

## About the Authors

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**Gabrielle B. Adams** is a partner in the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell LLP, where she is a member of the Technology, Manufacturing and Transportation team. Ms. Adams represents clients of all sizes, from individuals to corporations, in a variety of state and federal actions involving issues related to products liability, personal injury, insurance coverage, and contractual disputes. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, Milwaukee Bar Association, and American Bar Association. Ms. Adams received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Malinda J. Eskra** is a shareholder in the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., where she serves as the co-chair of the firm's Appellate Practice Group. Her practice as a civil trial attorney involves complex commercial litigation, focusing on Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) related litigation, as well as commercial contract disputes. Attorney Eskra received her B.A. in political science and criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. from Marquette University Law School where she was a member of the *Marquette Law Review*. Following graduation, Attorney Eskra served as a law clerk in both the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin (Litigation and Appellate Sections), American Bar Association (Litigation and Appellate Sections), Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, and Milwaukee Bar Association, and is the former president of the Association for Women Lawyers.

**Norman D. Farnam** is a member of Stroud, Willink & Howard, LLC, Madison. His practice focuses on business and commercial litigation, including assisting lender clients with foreclosures, debt restructuring, and commercial-loan workouts. He also represents clients in trademark and copyright matters. He has appeared before state and federal trial courts, administrative tribunals, and the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Farnam received his undergraduate degree from Northern Illinois University and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1999.

He is admitted to practice in the state of Wisconsin, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is a member of the Dane County Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

**Sarah E. Korte** is an associate in the La Crosse law firm of Moen Sheehan Meyer, Ltd. She received her B.A. (summa cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and her J.D. (summa cum laude) from Mitchell Hamline School of Law. She served as a managing editor for Volume 39 of the *Hamline Law Review* and for Volume 42 of the *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*. She writes about agricultural and food issues, including an article published in Volume 38 of the *Hamline Law Review*. Her practice concentrates on civil litigation.

**John J. Laubmeier** is a member of Stroud, Willink & Howard, LLC, Madison. His practice focuses on litigation and dispute resolution. He has represented clients in contract disputes, business torts, banking matters, construction law, real estate litigation, and insurance defense. He has represented clients in jury trials, arbitrations, numerous dispositive motion proceedings, and before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Laubmeier received his undergraduate degree (finance, with distinction) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and law degree (magna cum laude, Order of the Coif) from the University of Wisconsin Law School. He is a member of the Dane County Bar Association, State Bar of Wisconsin, and James E. Doyle American Inn of Court.

**Jeffrey A. Mandell** is a partner at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, where his practice focuses on litigation and appeals. He is co-chair of both the firm's Election & Political Law Practice Group and its Appellate Practice Group. He received his J.D. with high honors in 2006 from the University of Chicago Law School, after which he served as a law clerk to the Honorable A. Raymond Randolph on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He is admitted to practice in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. He is a fellow of both the American Bar Foundation and the Wisconsin Bar Foundation.

**Marsha M. Mansfield** is a Distinguished Clinical Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin Law School and the director of LIFT DANE (Legal Interventions for Transforming Dane County) Initiative, a collaborative effort to increase economic prosperity by addressing

underlying civil legal barriers and transforming court systems through the use of technology. She also serves as of counsel with Hawks Quindel S.C. in Madison, Wisconsin. She served two terms on Wisconsin's Access to Justice Commission and has long been involved in both state and local bar activities as past president of the Dane County Bar Association and as a member of both the State Bar of Wisconsin and the American Bar Association. She served for 10 years on the Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation District Committee and has lectured on professional responsibility at the University of Wisconsin Law School and at numerous seminars. She helped create the University of Wisconsin Law School's Pro Bono Project and served on its steering committee for several years.

**Brittany S. Ogden** is a partner at the Madison office of Quarles & Brady, LLP and the chair of its Wisconsin offices' Bankruptcy, Restructuring & Creditor's Rights Practice Group. With her commercial litigation and bankruptcy practice in state and federal courts, she focuses on creditor's rights work, regularly representing financial institutions, equipment finance companies, secured and unsecured creditors, loan servicers, trustees and creditor committees. She is commonly involved with Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 bankruptcy proceedings and receiverships, including cases under Wis. Stat. ch. 128. She routinely represents clients in the agricultural industry. Ms. Ogden obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated from the Syracuse University College of Law. She is admitted to practice law in the state of New York, the state of Wisconsin, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Turnaround Management Association, the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, and the James E. Doyle American Inn of Court. She is an active member of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association, serving as a co-chair for its Amicus Brief Committee and a member of its Service Provider's Committee.

**Randy J. Pflum** is an attorney in the Madison office of Quarles & Brady, LLP in the Bankruptcy, Restructuring & Creditor's Rights Practice Group. After graduating from law school, Mr. Pflum served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Catherine J. Furay of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. He also had the privilege of serving as a short-term judicial clerk for the Honorable Timothy A. Barnes of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

**Steven J. Schooler** was employed by Porchlight, Inc. as executive director from 2000 through 2017. He was formerly a shareholder in the law firm of Lawton & Cates, S.C. He received his B.A. from George Washington University in 1977 and his J.D. (magna cum laude) from the University of Michigan in 1981. He was co-editor of the *Wisconsin Civil Litigation Forms Manual*, published by the State Bar of Wisconsin.

At the time of his passing in 2021, **Kurt M. Simatic** was a partner at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, where he focused on litigation, government law, and appeals. He received his J.D. (cum laude) from Marquette University Law School, after which he served as a law clerk to the Honorable David T. Prosser, Jr. on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He will be remembered by colleagues, adversaries, and clients alike for bringing to bear on his love of the law both a keen intellect and a dry wit.

**Jason K. Smathers** is an attorney in the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell LLP, where he is a member of the General Assignment Associate team. Mr. Smathers works on a range of complex legal issues ranging from franchise disputes to Fair Labor Standards Act class actions to insurance issues. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association. Before his legal career, Mr. Smathers worked for six years as a reporter for media outlets such as the Associated Press and Wispolitics.com. Mr. Smathers received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.

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**Jennifer L. Vandermeuse** is an assistant attorney general with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, where she handles a wide range of civil appeals and complex civil litigation. Ms. Vandermeuse graduated cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School and earned her

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**Aaron R. Wegrzyn** is a litigator in Foley & Lardner LLP's Consumer Law, Finance & Class Action practice group. Based in Foley's Milwaukee office, Mr. Wegrzyn regularly assists clients with a wide range of civil litigation matters, both in Wisconsin state court and federal courts across the country. The primary focus of his practice is in defending clients involved in class actions, including consumer-protection, fraud, products-liability, breach-of-warranty, and antitrust claims. He also is a co-editor of Foley's class-action and consumer-protection blog, *Consumer Class Defense Counsel*, <https://www.foley.com/en/insights/blogs/consumer-class-defense-counsel>. Following his undergraduate education at Marquette University, Mr. Wegrzyn earned his law degree with honors from the University of Chicago Law School, where he served as the book review and essay editor of *The University of Chicago Law Review* (Volume 80). Mr. Wegrzyn previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Michael B. Brennan on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, and the Milwaukee Bar Association.

**Andrew S. Wier** is a shareholder at Habush & Rottier S.C.<sup>®</sup>, practicing at the firm's Kenosha office, and his practice includes all types of personal injury claims. Before joining Habush & Rottier S.C. in 2014, Mr. Wier served for five years as an assistant district attorney in the Racine County District Attorney's Office. He served as the president of the Kenosha County Bar Association in 2017 and as a police and fire commissioner in the village of Caledonia from 2012 to 2019. Mr. Wier received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Two articles he coauthored with attorney Jesse Blocher, titled *Earn Your Stripes, Part 1: How to Get Civil Trial Experience* and *Earn Your Stripes, Part 2: How to Get Through a Civil Trial*, were published in *Wisconsin Lawyer*. He is actively involved in his church and resides in Union Grove with his wife, Angela, and their four children.

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