSOFT CORP
RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL INC	CONOCO PHILLIPS PETROLEUM
FURNITURE BRANDS INTERNATIONAL INC	VIACOM INC
STORAGE TECHNOLOGY CORP	CENDANT CORPORATION
APPLE COMPUTER INC	AMGEN INC
BMC SOFTWARE INC	TARGET CORP
SCIENTIFIC-ATLANTA INC	PFIZER INC
MC CLATCHY COMPANY	
INFORMATICA CORP	
JOURNAL REGISTER CO	
HEARST - ARGYLE TEL INC	
SUPERIOR INDS INTL INC	
MEDIA GENERAL INC	
RADIOSHACK CORP	
HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOC	
BANKNORTH GROUP, INC	
AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC	
SYBASE INC	
VERITAS SOFTWARE CORP	
BELO CORP	
HEWLETT-PACKARD CO	
INTL GAME TECHNOLOGY	
FEDERATED DEPARTMENT STORES	
EASTMAN KODAK CO	

**STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST  
STEPHEN BABLITCH  
STATE OF WISCONSIN INVESTMENT BOARD**

**STOCKS (More than \$50,000)**

MBNA CORPORATION	MAGELLAN MIDSTREAM PARTNERS L.P.
QUALCOMM INC	KINDER MORGAN ENERGY PARTNERS L.P.
FREDDIE MAC	VALERO L.P.
PEPSICO INC	ENBRIDGE ENERGY PARTNERS L.P.
DELL INC	ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS PARTNERS L.P.
KANEB PIPELINE PARTNERSHIPS L.P.	CITIGROUP INC
PLAINS ALL AMERICAN PIPELINES L.P.	TEPPCO PARTNERS L.P.
SUBURBAN PROPANE PARTNERS L.P.	TC PIPELINES, L.P.
ALLTEL CORP	
COMPUTER ASSOCIATES, INTL INC	

**STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST  
STEPHEN BABLITCH  
STATE OF WISCONSIN INVESTMENT BOARD**

**Mutual or Money Market Funds (\$50,000 or less)**

ADELANTE US REAL ESTATE	VANGUARD WELLINGTON FUND
VANGUARD MUNICIPAL INTERMEDIATE	VANGUARD TOTAL BOND MARKET INDEX FUND
ARBITRAGE INSTITUTIONAL	VANGUARD EXPLORER FUND
PIMCO AI ASSET	VANGUARD WINDSOR FUND II
CHESAPEAKE CORE GROWTH	VANGUARD PRIMECAP FUND
WILLIAM BLAIR GROWTH	VANGUARD TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STOCK INDEX FUND
	GOLDMAN SACHS MID CAP VALUE FUND

**Mutual or Money Market Funds (More than \$50,000)**

GOLDMAN SACHS INSTITUTIONAL LI ASSETS TAX EXEMPT PORTFOLIO	GOLDMAN SACHS HEDGE FUND PARTNERS II
ISCHARES MSCI UNITED KINGDOM INDEX FUND	GOLDMAN SACHS GLOBAL TACTICAL TRADING III
ISHARES MSCI JAPAN MARKET INDEX FUND	



## NEWS

[EMAIL STORY](#) [PRINT STORY](#)

## Doyle-aide appointee loves political process

00:00 am 10/03/05

DOUG ERICKSON [derickson@madison.com](mailto:derickson@madison.com)

608-252-6149 Steve Bablitch was making courtesy calls at the State Capitol recently when he dropped in on Rep. Dean Kaufert, R- Neenah, co-chairman of the Legislature's budget committee.

"I can't figure it out," Kaufert told Bablitch. "Why do you want to get into this political zoo we live in sometimes?"

Bablitch, 51, a former Dane County prosecutor who most recently led a Fortune 1000 company, was tabbed Sept. 12 by Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle to be secretary of the Department of Administration.

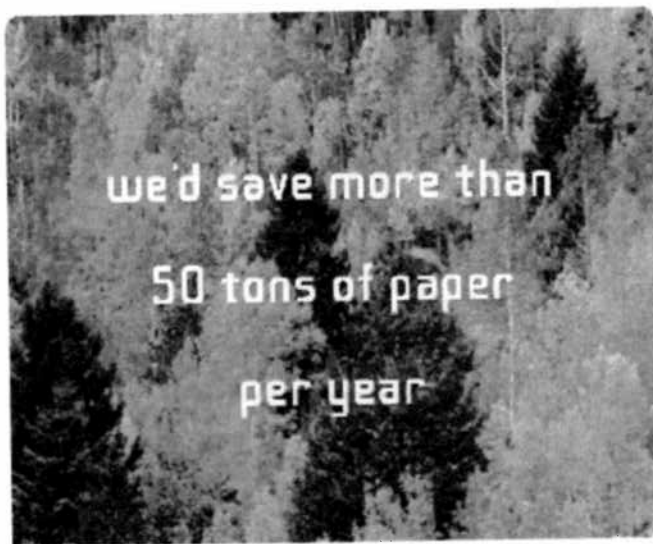
He starts Monday, although the full Senate must confirm him. He will earn \$131,767 annually, the same as his predecessor, Marc Marotta.

The deceptively bland title masks a powerful position. Bablitch will be one of Doyle's chief aides, cutting deals with legislators, advising Doyle on issues and helping craft and implement the state budget.

"We've had DOA secretaries who some people have thought have actually been the governor," said Dennis Dresang, a UW-Madison political science professor.

Bablitch said he's getting a lot of the "Why take this job?" question. His answer: "I love government, I love public policy, I want to make a difference and I've known and admired (Doyle) for 28 years."

### ADVERTISEMENT



Doyle hired Bablitch as a college-aged law clerk when Doyle was Dane County district attorney. Bablitch went on to become a deputy district attorney, prosecuting one of the county's most notorious crimes.

**Contract killing** Carolyn Hudson, 37, was in her Madison home Oct. 14, 1983, when an armed man gunned her down. Her 14-year-old daughter, Jacqueline Wheeler, witnessed the killing and chased the man to his car, memorizing his license plate.

The man, Joseph Hecht, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, saying he was paid \$9,300 to kill Hudson. He refused to say who hired him. A lengthy investigation and prosecution led to the convictions of Hudson's ex-husband, Richard Wheeler, and a middleman, James Stomner, for arranging the killing.

"It was a super tough case, because it was all circumstantial evidence," said Jacqueline Wheeler, now 36 and a corporate attorney in the Milwaukee area. She credits lead prosecutor Bablitch with drawing the essential connections for jurors to convict Stomner and her father.

Wheeler said she was so impressed with Bablitch's courtroom performance and ethics that she became an attorney herself. She calls Bablitch her hero and mentor and said he helped her get her current job as an attorney with WellPoint Inc., which owns a number of BlueCross & BlueShield insurance franchises.

She thinks Bablitch has remained in her life not only because he's a decent guy but also because her mother's contract killing by her father shook him hard. "Perhaps it was just such a betrayal that he couldn't come to terms with it and had to do as much as he could to try and fix it."

Bablitch calls the case "beyond traumatic" and said it created an enduring bond between himself and Wheeler. "When I've had the ability to help her later in life, I figured that's what her mom would have wanted me to do."

Bablitch left the district attorney's office in 1985 for private practice in Madison.

"He accomplished enough as a trial lawyer in a few years to last perhaps a lifetime," said Hal Harlowe, who was district attorney at the time and calls Bablitch "intellectually gifted" and "a brilliant strategist."

**Working for Thompson** In 1986, Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson tapped Bablitch, a Democrat, to lead the state's prison system, a position Bablitch held until 1991.

Bablitch's older brother, Bill, a former Senate Democratic majority leader, knew Thompson from the years they served together in the state Legislature. Thompson and the Bablitch brothers socialized together, along with people such as Jim Klauser, Thompson's DOA secretary, and Tim Cullen, a former Democratic state senator who Thompson chose to head the Department of Health and Social Services.

"People worked together back then," Steve Bablitch said. "They had disputes, but it wasn't rancorous. That's a good model and one I'd like to follow."

Bablitch spent 1996-2002 in the corporate world, first as a lobbyist and attorney for BlueCross & BlueShield United of Wisconsin and later as board chairman and chief executive officer of Cobalt Corporation, an insurance holding company and No. 802 on Fortune Magazine's list of the largest U.S. companies.

It was during Bablitch's tenure as general counsel for BlueCross & BlueShield that the company went from being a nonprofit organization to a for-profit, publicly traded one. As a payment back to taxpayers for the years it was tax-exempt, the company created a foundation that divided nearly \$800 million between two state medical schools.

"(Bablitch) gets a lot of credit for that," said Cullen, a senior vice president with WellPoint Inc. "He quarterbacked the transaction, working with the medical schools, the insurance commissioner and the board of directors."

**A tough job** Bablitch hails from a family of public servants - his father was a longtime member of the Portage County Board of Supervisors - although he has never run for public office. Bill Bablitch said his brother isn't very partisan.

"Being as well-liked as he is on both sides of the aisle, I hope he can curb some of that excessive partisanship that goes on down there," said the older Bablitch, who retired in 2003 after 20 years on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Kaufert, the Republican assemblyman, said he has a lot of respect for Steve Bablitch but warns that the year ahead could get ugly as Doyle runs for reelection.



"(Bablitch) has a big job ahead of him in trying to keep (the partisanship) to a level that doesn't blow up the place," Kaufert said. "His challenge will be to get a governor - one who at times can be vindictive and very, very difficult - to work with the Legislature and get some things done. He can't be a partisan flak."

Sen. Neal Kedzie, R-Elkhorn, assistant Senate majority leader, said Bablitch's appointment will be closely scrutinized. "This is an extremely high-profile appointment. It's basically the right hand of the governor. I'm hopeful that the governor has forwarded us a qualified candidate."

### **Steve Bablitch**

**Age:** 51.

**Education:** Law degree from UW Law School; bachelor's degree from UW- Madison.

**Career:** Chairman and chief executive officer of Cobalt Corporation, an insurance holding company (2002-03); general counsel for Cobalt Corporation and BlueCross & BlueShield United of Wisconsin (1996-2002); member of DeWitt, Ross & Stevens (1985-87 and 1991-96); secretary of Wisconsin Department of Corrections (1990-91); administrator of Wisconsin Division of Corrections (1987-90); staff of Dane County district attorney's office (1979-85).

**Memberships:** Appointed in 2004 to six-year term on Wisconsin Investment Board; board chairman of the Wisconsin chapter of The Nature Conservancy; member of board of directors of United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

**Personal:** Married with one daughter. Bablitch grew up in Stevens Point in a family of six children. His mother died when he was an infant and his father died when Bablitch was in college. He's known as a gourmet cook, an avid trout fisherman and a fan of Point beer.



# Bablitch targets health care

## *New chief reaches across agency walls*

**By David Callender**  
**October 8, 2005**


Newly appointed Administration Secretary Steve Bablitch says he wants his agency to take the lead in making sure all Wisconsin citizens have health care coverage.

"I know a lot about health and health care coverage, and I know the landscape in this state. I also know that even though Wisconsin has one of the best insurance coverage rates in the country, there are still unmet needs out there," Bablitch said in an interview.


Bablitch, who took the reins of the state's most powerful agency last week, said he sees the Department of Administration as "a talent pool of problem-solvers. I want to bring them together and look at some health care issues."

He said he does not envision a turf battle with the Department of Health and Family Services, which administers the \$4 billion-a-year Medicaid program for the poor, elderly and disabled.

But he said that health care - from health insurance for state employees to health care coverage for the uninsured - is a major state issue that needs a fresh review.

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**Department of Administration Secretary Steve Bablitch listens to interview questions Tuesday. (Photo by Mike DeVries/The Capital Times)**

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Bablitch, who served as secretary of the Department of Corrections under Gov. Tommy Thompson, most recently

headed Cobalt Corp., the publicly traded successor to Blue Cross Wisconsin. Bablitch left Cobalt when the firm was bought out in 2003.

"When I was at Blue Cross, we went around the state ... and listened to what the public had to say" about health issues, he said.

"This is about improving public health. For example, are we doing a good job of doing childhood immunizations in this state, a good job of taking care of kids' teeth? These are not grandiose ideas."

Typically, the issue of medical care for Wisconsin citizens has been the province of the Department of Health and Family Services, which in addition to administering the Medicaid budget also oversees the Division of Public Health and a host of other health programs.

The Department of Administration, in turn, generally oversees the operations of state government, including the development of the state budget.

But with the Medicaid program one of the top five most expensive state programs and consuming an ever-growing share of the budget, "I don't think you can say it's just the job of one state agency.

"I'm not into drawing lines. I'm into finding solutions," he added. "This is not a credit thing. We have tremendous resources. We've just got to bring them to bear and try to devise solutions."

Bablitch's background: In a wide-ranging interview, Bablitch talked about his own varied background as a former Dane County prosecutor, private practice lawyer and health care executive, as well as his approach to the new job.

Bablitch has known Gov. Jim Doyle since 1978, when Doyle, then Dane County district attorney, hired Bablitch as a law school intern in the DA's office. Doyle hired him full-time as an assistant district attorney the following year after Bablitch graduated.

Bablitch stayed in the DA's office, moving up to become deputy district attorney and head of the sensitive crimes unit, until 1985.

He tried one of the highest-profile cases of the 1980s, the murder-for-hire killing of a Madison police officer's wife on the city's east side, just before he left the office.

Bablitch then went into private practice, joining the law firm of DeWitt Schumacher, now known as DeWitt Ross & Stevens, where he came to know Jim Klauser, a longtime Republican activist.

When Tommy Thompson was elected governor in 1986, Klauser became Thompson's



secretary of administration, and Thompson and Klauser tapped Bablitch to head the state Department of Corrections.

Bablitch's political ties extend to both sides of the aisle. His older brother, Bill, was the Democratic majority leader of the state Senate and later a state Supreme Court justice. And Bablitch counts among his longtime friends Tim Cullen, who served as both the Democratic Senate majority leader and then secretary of Health and Family Services under Thompson.

Cullen preceded Bablitch in joining Blue Cross, where Bablitch became vice president and general counsel and helped shift the firm from being a nonprofit to a publicly traded company.

Upon the retirement of Tom Hefty in 2002, Bablitch was promoted to CEO of Cobalt Corp., where he remained until 2003.

"I left the company because there wasn't a lot for me to do at that point," Bablitch said.

After leaving Cobalt, Bablitch began exploring several options, including a volunteer teaching job at the UW's Remington Center that provides legal assistance to low-income clients.

"The most often asked question I get is, 'Why are you doing this?'" he said. "I don't have to do this job. I want to do this job. That's a big dividing line. You have all the levers of government in this agency, and if you want to make a difference, this is a good place to do it."

Bablitch said there was one other factor in his decision to take the administration post: a chance to work with Doyle again.

"I wouldn't go to work for just anybody who's governor. I've known this governor since 1978. I admire and I respect him, and I share his values. So I feel very comfortable working for him," he said.

Bablitch added that he shares Doyle's vision of a state government that runs more efficiently and is accountable to taxpayers.

In the nearly 20 years he's been gone from state government, though, Bablitch said he has noted a growing partisanship in politics - a trend he hopes to moderate.

Bablitch reaches back to his days as a prosecutor when he and defense lawyers would fight tooth-and-nail in the courtroom and then go out for a drink after work.

"That's a good model. We were advocates and adversaries, but when we left the courtroom, we were human beings who treated each other with dignity and respect."

He describes himself as "not excessively partisan" and believes his job "is to get things done."

He said he knows both Republican leaders in the Legislature, Assembly Speaker John Gard and Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz.

"I've gotten along with them in the past, and I expect to get along with them in the future."

And the way I do that is to treat them with courtesy and respect.

"There will be differences. But for everybody to say we don't like how life under the dome has become - it's too partisan, there's too much bitterness - it's not like 'they' are doing this to anybody. It's an environment we create for ourselves. If we want to, we have the ability to change the environment."

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