

**MEGAN McDERMOTT**

University of Wisconsin School of Law  
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**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

**Associate Teaching Professor** 7/2022 - present  
**Teaching Faculty, University of Wisconsin School of Law, Madison, WI** 2021 - 2022  
**Lecturer, University of Wisconsin School of Law, Madison, WI** Part-time: 2013 – 2018, Full-time: 2019-2021  
· Appointed to teach up to eight credits per semester, including Civil Procedure, Torts, Professional Responsibilities, and Bankruptcy.  
· Provide “Bankruptcy Basics” trainings to students who volunteer with a pro bono bankruptcy counseling program.  
· Serve on law school committees as appointed annually, including current service as Chair of Outcomes and Assessment Committee and past service on Experiential Learning, Admissions, Judicial Clerkships, and Clinical Hiring and Promotions Committees.  
· Designed and taught “Lawyer Regulation in the U.S.” as an online course for Justus Liebig-University Giessen during Summer 2021, as part of a faculty exchange program.  
· Chaired the Law School’s Working Group on Excellence in Alternative Delivery, which provided resources and support to instructional faculty teaching remotely during the Fall 2020 semester.  
· Represented the Law School in developing a campus-wide report on student experience during the emergency transition to online learning during Spring 2019.  
· Designed and taught an intensive Torts course for the 2019 Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program, an introduction to law school for college students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

· Recipient of the 2016 Warren E. Burger Prize from the American Inns of Court. This writing competition is designed to promote scholarship in the areas of professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence.  
· Recipient of the 2015 Gordon S. Sinykin Award of Excellence from the Wisconsin State Bar. This award is presented annually to recognize a person or group for a public education project involving the legal system.

**EDUCATION**

**University of California at Berkeley School of Law** J.D., Order of the Coif, May 2000  
Articles Editor, *California Law Review*.  
Co-President and Treasurer, Berkeley Law Foundation.  
Research Assistant to Professor Jesse Fried (Corporate Law) and Laurent Mayali (Comparative Law).  
Jurisprudence Award (top student) in Economic Analysis of Legal Rules, Global Financial Regulation, and Public Lawmaking.  
Prosser Prize (second-best student) in Criminal Procedure and Workshop on Judging.

**Harvard College** A.B. *magna cum laude* in Classics (Latin), June 1993  
Harvard National Scholar (awarded to 10% of incoming freshmen based on personal promise).  
Disk Jockey, Music Director, and Summer Station Manager, WHRB-FM; Varsity Swimming.  
Ford Foundation Research Grant for *Cicero as Pater Familias: The Role of the Father in Roman Society*.

## PUBLICATIONS

*The Crypto Quandary: Is Bankruptcy Ready?* 115 Northwestern Law Review 1921 (2021).

*Layering, Drifting, and Conversion: A Comparative Analysis of Path Dependent Change in Consumer Insolvency Systems*, 93 Chicago-Kent Law Review 765 (2018) (invited publication, as part of the Comparative and Cross-Border Insolvency Symposium).

*Justice Scalia's Bankruptcy Jurisprudence: The Right Judicial Philosophy at the Right Time for the Modern Bankruptcy Code?*, 2017 Utah Law Review 939 (2017).

*A Few Predictions for Justice Gorsuch's Bankruptcy Jurisprudence*, 8 California Law Review Online 40 (2017).

*Ethically Negotiating on Behalf of Low-Income Clients: The Distorting Effects of Model Rule 4.1*, 68 South Carolina Law Review 1 (2016) (invited publication).

· *Taking Care of Uncle Sam: Mortgage Foreclosures with a Federal Interest*, 83 Wis. Lawyer 8, August 2010 (with Lennie Lehman).

· *Judicial Campaigns: What Can They Tell Us about Gender on the Bench?*, 16 Wis. Women's L. J. 87, Spring 2001.

## PAST RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

**Part-Time Staff Attorney, Wisconsin Court of Appeals, Madison, WI** 5/2017 – 12/2018; Summer 2022

· Drafted per curiam opinions for District III and IV in a range of civil and criminal matters.

**Part-Time Hearing Examiner, Department of Children & Families, Milwaukee, WI** January - September 2014

· Conducted hearings for child care providers contesting Milwaukee County certification decisions.  
· Issued all notices and final agency decisions, maintained records for appellate review.  
· Developed procedures and protocols in anticipation of transferring appeals to another state agency effective October 1, 2014.

**Part-Time Project Attorney, Department of Children & Families, Madison, WI** 2011 – 2013

· Defended child care licensing and child welfare actions in administrative proceedings.  
· Assisted with regulatory issues, including developing agency rules and policies to implement legislation.  
· Advised staff on legal issues impacting child cares, foster care placement agencies, and group homes.

**Assistant United States Attorney, Madison, WI** 2008 – 2010

· Defended the United States, its agencies, and employees in a range of litigation in state and federal court including employment, land use, tort, Social Security, and constitutional actions and appeals.  
· Assisted the Criminal Division with habeas corpus actions and sentencing appeals.  
· Served as District Ethics Advisor, providing training and guidance on governmental ethics issues for federal employees.

**Legal Journalist**, Santa Barbara, CA 2005 – 2007

- Founded the popular legal blog “Decision of the Day” and, after a quarter-million unique visitors, sold it to academic website eNotes.com.
- Reviewed all published federal appellate decisions on a daily basis and summarized key decisions for a wide audience, including lawyers, judges, and the general public.
- Contracted with Alliance for Justice to provide summaries of significant cases, and wrote for AFJ’s *Justice Watch* Blog.

**Assistant United States Attorney**, Denver, CO April 2003 – October 2004

- Defended the United States in a wide range of civil cases, including employment, environmental, tort, immigration, Social Security, and constitutional actions and appeals.
- Handled all state subpoenas of federal witnesses and documents; provided outreach and training to local attorneys on proper procedures for obtaining documents and testimony from federal sources.

**Covington & Burling**, San Francisco, CA Summer 2000; October 2001 – February 2003

- Litigation associate focused on intellectual property litigation and white collar defense.
- Selected as the associate delegate to the San Francisco office’s recruiting committee.

**Law Clerk to Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson**, Wisconsin Supreme Court August 2000 – July 2001

- Prepared bench memoranda for approximately 80 cases.
- Assisted with the research, drafting, and editing of opinions, concurrences, and dissents.
- Supervised the Chief Justice’s interns and externs and provided feedback on their work.

**Wilmer Cutler Pickering (now WilmerHale)**, Washington, D.C. Summer 1999

- Summer associate focusing on representations before the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Drug Policy Alliance (formerly The Lindesmith Center)**, Berkeley, CA Summer 1998

- Summer intern researching drug diversion courts and harm reduction initiatives.
- Conducted document review and assisted with plaintiffs’ discovery responses in *Conant v. McCaffrey*, a groundbreaking civil rights suit by California doctors against the federal government.

**External Relations Aide, Office of Governor William Weld**, Boston, MA 1996 – 1997

- Drafted gubernatorial correspondence and proclamations; represented Governor at selected events.

**Associate, Orion Consultants**, New York, NY 1993 – 1996

- Developed performance tools and managed client relationships with major Wall Street firms.
- Identified and interviewed key buy-side decisionmakers, including investment managers at pension funds, insurance companies, and mutual funds.
- Formulated specific recommendations for how firm clients could improve performance at individual accounts, as well as monthly and annual recommendations regarding overall strengths and weaknesses.

## **BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

Active member of Wisconsin State Bar; inactive member of California State Bar. Court admissions include U.S. District Court for the Northern, Central, and Eastern Districts of California, District of Colorado, Western District of Wisconsin, and the Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

## REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Legal Action of Wisconsin, Pro Bono Bankruptcy Clinic (2015-present). I joined community and academic partners in founding and developing a pro bono clinic staffed by law students and practicing attorneys to counsel low income clients state-wide about the possibility of bankruptcy. I assist in an ongoing capacity to recruit, train and schedule student volunteers.
- Lussier Community Education Center (2011-present). I volunteer with a variety of programs and services including a regular neighborhood food pantry. In addition, I helped found the BEATS Job Clinic, where I assisted hundreds of job seekers with resumes and cover letters, and conducted dozens of mock interviews.
- Catholic Charities of Madison (2019-present). I am an active volunteer with Catholic Charities, which fundraises for and provides a range of services throughout Dane County that promote the full dignity of the person in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. Services range from programs to address homelessness, food insecurity, addiction treatment, and care for elders and persons with disabilities. I currently serve on the Board of Directors, as well as the Governance and Audit Committees. I previously served on the Strategy and Mission Effectiveness Committee.
- Wisconsin State Bar's Public Education Committee and Co-Chair of the Media Law Subcommittee (2013-2017). I worked with State Bar staff on a variety of programs to promote thorough and accurate coverage of legal issues in Wisconsin, including the Golden Gavel Awards for excellence in legal reporting, the Wisconsin Mock Trial journalism competition, and various training events for journalists and lawyers.
- Executive Advisory Committee and Program Chair for *Our Courts Wisconsin*, a State Bar program designed to increase public knowledge about the state court system (2012-2014). As Program Chair, I led a team of lawyers, judges, and court staff in conceiving and developing the first program for public presentation, *Myths and Realities in Wisconsin's Courts*, which has received excellent reviews from audiences state-wide. I was also a member of the program development team that designed a *Myths and Realities*-style presentation about Wisconsin's criminal justice system.
- Member of Wisconsin State Bar's Professional Ethics Committee (2009-2015). Assisted with the drafting and revision of several Ethics Opinions; contributed to the Committee's evaluation of proposals for changes to the Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules and functions of the Office of Lawyer Regulation.
- Literacy Tutor in Americorps Schools of Hope Program, John Muir Elementary School (2011-2014). Worked one-on-one with struggling students on a weekly basis.
- Community Garden Program, John Muir Elementary School (2011-2014). Wrote a successful grant application to build a community garden, and helped coordinate a variety of outdoor education opportunities for students and garden service events for adult volunteers.

## PRESENTATIONS AND ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- *Greg Needs a Lawyer. Is He Getting an Ethical One?*, to be presented as part of the "Succession and the Law" Zoom series, Spring 2023.
- *Digital Assets in Bankruptcy: Apparent Risks and Emerging Law*, invited presentation to the International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group, May 2022.

- *Communicating with Non-Lawyers: Avoiding Common Mistakes*, presented at University of Wisconsin Law School's Free Winter Ethics Seminar Series, January 2022.
- *The Ethics of Witness Preparation*, presented at the Wisconsin Department of Justice Ethics Training Program, September 2021.
- *The Crypto Quandary: Is Bankruptcy Ready for High Volatility Assets?*, presented at the University of Miami symposium on Comparative and Cross-Border Issues in Insolvency Law, November 2019
- *The Crypto Quandary: Is Bankruptcy Ready for High Volatility Assets?*, presented at the National Conference of Business Law Scholars, Berkeley, California , June 2019
- *Chapter 11 at Midlife: Evaluating the Supreme Court's Role in Shaping Corporate Reorganization under the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978*, presented at the National Conference of Business Law Scholars, Athens, Georgia, June 2018
- *Uniformity in International Insolvency Systems: A Comparative Study*, presented at Chicago Kent Law Review's Symposium on Developments in International Bankruptcy Law, Chicago, IL, November 2017.
- *Ethical Issues in Chapter Choice*, presented at State Bar's Annual Bankruptcy Update, November 2017, Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin (with Christian Conway and Tim Pierce).
- *Justice Scalia's Bankruptcy Jurisprudence: The Right Judicial Philosophy at the Right Time for the Modern Bankruptcy Code?*, selected from a call for papers by the Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process for presentation at the American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, January 2017.
- *Ethical Issues in Bankruptcy Negotiations*, presented at State Bar's Annual Bankruptcy Update, November 2016, Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin (with Chris Stroebel and Tim Pierce).
- *Supreme Court Roundup: Husky International v. Ritz*, presented as part of the University of Wisconsin Law School's 2016 summer series, July 20, 2016, Madison, Wisconsin.
- *Top Ten Things Every Government Lawyer Should Know about Bankruptcy*, presented at the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, June 23, 2016, Madison, Wisconsin.
- *Ethically Negotiating on Behalf of Low-Income Clients: The Distorting Effects of Model Rule 4.1*, presented at the Law and Society Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 5, 2016.
- *Antonin Scalia's Bankruptcy Legacy*, presented as part of a faculty panel discussion on Justice Scalia's jurisprudence, University of Wisconsin School of Law, April 7, 2016.
- *Antonin Scalia's Bankruptcy Legacy: The Right Judicial Philosophy at the Right Time for the Modern Bankruptcy Code?*, presented to the Western District Bankruptcy Bar, Madison, Wisconsin, April 6, 2016.
- *Detecting and Avoiding Conflicts of Interest in Bankruptcy*, presented at the State Bar's Annual Bankruptcy Update, November 19 and 20, 2015, Madison and Pewaukee, Wisconsin (with Tim Pierce).

- *Ethical Issues in Government Representation*, presented at the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, August 4, 2015, Madison, Wisconsin.
- *Using Pending Supreme Court Cases in Doctrinal Classes*, presented at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning's Conference on Experiential Learning at Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington, June 2015.
- *What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Equity?*, presented at the University of Wisconsin Law School Big Ideas workshop, September 2014.
- *The Effect of State Antideficiency Laws on the Mortgage Market*, presented at the University of Wisconsin Law School junior faculty workshop, April 2014 and Big Ideas workshop, September 2013.
- *The Distorting Effect of the Dual Sovereign on Criminal Justice in the United States*, presented at the 2012 Critical Legal Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, September 2012.