About the Authors

Katie York was appointed to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District IV, in November 2026. Before that, she served in many roles for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD). Katie represented SPD clients as an assistant state public defender in both the trial and appellate divisions, where she litigated in circuit courts around the state, all four Wisconsin Court of Appeals districts, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Throughout her SPD career, Katie served in several leadership roles, including as a local attorney manager, deputy trial division director, appellate division director, Deputy State Public Defender, and Acting State Public Defender.

Alaina Fahley has been with the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD) since August 2013. She works in the Appleton trial office, serving youth and parents in counties throughout northeastern Wisconsin, especially in the areas of children in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and termination-of-parental-rights (TPR) litigation, and is the agency's Family Defense Practice Coordinator. She received her B.A. in social welfare and justice from Marquette University in 2010 and her J.D. from Marquette University in 2013. She has served two separate terms as the chair of the Children & the Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin and has presented at the State Bar's Annual Meeting & Conference and the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts, and she has also trained attorneys in other states. She has authored several articles related to child welfare and youth justice issues, was a 2024 Ambassador for Racial Justice through the Gault Center and the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative, and was the recipient of the Grant F. Langley Service Award from the Government Lawyers Section of the State Bar in 2026.

Jessica Fehrenbach is a circuit court judge in Lincoln County. She was formerly a local attorney manager for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders' office in Merrill. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and her law degree at Drake Law School.

Eileen Fredericks is a staff attorney for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD). She works in the Madison trial office in the youth and mental health unit. In addition, she is the youth defense practice coordinator for the SPD. In this position, she helps with trainings related to juvenile law and is available as a resource to all SPD attorneys taking juvenile cases around the state. She is a member of the National Advisory Board of the Gault Center (formerly the National Juvenile Defender Center) and a co-director of the Great Lakes Regional Advisory Board for the Gault Center.

Matthew W. Giesfeldt was an assistant state public defender with the Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD) from 2015 to 2024, when he became an assistant federal defender for Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin. He worked in the juvenile unit of the SPD's Madison trial office for seven years, and thereafter, he worked in the SPD's 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. He has given more than 115 legal trainings to lawyers, judges, social workers, law enforcement 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). In 2009, he formed a 501(c)(3) organization, the Mama Goose Memorial Run/Walk, which has raised funds for cancer research.

Imani Hollie is an attorney with the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender Office. She was formerly a staff attorney with the Illinois Prison Project and an assistant state public defender in Green Bay, Wisconsin, specializing in youth delinquency, child protection, and emerging adult criminal cases.

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Originally from Los Angeles, California, Imani is an alumna of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Imani was a law clerk at the office of the Cook County Public Defender in the juvenile justice division. She also interned for Lawndale Christian Legal Center, a nonprofit organization located on the west side of Chicago, where she represented youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings. Additionally, Imani represented students in suspension, expulsion, and individualized education program (IEP) meetings as a student-advocate for Loyola's SUFEO (Stand Up For Each Other), a student-run organization that provides free information and services for kindergarten through 12th-grade students facing suspension, bullying, or exclusion from school.

Faun Moses is the District Court Administrator for District 5 of the Wisconsin Court System. She previously served with the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD) in various roles, including as the appellate division director and as a regional attorney manager in the trial division.

Elisabeth Stockbridge defends youth in her role as a trial attorney with the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Fall River, Massachusetts. She formerly was an assistant state public defender in the Wisconsin State Public Defenders' Shawano trial office, where she represented juveniles in delinquency cases and children and parents in children-in-need-of-protection-or-services and termination-of-parental-rights cases. Attorney Stockbridge has trained youth defense attorneys across Wisconsin. She is a 2009 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Jacob Van Kerkvoorde is the local attorney manager in the Dodge County office of the Wisconsin State Public Defenders (SPD). He earned his undergraduate degree in legal studies and sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and his law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he was a ChildLaw Fellow at the Civitas ChildLaw Center. Jacob previously worked as a staff attorney in the SPD's Sheboygan office.

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