I attended primary, middle school and high school mostly in the Middleton Cross Plains School District. I worked on farms and other entry level jobs while I was in middle school and high school. In college I worked all but one semester to help support myself. During that time, I was a stocker for several years with Kohl's Food Stores and was a union steward for a short period of time at Kohl's. I was a double major in History and Political Science at UW Madison, graduating in 1985. After college, I took a year off and did hardwood logging and worked in a sawmill. I then went to law school at UW Madison as well, graduating in 1989. While in law school, I clerked for Cullen, Weston Pines, and Bach as a law clerk. While a clerk at that firm, I represented the WPPA in grievance arbitration cases. Upon graduating law school, I opened an office in Lodi for a time. I was then employed briefly at Miller, Rogers, and Owens law firm. Once again, I decided to hang out my shingle in Lodi, and have been self-employed ever since.