

About the Judicial Commentators

Hon. Laura A. Crivello is a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge, presiding over Branch 36 since 2018. In her current role, she oversees cases involving homicide and sexual assault and presides over the felony, homicide, and sexual assault divisions. Prior to this role, she led the Milwaukee Children’s Division as its presiding judge, a position she assumed in September 2019. Judge Crivello also contributes to legal education as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at Marquette University Law School, where she has taught since 2018. She regularly presents at judicial education programs on subjects including pretrial issues, suppression motions, evidence admissibility, search warrants, treatment courts, and other areas of criminal law. Additionally, she serves on the Wisconsin Criminal Jury Instructions Committee.

Hon. Jacob B. Frost has served on the circuit court bench for Dane County since 2020. Before his appointment and election to the bench, he was a shareholder in the Boardman Clark law firm, where he practiced for 10 years. Judge Frost graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2010.

Hon. Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz has served on the circuit court bench for Racine County since 2010. Before his election to the bench, he was a shareholder in the Racine law firm of Hanson & Gasiorkiewicz, S.C., where he practiced for 35 years. Judge Gasiorkiewicz is a 1974 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law and former law clerk to Justice L.A. Smith Jr., of the Mississippi Supreme Court. He is a frequent faculty member of the state judicial training programs and formerly served as the chair of the Civil Benchbook Committee. He also is a judicial representative on the Wisconsin Judicial Council and serves on the Wisconsin Judicial Education Committee.

Hon. Julie Genovese was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 13 in April 2009. She is Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District. She was previously an attorney for 20 years, practicing in the areas of civil litigation and mediation. She spent 11 years with the law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP, where she became the Madison office’s first woman litigation partner. She also taught at the University of Wisconsin Law School and served as a special investigator for the Office of Lawyer

Regulation. She was the law clerk to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson during the 1987–88 term. Judge Genovese has served on the Wisconsin Juvenile Jury Instructions Committee and the Judicial Education Committee. As an Associate Dean to the Wisconsin Judicial College, she has taught case management and judicial ethics. Judge Genovese received her A.B. degree from Harvard University and her J.D. from Vanderbilt.

Hon. Jean M. Kies has served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge since her election in 2016. Her present assignment is in the Large Claims Civil Division. She has previously presided over homicide, sexual assault, general felony, misdemeanor, criminal traffic, domestic violence, and child abuse cases. Judge Kies serves on the Legislative Committee for the State Judicial Conference and heads the Generative AI Committee for the Milwaukee County Courts. Prior to taking the bench, she was in private practice, focusing on litigation in state and federal courts. She is a 1991 graduate of Marquette University Law School.

Hon. Laura Gramling Perez was elected to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 2014. Before that she served as the Presiding Judicial Court Commissioner in Milwaukee, as a litigation shareholder at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. in Milwaukee, and as an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in New York. Judge Perez serves as a member of the Wisconsin State Courts Planning and Policy Advisory Committee and the Juvenile Benchbook Committee and is a prior chair of the Wisconsin Juvenile Jury Instructions Committee. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan and her undergraduate degree from the Columbia College of Columbia University.

Hon. Mark Sanders is a 1993 graduate of Marquette University Law School (cum laude). He was elected to Branch 28 of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 2012 after more than 15 years as a Milwaukee County assistant district attorney. On the bench, Judge Sanders currently presides over a newly created Mental Health Docket. He previously presided over various courts including homicide and sexual assault (more than five years) and termination of parental rights (four years). Judge Sanders was the co-chair of the 2022 Wisconsin Judicial Conference. He has been appointed by the chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to serve as an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Education Committee, and a member of the Criminal Jury Instructions Committee. Judge Sanders is also an adjunct

faculty member at Marquette University Law School and is a regular presenter at judicial education seminars and other events around the state.

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