

BENJAMIN R. JONES

EXPERIENCE

DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, BRANCH 1 Madison, Wisconsin

Judge, 2025 to present

- Appointed by Governor Tony Evers to fill vacancy caused by Justice Susan Crawford's election to Wisconsin Supreme Court
- Manage and adjudicate a broad range of matters, including personal injury and other torts, breach of contract, divorce, probate, administrative review hearings, injunction and restraining order petitions, and all other cases that are part of a civil rotation.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, Madison, Wisconsin

Chief Legal Counsel, 2019 to 2025; *Staff Attorney*, 2017 to 2019

- Successfully represented then State Superintendent Tony Evers in front of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Koschkee v. Evers*, 2018 WI 82, 382 Wis. 2d 666, 913 N.W.2d 878.
- Reformed license revocation process to ensure timely investigations and clear case backlog, terminating 30-40 licenses for immoral conduct per year since 2019. Prioritized targeting educators engaging in sexual misconduct or grooming behavior, terminating more than 45 educator licenses for engaging in such conduct since becoming chief legal counsel.
- Guided agency through numerous novel and complex issues created during COVID-19 pandemic, providing waivers, defining legal parameters for virtual instruction, and identifying other legal flexibility to allow school districts to educate students safely.
- Served as chief legal for two State Superintendents and three administration transitions.
- Provide legal advice to the State Superintendent, appointed officers, directors and staff.
- Draft, negotiate and manage contracts, data use agreements, memorandum of understanding, and intergovernmental agreements.
- Supervise staff attorneys, investigators, and support staff within the Office of Legal Services.
- Appear for and represent the Department in administrative and judicial proceedings.
- Draft, review, and interpret proposed legislation and administrative rules.
- Review and adjudicate appeals submitted to the Superintendent, including expulsion decisions, boundary decisions, statutory waivers, and all other administrative appeals.

WELD RILEY, S.C., Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Associate Attorney, 2012 to 2017

- Member of the firm's School Law and Labor and Employment sections.
- Drafted and reviewed contracts regarding issues of employment, data use, construction, charter schools, and independent contractor agreements.
- Advised school boards and administrators on school law issues regarding student discipline, public records and open meetings law, special education, handbooks and policies, First Amendment issues, nonrenewals, employee benefits, and employment discrimination.
- Defended public and private sector clients in an array of administrative proceedings, including discrimination and harassment claims, insurance benefit appeals, and grievances.
- Advised public and private sector clients on employment issues and risk mitigation.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, St. Paul, Minnesota

Law Clerk, Summer 2011

- Researched and composed memoranda regarding litigation, arbitration, and tax issues.
- Drafted and reviewed contracts and grant agreements.
- Participated in labor arbitrations, settlement negotiations, and depositions.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL LITIGATION, Madison, Wisconsin

Extern, Spring 2011

- Researched civil rights, tort, and employment issues.
- Successfully defended the State of Wisconsin in claims at the trial and appellate level.

PRESENTATIONS

- *Judicial Perspectives: Insight on Service, Equity, and Evolving*, Legal Association for Women, December 2025
- *New Judges Panel*, James E. Doyle Inn of Court, September 2025
- Frequent presenter to Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators on a range of legal topics, 2019-2025
- Annual DPI legal update presented annually during Wisconsin School Attorneys Association Annual meeting, 2017-2025
- *DPI Perspective on Student Expulsion Appeals*, WSAA, February 2023
- *Public Records Open Meetings Update*, Wisconsin State Bar, September 2017
- Annual legal update presented during CESA PAC meetings, last presented 2012 - 2017
- *The Evolving Regulation of Employee Compensation*, School District Clients, November 2016
- *Fair Employment Law*, Municipal Client Supervisor Training, November 2016
- *Procedures/Pointers for Pupil Expulsion in Wisconsin*, Viterbo College, November 2016
- *FMLA and the ADA*, Private Sector Clients, November 2016
- *What's Next for the ACA?*, M3 Insurance, October 2016
- *Evolving Regulation of Employee Compensation*, WASB/WSAA School Law Conference, 2016
- *Affordable Care Act Update – What Employers Need to Know*, Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, 2016
- *Transforming Social Media from a Liability into an Asset*, West Central Wisconsin Society for Human Resource Management, 2016

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin

Juris Doctor *cum laude*, May 2012

- Moot Court Board Member
- Top Grade: Constitutional Law I; Contracts I
- Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition, Third Place, Spring 2012
- University of Wisconsin Law School Pro Bono Society, Inductee

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

B.A., Political Science, May 2008