

## About the Authors

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**Gabrielle B. Adams** is a partner at Husch Blackwell LLP, Milwaukee, 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, the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, the Milwaukee Bar Association, and the 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.

**Kara M. Burgos** is a New York native who received her B.A. magna cum laude from Saint Bonaventure University and her J.D. cum laude from Marquette University Law School. She is admitted to practice in Wisconsin state courts and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin. Ms. Burgos, a partner with Moen Sheehan Meyer, Ltd., La Crosse, joined the firm in 1995. She is a member of the La Crosse County Bar Association, for which she served as secretary from 1997 to 1998, and is a past president of Wisconsin Defense Counsel. She is also a past president of the board for Bethany St. Joseph Corporation, La Crosse; a past board member of Coulee Council on Addictions, Inc., and Western Technical College; and a current board member of Karuna Inc., a community nonprofit in La Crosse focused on housing solutions for homeless people. In 2000, Ms. Burgos was selected by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to serve on the Special Preliminary Review Panel for the Office of Lawyer Regulation, a panel that investigates ethical complaints against lawyers. She was the panel's chairperson in 2007 until her lifetime limit of terms expired. She also chaired District 5 of the Office of Lawyer Regulation. Ms. Burgos is court commissioner for La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez and was appointed by Judge Gonzalez in November 2006.

**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. Mr. 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.

**Carly Gerads** is a senior associate at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, Milwaukee. She focuses her practice on litigation, appeals, and election and political law. Prior to joining Stafford Rosenbaum, Ms. Gerads clerked for three years at the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Ms. Gerads received her undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University.

**Clayton P. Kowski** is an assistant attorney general with the Wisconsin Department of Justice in the Special Litigation & Appeals Unit. He handles complex civil litigation and civil appeals. Mr. Kowski graduated summa cum laude from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2007 and summa cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2003 with a degree in finance. Before becoming an assistant attorney general, Mr. Kowski was an attorney with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Madison and clerked for Justice David T. Prosser, Jr., of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Mr. Kowski also has experience as a Wisconsin circuit court judge; he was appointed in 2016 by Governor Scott Walker to Branch 12 of the Dane County Circuit Court, where he presided over 19 jury trials.

**Benjamin W. Kuhlmann** is an associate attorney at Laffey, Leitner & Goode LLC, a nationally recognized litigation and trial firm located in the heart of Milwaukee in the Third Ward. He concentrates in a wide variety of civil litigation work, from commercial disputes to probate litigation. Mr. Kuhlmann graduated from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and has clerked at the Wisconsin Court of Appeals District III. When not poring over legal manuscripts, he indulges in his passions: running, cycling, and rewatching *My Cousin Vinnie* so he can emulate the best in the business.

**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

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**Maura K. Logue** is an associate at Laffey, Leitner & Goode LLC, Milwaukee, where her practice as a civil trial attorney focuses on complex commercial litigation, including disputes involving unfair competition, fraud and aggravated torts, franchise and dealership law, construction and real estate law, and contracts. Ms. Logue received her B.S. in healthcare management and policy from Georgetown University, her M.A. in forensic psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and her J.D. from Marquette University Law School. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, including the Litigation and Business Law Sections and Young Lawyers Division; the American Bar Association, including the Litigation Section, Business Law Section, Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law Section, and Young Lawyers Division; the Milwaukee Bar Association; the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association; the Defense Research Institute; and the Association of Women Lawyers. Ms. Logue regularly volunteers with the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, including the Milwaukee Justice Center and the Mobile Legal Clinic.

**Marsha M. Mansfield** is the director of LIFT Wisconsin and Emeritus Distinguished Clinical Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, as well as of counsel with Hawks Quindel, S.C., Madison. Ms. Mansfield served two terms on the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission and has long been involved in both state and local bar activities as a past president of the Dane County Bar Association and as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the American Bar Association. Ms. Mansfield served for 10 years on a 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 the 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 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 the Amicus Brief Committee and a member of the Service Providers Committee.

**Randy J. Pflum** is an attorney in the Madison office of Quarles & Brady, LLP. He focuses his practice on bankruptcy and insolvency, debt collection, and litigation. His experience includes representing clients in various stages of commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and Wis. Stat. ch. 128 receiverships. Mr. Pflum also has extensive knowledge of automatic-stay, dischargeable-debt, and related plan-confirmation issues. 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.

**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. Mr. Schooler was coauthor of a chapter on compensatory damages in *The Law of Damages in Wisconsin* and co-editor of the *Wisconsin Civil Litigation Forms Manual* and is coauthor of a chapter in *Wisconsin Civil Procedure Before Trial*, all published by the State Bar of Wisconsin.

**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, from ERISA lawsuits to mass tort suits to landlord-tenant issues. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the 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.

**Pahoua Thao** is a senior associate at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, Madison, where her practice focuses on municipal litigation and data privacy. She received her law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin. Ms. Thao is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Bench and Bar Committee.

**Aaron R. Wegrzyn** is an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. He previously worked in private practice for Gass Turek LLC and Foley & Lardner LLP, Milwaukee, assisting clients with high-stakes lawsuits in the financial services, manufacturing, and health-care sectors. 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). Before law school, he attended Marquette University, where he received his undergraduate degree magna cum laude, majoring in economics, English, and history. Mr. Wegrzyn served as a law clerk to the Honorable Michael B. Brennan of 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 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 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 2022 and served 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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