

## About the Authors — Volume II

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**Sara B. Andrew** is an owner of Andrew Law Offices, S.C., in Fond du Lac and Whitefish Bay. The majority of her practice consists of real estate and estate planning. Formerly, she was legal counsel for Guaranty Title Services and a legal advisor to Information Professionals Co. (INFO PRO). Sara is the past president of the Fond du Lac County Bar Association, past president of the Association of Marquette University Women, and a recent member of the Joint Alpha Committee. She is a frequent speaker on real estate and estate planning topics and has contributed to the *Wisconsin Lawyer* by authoring articles, including one on correcting real estate documents. Sara received her undergraduate business degree and law degree from Marquette University. She is a member of the Fond du Lac and Milwaukee Bar Associations and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

**Maren Beermann** concentrates her work in the elder law fields of guardianships, advance directives, mental health, consumer protection, and protective placement and services. She graduated in 2008 from Chicago-Kent College of Law and received her undergraduate degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005. Maren is a member of the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has had articles published in the *Wisconsin Lawyer* and the *Elder Law Journal of Wisconsin*. Maren is author of chapter 15 and coauthor of chapter 16 of *Advising Older Clients and Their Families* and coauthor of *Guardianship and Protective Placement for the Elderly in Wisconsin*, both State Bar of Wisconsin publications, and has presented on many elder law topics to a variety of audiences statewide.

**Melanie L. Cairns** is a supervising attorney on the communities and institutions team at Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW). She primarily assists people with disabilities, including children, obtain appropriate services and supports in the least restrictive community-based settings. Her clients are based in Milwaukee and surrounding areas. Melanie was previously a supervising attorney with two of DRW's state-funded programs: the Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program and the Disability Benefits Specialist program. Before joining DRW in 2012, Melanie was a staff attorney at Prairie State Legal Services in northern Illinois. She received her B.A. in social work from Colorado State University (1998) and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School (2007).

**Shana Dunn** is a founding partner of West & Dunn, Waunakee, a law firm dedicated to providing high-quality legal services to individuals and businesses, with a particular focus on assisting U.S. Armed Forces veterans. Before earning her law degree, she worked as a rating specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). She graduated from Marquette Law School in 2009, where she was an articles editor for *Marquette Elder's Advisor*. In 2010, she was admitted to practice before the DVA. Since then, she has practiced exclusively in the area of veterans' law. She has contributed to the *Wisconsin Lawyer*, authoring an article on representing veterans, and regularly presents on issues relating to veterans' law.

**Margaret Wrenn Hickey** practices in the areas of divorce, family law, and elder law, including trusts for disabled persons, Title 19, and guardianships. She is a shareholder with Becker, Hickey & Poster, S.C., Milwaukee, and received her B.A. from Marquette University (1982, summa cum laude), where she was Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School (1986, cum laude). Margaret is president-elect of the State Bar of Wisconsin. She served on the State Bar of Wisconsin Board of Governors (2005–15; Chair, 2006–07, Treasurer, 2009–11), is on the Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Committee and the Leadership Development Committee, and has been chair of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section and Family Law Section boards. She is a past president of the Milwaukee Bar Association. Margaret lectures frequently on elder law and family law at local, state, and national bar meetings and to

community groups. Margaret is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Bar Association, the Waukesha Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Association for Women Lawyers and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Ann S. Jacobs** is the founder of Jacobs Injury Law, S.C. She received her B.A. with distinction in 1989 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1992 (cum laude). She began her legal career as a public defender before changing her emphasis to personal-injury litigation. Her practice includes personal-injury, medical malpractice, and nursing home abuse and neglect cases on behalf of injured persons. She is a frequent speaker on the topics of litigation, subrogation, and ethics. She is a past president of the Wisconsin Association for Justice, a founding member of their Women's Caucus, and a board member for the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund. She is a coauthor of chapters in the State Bar of Wisconsin books *The Law of Damages in Wisconsin* and *Advising Older Clients and Their Families*. She currently is chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

**Mark T. Johnson** is a partner with Johnson Teigen, LLC, Fitchburg, where he practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, elder law, special needs planning, and real estate. Mr. Johnson is a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA), as designated by the National Elder Law Foundation and recognized by the American Bar Association for specialty certification. He graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and he has a bachelor of music degree from St. Olaf College and a master of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin (including its Elder Law and Special Needs and Real Property, Probate and Trust sections), the Dane County Bar Association, and the Madison Estate Council. He is the past president of the Wisconsin Chapter of NAELA. Mr. Johnson has published articles in the *Wisconsin Law Review*, *Wisconsin Lawyer*, *Elder Law Journal of Wisconsin*, and *NAELA News* and has contributed to various publications of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Mr. Johnson serves on the Dane County Financial Abuse Specialist Team and the Dane County Dementia Friendly Financial Group.

**Dayna J. Lefebvre** is a shareholder with the law firm of Becker, Hickey & Poster, S.C., Milwaukee, and practices elder law, special needs planning, estate planning, guardianships, and probate and trust administration. She received her undergraduate degree from Marquette University (cum laude) and her J.D. from Marquette University Law School (cum laude). Dayna is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and serves on the Insurance and Member Benefits Committee. She served as chair of the Milwaukee Bar Association Elder Law Section for several years and is currently a member of the Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Waukesha Bar Associations, the Milwaukee Estate Planning Forum, and the Association for Women Lawyers. She volunteers with the Wills for Heroes program and the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic.

**Robert J. Lightfoot** is chair of the long-term care, assisted living, and senior independent housing practice group at the Madison office of Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren s.c. He is also a Registered Nurse. Robert's practice focuses on the representation of owners and operators of health-care companies and facilities, such as assisted-living and skilled-nursing facilities, in the areas of regulatory compliance, administrative appeals, licensing, health-care facility operations, employee matters, risk management, contracts, and the acquisition and sales of such facilities. He also represents licensed health-care professionals in matters before the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. He is a current board member and past president of the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association and serves as counsel for LeadingAge Wisconsin, the nonprofit-nursing-home association in Wisconsin. He is also a past board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Health Law Section, a former State Bar District 9

governor, and a member of the American Health Lawyers Association (long-term care, senior housing section). Robert is a frequent speaker on issues facing assisted-living and skilled-nursing facilities.

**Heather B. Poster** is a shareholder with Becker, Hickey & Poster, S.C., Milwaukee, and practices family law, estate planning, and elder law, including trusts for disabled persons, Title 19 planning, and guardianship. She received her B.A. in behavioral science from the University of Wisconsin in 1999 (with distinction) and her J.D. from Marquette Law School in 2002. Ms. Poster is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Elder Law and Special Needs Section board. She is a past chair (2007, 2012) of the board for WisPACT, Inc., the nonprofit organization that oversees pooled and community trusts for elderly and disabled persons, and is a frequent contributor to the *Elder Law & Special Needs Journal of Wisconsin*. Ms. Poster is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Bar Association, the Association for Women Lawyers, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorney's Steering Committee on Trusts and Special Needs Trusts. She lectures extensively on Title 19 (Medicaid) planning for disabled and elderly persons, special needs and pooled trust planning, and guardianship and advanced directive issues.

**Amy M. Risseuw** practices in the personal-injury section of Peterson, Berk & Cross, S.C., in Appleton and Green Bay. She has tried many cases to verdict in multiple areas of personal-injury law, including automobile accidents, dog attacks, premises liability, and medical malpractice. Ms. Risseuw has also handled numerous appellate matters, appearing in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Outagamie County Bar Association, and the Wisconsin Association for Justice. Ms. Risseuw received her J.D. (cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Kate Schilling** is an attorney and the Legal Services Manager at Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., where she oversees the Senior Medicare Patrol, the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center, and the Elder Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney program. She works predominantly in the areas of elder law, public benefits, and consumer law. Previously, she was in private practice in New Richmond, Wisconsin, where she practiced in estate planning, Medicaid benefits, guardianship, and general civil litigation. Kate is a board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder Law and Special Needs Section and a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Before attending law school, Kate coordinated supports for adults with developmental disabilities, and she currently serves as a volunteer guardian for a woman with a disability living in Madison. She is also a volunteer at high school mock-trial events, local free legal clinics, and Wills for Heroes. Kate is also the proud parent of a nine-year-old son with special health-care needs.

**Gretchen Viney** is a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she is the director of the Lawyering Skills program (formerly General Practice). She previously practiced law in Baraboo. She received her B.A. with highest honors from the University of Wyoming and her J.D. with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Professor Viney is the author of chapter 6 (Guardianship: Wis. Stat. Ch. 54) of the *Guardian ad Litem Handbook*, coauthor of *Guardianship and Protective Placement for the Elderly in Wisconsin*, and coauthor of chapter 16 (Guardianship and Protective Placement) of *Advising Older Clients and Their Families*.

**Carol J. Wessels** has been practicing elder and disability law since 1991 and is the owner of Wessels & Liebau LLC in Mequon, Wisconsin. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1988. In addition to traditional elder law, she handles contested litigation cases including guardianship, trust, and probate issues, and appeals in Medicaid cases. She has litigated cases on the state and federal level, including briefing to the U.S. Supreme Court. The most critical career-shaping experience for Carol was caring for her parents in their final years of living with cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Carol has also appeared in media and on television, including *Dr. Phil*. She also shares her knowledge with others

through lectures and continuing legal education courses. She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) board, past chair of and current advisor to the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder Law and Special Needs Section, and past chair of and current advisor to the Wisconsin Chapter of NAELA. She is also past chair of the State Bar's Public Interest Law Section and the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Outside her practice, Carol serves on the board of the Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin (chair, Public Policy Committee; ambassador to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin).

**Travis James West** is a founding partner of West & Dunn, a small law firm based in southern Wisconsin with a national practice dedicated to providing high-quality legal services to individuals and businesses, with a particular focus on assisting veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Before earning his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, Travis served in special operations as a member of the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment. Travis's practice focuses primarily upon complex business and commercial litigation, employment disputes, and real estate dispute. In addition, a substantial portion of his practice focuses on assisting fellow veterans with disability claims pending before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Travis is a member of the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA) and serves on the organization's Amicus and Litigation Committee.

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