

About the Author

Matthew W. Giesfeldt was an assistant state public defender (SPD) from 2015 to 2024, when he became an assistant federal defender for the Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin. At the SPD, he worked in the juvenile unit of the SPD's Madison trial office for seven years, and thereafter, he worked in the Madison Appellate Office. He was also the SPD's family defense practice coordinator, assisting private bar and SPD attorneys statewide with cases regarding children in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and termination of parental rights (TPR). He is a founder and board member of the Student Expulsion Prevention Project. To date, he has given more than 115 legal trainings to lawyers, judges, social workers, police officers, law students, and other individuals. He taught graduate-level classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Education (legal rights and responsibilities for teachers). He also formed a 501(c)(3) organization in 2009—the Mama Goose Memorial Run/Walk, which has raised funds for cancer research.

Author of First and Second Editions

Judith Sperling-Newton