

January 14, 2009 Wednesday

Final Edition

**Blagojevich prosecutor named**

By Dave McKinney

Springfield bureau chief

SPRINGFIELD-Award-winning author and lawyer David Ellis has written five mystery novels, including one that has an appearance by a "very minor" fictional character named Tony Rezko.

Not that Tony Rezko, but an innocuous lab technician.

Now, Ellis, 41, has landed a lead role in a thriller that could unhinge Gov. Blagojevich's political career once and for all.

The North Side constitutional lawyer -- general counsel to House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) -- was named by Madigan as prosecutor for Blagojevich's Jan. 26 impeachment trial in the Senate.

Blagojevich's lawyer, Ed Genson, offered high praise for Ellis.

"I think he's a wonderful lawyer, a gentleman and I'll look forward to being on the other side," he said.