

HONORABLE MARIA S. LAZAR
Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District II

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

COURT OF APPEALS, District II
August 1, 2022 - present

WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, Branch 7
Juvenile Division, Presiding (August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2022)
Juvenile / Mental Commitment docket of 1,000-1,500 cases involving children in need of protection, termination of parental rights, and delinquent children/juveniles.
Criminal Division (August 1, 2017, to July 31, 2020) Presiding Judge (1 ½ years)
Manage case-load of over 680 cases (approx. 260 felonies, 235 misdemeanors).
Conduct several jury trials and preside over evidentiary motions.
Drug Treatment Court (January 2, 2018, to July 31, 2019)
Preside over 60 participant drug treatment court.
Civil Division (August 1, 2015, to July 31, 2017)
Manage a case-load of over 320 cases ranging from temporary restraining order/injunctions to personal injury to complex civil litigation, including a five-party \$50 million dollar action with a 3 week court trial and a 5 week jury trial.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Assistant Attorney General
November 2010 to July, 2015
Special Litigation and Appeals Unit. Areas of practice: complex civil litigation, appeals and bankruptcy. Experience: significant civil litigation matters including lead counsel for original Act 10/Collective Bargaining, Capitol Access, federal redistricting, and foster children cases.

GALANIS, POLLACK, JACOBS & JOHNSON, S.C.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin January 1990 to November, 2010
SHAREHOLDER
Areas of practice include business/commercial civil litigation in both state and federal court, bankruptcy, financial institutions, and real estate. Experience includes trying cases, arbitrations, oral argument, drafting agreements/documents. Also experienced in all aspects of litigation including trial participation, appellate practice, drafting briefs, preparing witnesses and discovery.

HIGHSAW & MAHONEY, P.C.
Washington D.C. September 1987 to May 1989
LAW CLERK – Federal and United States Supreme Court practice.

DAVIS & KUELTHAU, S.C.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 1988 (split summer)
SUMMER ASSOCIATE – Labor law and civil litigation.

HERNDON, McCONVILLE, BROWN, TELLER & HESSLER / REUSS & MILLER
Washington D.C. Summer 1987
LAW CLERK–Civil/commercial litigation; appellate practice and criminal defense.

LEGAL EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
Washington D.C. Juris Doctor May 1989 Dean's List 1988, 1989
Productions Editor – Georgetown International Environmental Law Review
Clinical Program – Street Law High Schools (1988-89)
Published Author – Note
Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society

EDUCATION

MOUNT MARY COLLEGE (now UNIVERSITY)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin Graduated Magna cum Laude May 1986
Bachelor of Arts – History; Minors in English & Political Science
Presidential Scholar – for maintaining 3.8 G.P.A. (4 years)
National Collegiate Honors Council, Regional and National Rep.
Student Representative on Honors Committee
Wingspread scholar

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY--UNITED NATIONS SEMESTER

New York, New York August to December 1984
Attended classes and seminars regarding the global and local community.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges,
Curriculum Committee, 2020-2023 and Military Committee, 2020—2023
Judicial Conference Executive Committee, member, 2017—2022
Judicial Education Committee, member, 2018—2022
Adjunct Professor, Marquette University Law School, 2018, 2019
Council on Uniformity of Traffic Citations and Complaints, 2023—present
Contributing Author, Wisconsin Methods of Practice (West Group) (2004-12)
Trainer, National Association of Attorneys General Training & Research Institute
Special Investigator, Office of Lawyer Regulation, approx. 2001-11
Milw. Bar Ass'n, Pres., 2008-09; Dir., 2004-06, Editor—MBA Messenger, 1995-96
State Bar, Board of Governors, 1996-2000 (two terms)
State Bar, Cable, Broadcast and Outreach Committee, Chair, 1996-2000
Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Assoc., Director, Editor – Newsletter, 2007-08
Thomas Fairchild American Inns of Court, through 2010
Waukesha County Bar Association
Serjeants' Inn
Association of Women Lawyers, through 2010
Milwaukee Bar Association, Judicial Selection Comm., Chair, Courts Comm.,
Member Admitted to United States Supreme Court Bar, 2014
Admitted to United States District Court, Eastern & Western Districts, 1990
Admitted to Wisconsin State Bar, 1989

AWARDS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

2015 Leaders in the Law award recipient
2012 Women in the Law award recipient
State Bar of Wisconsin President's Award of Excellence, 1997
Milwaukee Bar Association Special Services Award, 1998
Make-A-Wish (Wish Granter, 2018 to present, Walk For Wishes Committee, 2017)
Future Milwaukee, 1994-95 Class; Board of Directors, 1997-98
UPAF Major Member Allocation Committee Member, 1996-98
Community Youth Intervention Program, Secretary & Panel Member, 1996
Mount Mary College Develop. Comm.; Nat'l Bd. of Alumnae Advisor, 1999-2000
Delta Epsilon Sigma--National Honor Society for Academic Excellence
Phi Alpha Theta--History Honors Society, Vice-President
Honors Association, Vice-President
Co-editor of Mount Mary College literary magazine and College Theater

INTERESTS

Theater, literature, music, travel.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District II

CURRICULUM VITAE

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States Supreme Court, March 24, 2014
Federal Eastern District of Wisconsin, August, 1990
Federal Western District of Wisconsin, August, 1990
State Bar of Wisconsin, September 13, 1989

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges,
Curriculum Committee, 2020-23
Military Committee, 2020-23
State of Wisconsin Judicial Education Committee, 2018-22
State of Wisconsin Judicial Conference Executive Committee, 2017-22
Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, Board Member, 2020-2022
Trainer, National Association of Attorneys General Training & Research Institute, 2014-15
Waukesha County Crim. Justice Council (Collaborative Evidence-Based Decision Making):
Alternative Interventions Committee, Jan. 2018 – July 31, 2019
Case Processing Committee, August 2019 – July 31, 2020
Mental Health Committee, August 2020 – July 31, 2022
Victim's Rights Committee, August 2017 – July 31, 2020
Waukesha County Victim Impact Panel and Committee, August 2017 – July 31, 2020
Fellows, Wisconsin Law Foundation, 2014-
Milwaukee Bar Association,
President, 2008-09
Director, 2004-2006
Editor – MBA Messenger, 1995-1996
MBA Judges' Nights Musicals, 1992-97
Judicial Selection Committee, Chair
Courts Committee
State Bar of Wisconsin
Board of Governors, 1996-2000 (two terms)
Bench Bar Committee, Chair, 1997-2000
Cable, Broadcast and Outreach Committee, Chair, 1996-2000
Member, since 1989
Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association
Director, 2001
Editor – Newsletter, 2007-2008
Thomas Fairchild American Inns of Court, through 2010
Waukesha County Bar Association, 2015-
Serjeants' Inn
Association of Women Lawyers, through 2010

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

Trainer, National Association of Attorneys General Training Institute, 2011-15
Make-A-Wish, 2017-2024
 Wish Granter, 2017-2024
 Committee, Walk for Wishes, 2017-18
Mock Court Judge, State Bar of Wisconsin, 2014, 2018, 2021
Marquette University Law School, Jenkins Honors Moot Court Judge, April 2024
Special Investigator, Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation, approx. 2001-11
Mentor, UW Madison Law School, 2012
Future Milwaukee, 1994-95 Class; Board of Directors, 1997-98
UPAF Major Member Allocation Committee Member, 1996-1998
 Community Youth Intervention Program, Secretary & Panel Member, 1996
 Church Choir, Immaculate Conception, approx. 1989-94
 Literary Class, est. 1990's (one semester)
 Theater, Sunset Playhouse, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, 1990's

HONORS AND AWARDS

Post-Law School

2015 Leaders in the Law award recipient
2012 Women in the Law award recipient
Fellows, Wisconsin Law Foundation, 2014
State Bar of Wisconsin President's Award of Excellence, 1997
Milwaukee Bar Association Special Services Award, 1998

Georgetown University Law Center

Dean's List, 1988 1989
Productions Editor – Georgetown International Environmental Law Review
Published Author, Note, Georgetown International Environmental Law Review –
 “Environment and Economics: Linking Tropical Rain Forests and Foreign
 Debt,” Vol. II, Issue 1, Spring 1989 (pp. 1-79).
 Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Mount Mary College (n/k/a Mount Mary University)

Magna cum Laude
United Nations Honor Semester (NY, NY) – Aug.-Dec. 1984
Presidential Scholar (4 yrs.)
National Collegiate Honors Council, Regional and National Representative
Student Representative, Honors Council
Delta Epsilon Sigma – National Honors Society for Academic Excellence
Phi Alpha Theta – History Honors Society, Vice President and Member
Honors Association – Vice President and Member
Mount Mary College literary magazine, co-editor
Mount Mary Development Committee, Nat'l Board of Alumnae Advisor
College theater

High School – Brookfield East High School
National Honors Society
Principal’s Cabinet, 1981-82
Mu Alpha Theta
Psychology Club, President, 1981-82
WSBA, School Radio
Forensics

PUBLISHED WRITINGS (non-judicial)

Timeless Concepts for a Trying Time: the Separation of Powers and Judicial Review
Federalist Society blog, May 19, 2021

<https://fedsoc.org/commentary/fedsoc-blog/timeless-concepts-for-a-trying-time-the-separation-of-powers-and-judicial-review>

Letter to Editor/Press Release: “COVID-19 is, in fact, ending lives, but not only how you think”

May 13, 2020

Contributing Author, *Wisconsin Methods of Practice* (West Group) (2004, updated 2011)

Chapter 74 – Supplementary Proceedings, Executions, Injunctions & Receivers
Chapter 85 – Injunctions and Temporary Restraining Orders

Published Author, Note, Georgetown International Environmental Law Review
“Environment and Economics: Linking Tropical Rain Forests and Foreign Debt,”
Volume II, Issue 1, Spring 1989 (pp. 1-79). (Just copied, no electronic version).

PUBLISHED OPINIONS (on Wisconsin Court of Appeals):

Riverback Farms, LLC v. Saukville Feed Supplies, Inc., 2023 WI App 40

Dr. David Kornreich v. Town of Cedarburg, 2023 WI App 46

Pheasant West, LLC v. Univ. of Wis. Med. Foundation, Inc., 2023 WI App 55

Wis. Manuf. & Commerce, Inc. v. Vill. of Pewaukee, 2024 WI App 23, 411
Wis. 2d 622, 5 N.W.3d 949 (March 2024) Petition for Review denied

Bevco Precision Manuf. Co. v. Wis. L.I.R.C., 2024 WI App 54, 413 Wis. 2d 665,
12 N.W.3d 552 (August 2024) Petition for Review denied

Tracy D. Danielson v. Christopher J. Danielson, 2024 WI App 57, 414 Wis. 2d
1, 13 N.W.3d 239 (September 2024)
Hon. Maria S. Lazar

Christopher William Rose v. Tammy Jo Rose, 2024 WI App 64, 414 Wis. 2d 305, 14 N.W.3d 707 (October 2024)

Krista Scudder v. Concordia University, Inc., 2025 WI App 13, 415 Wis. 2d 318, 18 N.W.3d 173 (January 2025)

Wildwood Estate, LLC v. Village of Summit, 2025 WI App 47 (July 2025)

Wisconsin Realtors Assoc., Inc. v. City of Neenah, 2025 WI App 49 (July 2025)

Kelly R. Rose v. C.R.R., 2025 WI App 52 (July 2025)

JUDICIAL EDUCATION TRAINING (presentations):

(Trained by the Wisconsin State Courts, 2018)

Marquette University Law School, Adjunct Professor,
Trial Advocacy, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Wisconsin State Court Annual Judicial Conference

Co-Chair, Nov. 2018 (Theme: Judicial Excellence)

Presenter, Nov. 2019 (“Rapid Fire: Civil”)

Co-Chair, Nov. 2021 (Theme: Expertise, Experience & Expanded Horizons)

Moderator: Technology, Social Media & Professional Ethics)

Presenter, Nov. 2023 (“Mental Health Commitment Hearings and Chapter 54 and 55: Personal Liberty and Due Process)

Wisconsin State Court Judicial Seminars

Civil Law Seminar

Dec. 2017 (“Summary Judgment and Dispositive Motions”)

Dec. 2019 (“Based and Advanced Sum. Judgment & Dispositive Motions”)

Criminal Law and Sentencing Institute

May 2018 (Sentencing)

May 2019 (Restitution)

May 2021 (“Jury Trials during COVID”)

Evidence Workshop

Nov. 2021

Co-Chair and presenter (“Recent Development Potpourri & ‘Making the Record” and “It’s More than Just Daubert – Expert Opinion Testimony”)

Juvenile Justice Law Seminar

(“Waiver Hearings” and “Juvenile Competency”)

Municipal Judge Seminar

March 2020 (“Judicial Decision-Making”)

Children’s Court Improvement Program

Jan. 2021 (“Ethical Considerations in Juvenile Court”)

Wisconsin State Bar Association

March 2013 (“Battle for your Vote: Election Law in Wisconsin: Litigating Election Issues: Redistricting”)

Annual Meeting and Conference, June 2023 (“Making the Record: Tips for Winning at the Trial and Appellate Courts”)

Appellate Practice in District II, April 2024

Waukesha County Judicial Roundtables

Civil, 2019

COVID, 2020

Criminal Law, 2019

Juvenile Law, 2020, 2021

Probate and Guardianship, 2020

Waukesha County Bar Association

April 2016 (“Building Trial Skills, Re-Direct Examination and Impeachment”)

Litigation Seminar, Oct. 2023 (“Appellate Practice Pointers, the Art of the Appeal”)

Wisconsin Department of Justice

Dec 2013 (“State Procurement and Contracting”)

Milwaukee Bar Association

Nov. 2006 (“Ethics for the Trusts and Estates Lawyer”)

National Business Institute

Dec. 2018 (“Civil Court Judicial Panel: As Judges See It”)

Dec. 2017 (“Civil Court Judicial Panel: As Judges See It”)

Dec. 2015 (“What Civil Court Judges Want You to Know”)

March 2012 (Bankruptcy Seminar)

Nov. 2011 (“Collection Hazards, The Surprising Super-Priority Lien and Others”)

Nov. 2011 (2011 Annual Bankruptcy Update)

Nov. 2009 (Bankruptcy Law Update [a national federal review])

2008 (“Nuts and Bolts of Bankruptcy Law”)

2008 (“Wisconsin Collection Law: Start to Finish”)

2006 (“Bankruptcy Law and Procedure from Start to Finish in Wisconsin”)

2005 (“Wisconsin Collection Law: Start to Finish”)

2004 (“Bankruptcy Law and Procedure from Start to Finish in Wisconsin”)

2004 (“Wisconsin Collection Law: Start to Finish”)

2002 (“Litigating Your First Civil Trial”)