

## About the Authors

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**Amber L. Ault**, Ph.D., MSW, earned a Ph.D. centered on the sociology of sex and gender (The Ohio State University) and then completed a National Institutes of Mental Health postdoctoral fellowship in mental health services research (University of Wisconsin–Madison), focusing on the social history of the psychiatric diagnosis of gender identity disorder. Amber subsequently earned an MSW at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and sought clinical experience in the crisis unit of Journey Mental Health as part of her training. She has worked in crisis and emergency settings, primary care, her own private practice, and joined the State Bar of Wisconsin as manager of the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) in October 2023.

**Patrice A. Baker** is in her first year as a vice president director, trust administration services at the BMO Private Bank. She retired in July 2025 after 20 years of serving the residents of Milwaukee County as a judicial court commissioner in the Probate Division. She is a 1988 graduate of Marquette University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She attended Marquette on a basketball scholarship. She is a 1991 graduate of Marquette University Law School. Before her employment with Milwaukee County, she was in private practice for 13 years. She is an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Marquette women’s basketball team. She is the former board president for the National Alliance on Mental Illness–Greater Milwaukee.

**Amanda Mary-Myriah Hall** is a supervising attorney at Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) in the Madison office. She practices federal and state disability benefits law. Before her work with DRW, she represented individuals in mental health and substance abuse involuntary commitment cases. She served on Madison’s city council for two terms and championed affordable accessible housing for people with disabilities. She serves on the board of Inclusive Performance, a nonprofit CrossFit gym for kids and adults with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities. Hall herself battles ADHD, depression, and anxiety and recognizes her access to excellent health-care providers, medication, and fitness practices as vital to managing this. She recognizes the privilege in having access to these resources and continues to advocate for increased accessibility to mental health therapies in all forms for all Wisconsinites.

**Amanda R. R. Mayer** is the deputy director at Judicare Legal Aid in Wausau, Wisconsin. Her practice has focused on a variety of areas, including family law, crime victim rights, and public benefits. Ms. Mayer works closely with community agencies in the Judicare service area to provide services to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, as well as supervising attorneys who engage in similar work. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Family Law Section board. Before joining Judicare, she worked at a nonprofit in Milwaukee with a focus on family law for low-income and indigent individuals. She received her undergraduate degree in political theory and constitutional democracy from Michigan State University in 2009 and her law degree from Marquette University Law School in 2012.

**Maeve Pirt Meyer** is a senior associate with Hawks Quindel, S.C. She practices primarily in Social Security Disability law and in related areas of disability, including special needs trusts and guardianship. Prior to this position, Maeve also practiced litigation in guardianship, probate law, elder law, and personal injury. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR), and the Dane County Bar Association and is a past president of the NAMI Dane County board. She regularly presents locally and nationally on Social Security Disability and related topics to legal professionals and to the public. Maeve is a contributing author to *Advising Older Clients and Their Families* and to *Recognizing and Serving Clients with Mental Health Concerns*, both published by the State Bar of Wisconsin. She received a B.S. in biology from the University of North Carolina as a Katharine Smith Reynolds scholar and a J.D. from Marquette University Law School.

**Megan L. Sprecher** (she/her) is a graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington and the University of St. Thomas School of Law. She is a supervising attorney with Legal Action of Wisconsin, where she works on barriers to employment issues. Before joining Legal Action, Ms. Sprecher was the Immigration and Poverty Law Attorney at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and a senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. She serves on the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts.