

Michael D. Hughes
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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI
JD, Juris Doctor, May 2008

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
B.A. Political Science/Communication, May 2004
Graduated magna cum laude
William Pitt Debate Union, Member

WORK EXPERIENCE

Vechinski, Phelps & Hughes, Wausau, WI March 2025 – present
Partner

- Joined a partnership with a pair of former prosecutors

Hughes Law Office, Wausau, WI January 2009 – March 2025
Owner and Lead Attorney

- Built a successful law office from the ground up
- Managed a heavy case load ranging multiple practice areas

Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Madison, WI May 2007 – August 2007
Intern for Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson

- Wrote bench memoranda analyzing cases and briefs
- Worked alongside Justice Abrahamson on draft opinions
- Helped analyze draft opinions of other justices

Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons, Madison, WI May 2006 – December 2006
Student Attorney, Frank J. Remington Center – University of Wisconsin Law School

- Represented incarcerated individuals in various legal issues
- Performed legal research to answer complex issues
- Drafted and filed post-conviction motions

Villanova Law Offices, P.C., Pittsburgh, PA July 2004 – July 2005
Paralegal

- Conducted client interviews
- Performed legal research and drafted documents such as pleadings and interrogatories
- Handled bookkeeping

Office of State Public Defender – Marathon County, Wausau, WI May 2003 – August 2003
Intern

- Conducted daily indigency evaluations
- Performed legal research and drafted and filed legal documents
- Assisted and provided feedback to attorneys at hearings and trials

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Marathon County Bar Association – President

September 2025 – present

- Coordinated with law schools to initiate a recruitment drive into Marathon County
- Currently engaged in efforts to increase participation in the Bar Association
- Worked with recently retired judges and courthouse personnel to conduct portrait ceremonies in the courthouse

Marathon County Bar Association – Vice President

September 2024 – September 2025

- Began framework for a recruitment drive to commence in Fall, 2025
- Engaged in strategic planning sessions with executive committee of the bar association
- Worked with the Sheriff and jail to provide in-house competency restoration within the Marathon County Jail
- Presented requested changes to the court-appointment process to the Marathon County judiciary

Wausau Noon Optimists – Board Member

September 2025 - Present

- Unanimous selection for membership in Board of Directors
- Wausau Noon Optimists are dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of youth in the community

Mock Trial Coach – Wausau East High School

Fall/Winter 2024

- Educated high school students in oratorical and evidentiary techniques
- Led students into evaluating a complex fact pattern for the purposes of mock trial competition

Youth Soccer Coach – Woodson YMCA

Winter 2023 – Fall 2024

- Coached youth soccer teams in indoor and outdoor leagues
- Emphasized the role of having fun in sports and teamwork to youth ages 5-8
- Developed simple but effective tactical approaches to aspiring athletes
- Ensured that every child received equal playing time and genuine support