

About the Authors — Volume II

Andrew J. Adams is an associate attorney at West & Dunn, LLC, in Baraboo, 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. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2018. As an associate at a firm that maintains a niche practice assisting with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' matters, Adams works with veterans on a regular basis to help meet their day-to-day legal needs. He has begun to concentrate in commercial transactions, contracts, and probate and estate matters. He also serves as the treasurer for the Sauk County Bar Association.

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 chapter 16 of *Advising Older Clients and Their Families* and author of *Guardianship and Protective Placement for Older Adults in Wisconsin*, both State Bar of Wisconsin publications, and has presented on many elder law topics to a variety of audiences statewide.

Sarah Davis is a distinguished clinical professor of law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and director of the Center for Patient Partnerships at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She concentrates her work in the consumer health law fields of health advocacy and patient rights, health insurance appeals and grievances, and advance directives. Sarah has had articles published in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*; *Wisconsin Law Review*; *Journal of General Internal Medicine*; and *Health Affairs*. Sarah is a member of the board of Disability Rights

Wisconsin, a volunteer guardian, and the author of chapter 13 of the State Bar of Wisconsin publication *Advising Older Clients and Their Families*.

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.

Sean P. Griffin is an associate attorney at West & Dunn, LLC, in 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. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2023. As an associate at a firm that maintains a substantial practice assisting veterans, veteran-owned businesses, and veteran-oriented organizations, Mr. Griffin works with veterans on a regular basis to help meet their day-to-day legal needs. His practice focuses on litigation, including representing veterans and veteran-owned and -oriented businesses and practice before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Margaret Wrenn Hickey practices in the areas of divorce, family law, and elder law including trusts for disabled persons, title 19, and guardianship. She is a shareholder at 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 a past president of the State Bar of Wisconsin (2022–23) and has served on the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Board of Governors (District 2, 2018–21, 2005–15, chair 2006–07, treasurer 2009–11). Margaret served as chair of the Family Law Section and Elder Law and Special Needs Section boards. She is a past president of the Milwaukee Bar Association (2004–05) and was on the board from 1999 to 2005. Margaret also is on the board of the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund (president 2021) and was on the boards of the Legal Aid Society and public radio station WUWM. Margaret lectures frequently on elder law and family law at local, state, and national bar meetings and to community groups and other professionals. Margaret is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Bar Association, the Waukesha and Ozaukee Bar Associations, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Association for Women Lawyers and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the Wisconsin Law Foundation, and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (president, Wisconsin Chapter, 2005–06.) She is named in the Best Lawyers in America for family and elder law and has been named as a “Super Lawyer” for many years, a top 10 lawyer in Wisconsin in 2012, as one of the top 25 women lawyers in the state, and as a “Woman in the Law 2011.” She is also a diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers.

Ann S. Jacobs is the founder of Jacobs Injury Law, S.C. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School (cum laude). She began her legal career as a public defender before changing her emphasis to personal-injury litigation. She founded her firm, Jacobs Injury Law, in 2013. Her practice includes personal injuries, medical malpractice, and nursing home abuse and neglect on behalf of injured persons. Ms. Jacobs is a frequent speaker on the topics of litigation, subrogation, and ethics. She is a past president of the Wisconsin Association for Justice (WAJ) and a founding member of the WAJ’s Women’s Caucus and received the Robert L. Habush Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, the WAJ’s highest honor. She serves on the board of 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 has been named to Superlawyers for 20 years and has also been named to Best Lawyers and Best Law Firm. She is a commissioner on the Wisconsin Elections Commission and currently serves as its chair.

Dayna J. Lefebvre is a shareholder at Becker, Hickey & Poster, S.C., Milwaukee, and practices elder law, special needs planning, estate planning, guardianships, and probate and trust administration. Dayna speaks and writes extensively on the topics of elder law and special needs planning and was an adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School, where she taught estate planning and gift and estate tax courses. Dayna serves on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and co-chairs several committees and workgroups for the Chapter. She also serves on the Insurance and Member Benefits Committee for the State Bar of Wisconsin and served as co-chair of the Elder Law Section of the Milwaukee Bar Association from 2015 to 2019.

Robert J. Lightfoot is chair of the health care group at the Madison office of Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren s.c. He is also a licensed Registered Nurse. Robert’s law 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 facility acquisition and sales. He also represents licensed health care professionals before the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. He is legal counsel to the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, for which he is a past president and a current board member. Robert is also legal counsel to LeadingAge Wisconsin, the nonprofit nursing home association in Wisconsin, and serves on the national association’s Legal Committee. He is also a past board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Health Law Section, a former State Bar District 9 Governor, a member of the American Health Lawyers Association (long-term care, senior housing section), and a Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellow. Robert is a frequent speaker on issues facing assisted-living and skilled-nursing facilities.

Avery J. Mayne is an elder and special needs law attorney and shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, S.C., Milwaukee. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri and her law degree from Marquette University Law School. Avery focuses her practice on issues of asset protection, public benefit qualification and appeals, guardianships and protective placements, and financial exploitation of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Avery is Certified as an Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation, the only national organization accredited by the American Bar Association to certify practitioners of elder and special needs law. She is a member of the Wisconsin and national chapters of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and on the board of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder and Special Needs Law Section.

Anna F.C. Muñoz is the Senior Director, Legal Operations, Licensing, and Risk at Brookdale Senior Living Inc., where she manages health-care licensing including initial, renewal, and change-of-ownership applications for the company's assisted-living and skilled-nursing facilities and continuing care retirement communities. In addition to advising on regulatory compliance matters, she also serves as risk manager and business process owner for Brookdale's internal quality monitoring tools. Anna received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and her J.D. from Marquette University Law School. She is an active volunteer with the State Bar of Wisconsin, having served on the Board of Governors and as State Bar Secretary, and continues to be active on the Leadership Development Committee.

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, the Wisconsin Association for Justice, and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Ms. Risseuw received her J.D.

(cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

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. Carol is a Fellow of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), a member of the NAELA board, a past chair of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder Law and Special Needs Section, and a past chair of and current advisor to the Wisconsin Chapter of NAELA. She is also a 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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