

MARY M. SOWINSKI
PO Box 91, Three Lakes, WI 54562

EXPERIENCE:

Oneida County District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney 2016-present Prosecute traffic, forfeiture, misdemeanor and felony cases and delinquency allegations, which have included: methamphetamine production; methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and other drug possession and delivery; terroristic threat allegations; solicitation to commit homicide; reckless homicide; sexual assaults of children and adults; employee, retail and other theft; impaired driving; subpoenas for records; search warrant requests; pretrial litigation of other acts, joinder and other pretrial issues; litigation of court and jury trials; and, development of sentencing recommendations to accommodate offender treatment, rehabilitation and punishment as well as victim advocacy, privacy and restitution. Chair the Coordinated Community Response Team. Assisted the Department of Social Services (DOSS) with a guide to the Juvenile Justice System. Developed a Memorandum of Understanding for the DA's Office and DOSS for juvenile case litigation. Participate in development of diversion program.

Sowinski Legal Services, LLC (part-time) 2016-2023 Sole practitioner accepting Guardian ad Litem (GAL) appointments for adults as well as children in both family and child welfare cases. General practice including termination of parental rights, divorce, special prosecution, wills/trusts, real estate, declaratory judgments, and other miscellaneous issues. Pro bono work for non-profits and church.

Vilas County Corporation Counsel's Office, Assistant Corporation Counsel 2013-2016 Litigated cases as assigned, including; child in need of protection and services (CHIPS) cases; mental health commitments; zoning; American Disability Act (ADA) compliance; child support, and, general assistance to county personnel.

Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney 1999-2013

Executive Committee Member and Child Welfare Unit Team Captain 2008-2013: Represented the District Attorney in state and local community and policy groups; interviewed attorney and paralegal candidates; and, advised District Attorney on staffing, hiring, office policy and strategic child welfare initiatives. Managed attorneys, paralegals and clerical staff to litigate alternative permanency for children in the public child welfare system. Supervised implementation of electronic case-processing and data-management system. Examined local, state and national data and literature to conform local practice to best practice standards, including initiation of state's first family drug treatment court and participation in model court process. Worked to improve outcomes for youth crossing between child welfare and delinquency systems. Implemented training and practice based on model standards of American Bar Association for child welfare cases as part of comprehensive staff training program. Presented on legal aspects of public child welfare. Maintained caseload of child welfare cases.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Unit Team Captain 2004-2008: Supervised attorneys and paralegals to litigate case backlog resulting from resolution of federal lawsuit, improved case processing, maintained caseload of TPR cases, and initiated continuing legal education (CLE) program for child welfare legal staff.

Children In Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS), TPR and Misdemeanor Units 1999- 2004: Litigated misdemeanor and civil cases including pleadings and pre-trial motions, interrogatories, depositions, dozens of jury and court trials; and, defended circuit court orders in CHIPS and TPR cases on appeal with written briefs.

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership for Professional Development, Instructor 2004-2013 Conducted trainings in legal process and court preparedness for public child welfare staff.

Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), Legislative Services Coordinator 1993-1998 Facilitated membership development of legislative priorities. Conducted media campaigns to support legislative priorities. Coordinated lobbying efforts with other public education groups. Lobbied state and federal policy makers.

Wisconsin State Assembly 1987-1992 Served as Legislative Assistant and Aide to a State Representative. Researched, developed and analyzed legislative proposals; reviewed drafts of statutory language; staffed committees; managed constituent casework; and, drafted speeches, newsletters, press releases and position papers. Worked as a Messenger to assist State Representatives and staff.

EDUCATION: University of Wisconsin – Madison JD 1996-December 1998 and Bachelor of Arts (English and Political Science) December 1991

Internship, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, 1998. Litigation support in misdemeanor courts.
Internship, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Prosser, 1998. Researched and drafted a case memo and a speech.
Research Assistant, Professor Tuerkheimer, 1998. Edited an electronic, interactive evidence textbook.
Internship, Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), GOAL Division, 1998. Researched assigned cases.
Moot Court, American Bar Association Regional Competition, semi-final round, 1997-98. First Amendment case.
Program Assistant, Institute for Legal Studies, 1997-1998. Provided clerical support.
Attended "The So-Called Global Tobacco Settlement: Its Implications for Public Health and Public Policy," 1997.
Jeffery Day Rieber v. State of Alabama, CC-99-2177, 1997-98. Assisted in death penalty appeal.
Dean's List, 1997.
CALI Excellence for the Future Award, Evidence Class, Fall Semester 1997.
CALI Excellence for the Future Award, Constitutional Law Seminar, Fall Semester 1997.

Three Lakes High School, Three Lakes, Wisconsin 1984 National Honor Society, Salutatorian. Also attended Three Lakes Junior High School, and Sugar Camp Grade School (Sugar Camp, Wisconsin).

LEGAL PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND SELECT TRAININGS:

Presentations:

Northern Lakes Catholic Community, Estate Planning, 2021.
Wisconsin State Court System Children's Court Improvement Project, Guardianships (Ch. 48 and 54), 2015.
Wisconsin DOJ, SPET Delinquency & CHIPS Prosecution Skills, 2014.
Families Come First AODA Grant Partnership, Las Vegas, Nevada and Brookfield, Wisconsin, 2010. Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, continuing legal education for child welfare staff including permanency planning, legal and caselaw updates, Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA), 2004-2013.

Publications:

State Bar of Wisconsin, Children & Law Section, legislative and case law updates and Chair's Column, and Wisconsin Lawyer, various child welfare topics, 2012-2013.

Memberships:

State Bar of Wisconsin, Member 1999-Present; Oneida/Vilas/Forest County Bar Association, Executive Committee 2017-2021 (Chair, 2020-2021); member 2014-Present.
Wisconsin Court System's Children's Court Improvement Program, Child Safety Subcommittee, 2014. Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC) Implementation Project, Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) Advisory Board (Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office designee), 2013.
Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee on Permanency for Young Children, 2012-2013.
State Bar of Wisconsin, Children & the Law Section Board Member, 2009-2013 (2012-2013 Chair).

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Lifelong attendance at St. Kunegunda (Sugar Camp) and St. Theresa (Three Lakes), Catholic Churches.
Three Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Three Lakes Women's Club, Member, 2021-2023. Three Lakes Community Foundation Volunteer of the Year Runner-up, 2021.
Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes, Design and Construction Committee, 2017-2018.
Three Lakes Historical Society, Board Member, 2015-2017; Volunteer, 2015-Present.
Master Gardeners of the Northwoods, Member, 2018-Present.
Three Lakes Center for the Arts, Board Member and Volunteer, 2014-Present.
Dane County Advocates for Battered Women, Hospital Program Volunteer, 1995-1998.
American Lung Association Wisconsin Chapter Policy Committee Member, 1995-1997.
Tobacco-Free Wisconsin Coalition, Chair, Smoke-Free Kids at the Capitol, 1993-1997.

Select Trainings:

- Wisconsin State Prosecutor's Education and Training (SPET) program and DOJ, various topics including Marsy's Law implementation and victim's rights; lethality assessments in domestic violence cases; impaired driving; Len Bias drug deliveries; accessing personally privileged documents in criminal court; court orders for involuntary medications to achieve competency; Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP's); delinquency; and, ethics for prosecutors, 2014, 2023. New Prosecutor Training, 2000.
- Oneida/Vilas/Forest County Bar Assoc. jail credit, court funding, restorative justice 2020, 2021 2023.
- State Bar of Wisconsin, Adult/Child Guardian ad Litem trainings, trusts and estates, 2016-2021; Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference, 2019; Solo and Small Firms Conference, 2017; child support trainings and contract drafting, 2014; and, Effective Strategies for Dealing with the Traumatized Child in the Court System, 2011.
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension, 40-hour Mediation Training, 2017.
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Model Court Cross-Site Visit, Des Moines, Iowa, 2013.
- Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders 2011; certification 2012.
- Wisconsin Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Child Abuse Review Team (CART) Protocol on Collaborative & Joint Investigations of Child Maltreatment, 2012.
- Wisconsin Director of State Courts and University of Wisconsin-Extension, Through the Eyes of a Child: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Child Advocacy, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- Wisconsin State Court System Children's Court Improvement Program, Judicial District Training: Making Permanency Hearings Meaningful, restraining orders, victim safety and court effectiveness, 2012.
- WI DCF and WI Director of State Courts, Summit on Children and Families: Engaging Families to Achieve Permanency 2011; and, Changing Lives by Improving Court/Child Welfare Practice 2008.
- Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, prosecution and child welfare trainings 2006-20013.
- Wisconsin DCF, Building a Trauma Informed System of Care for Children with Dr. Bruce Perry, 2009.
- National District Attorney's Association, Cross Examination, April 2007.
- American Prosecutors Research Institute's National Child Protection Training Center and Winona State University, Trial Advocacy for Civil Child Protection Attorneys, July 2006.
- Wisconsin Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Clinical Psychology Program, "Matter in Motion: Abusive Head Trauma," 2006.
- Medical College of Wisconsin, Attachment Issues in Foster Care/Return Home vs. Adoption, 2005.
- Atty. Henry Plum, Door County Juvenile and Children's Law Summer Institute, July 2005.
- United States DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Fox Valley Technical College, Protecting Children Online for Prosecutors, 2002.