

2024-25 G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy

Speaker Bios

Revised 11/14/24

About the Keynote:



Justice Brian Hagedorn

A native of the Milwaukee area, Justice Brian Hagedorn was elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in April 2019. Prior to that, he was a judge on the Court of Appeals, having been appointed in 2015 and elected in 2017.

Prior to his judicial service, Justice Hagedorn served for almost five years as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Scott Walker, as an Assistant Attorney General at the Wisconsin Department of Justice, as a law clerk for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, and as an attorney in private practice at one of Milwaukee's largest law firms. Prior to law school, Justice Hagedorn worked in business for three years.

Justice Hagedorn is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law, where he was the President of the Federalist Society. He received his B.A. in philosophy from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, graduating summa cum laude, with honors. In 2014, he was named Trinity College Alumnus of the Year.

Justice Hagedorn is a regular speaker to school, civic, and legal groups on the rule of law, legal writing, and judicial philosophy, among other topics. When not on the bench, Justice Hagedorn enjoys reading, serving at his church and his children's school, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers.

About the Presenters:



Dr. Amber Ault, Ph.D., MSW, State Bar of Wisconsin WisLAP Program Manager.

Dr. Ault earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at the Ohio State University and completed a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship in Mental Health Services Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she later finished her clinical training in social work. She brings to WisLAP a sociological analysis of institutions and professions, a clinical understanding of the personal challenges individuals often face as they navigate contemporary demands, and a commitment to making things better.



Natalie C. Fleury, J.D. is an Ombuds with the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). In her role, she serves as a confidential, independent, informal and neutral resource for faculty, staff physicians, postdoctoral fellows and staff to talk in confidence about workplace issues, problems or disputes. She is also the principal of Conflict Management Concepts, LLC, a dispute resolution consulting firm offering mediation and arbitration services, negotiation and mediation training, dispute resolution systems design and dispute resolution program development.

Prior to that, she was the Program Coordinator for Dispute Resolution at Marquette Law School, and an Adjunct Professor of Law. At Marquette Law School she was responsible for all aspects of Marquette University Law School's nationally ranked dispute resolution program and supervised the Small Claims Mediation clinic.

She earned her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she participated on the Moot Court Board. She received a Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution from Marquette University in 1997. Ms. Fleury was a past-Chair of the Wisconsin State Bar Section Leader's Council, past-chair of the Wisconsin State Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, past co-chair of the Association for Conflict Resolution's Consumer Section, and a member of the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section.



Kristen Hardy, J.D. is Assistant General Counsel & Assistant Secretary at Northwestern Mutual (“NM”), where she is a member of the Insurance Products and Operations team. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, NM is a Fortune 100 financial services mutual organization and the country’s largest provider of individual life insurance. At NM, Kristen’s practice involves providing risk-based product advice to internal clients, including claims, agreements, anti-money laundering, and special investigations. Before joining NM, she was Legal Counsel & Integrity Manager at two global manufacturers: Briggs & Stratton and Rockwell

Automation. At Briggs & Stratton, Kristen led the global corporate compliance function, including third-party risk management, anti-bribery and corruption (FCPA), international trade and sanctions, and the integrity program. Her practice also included internal investigations and various international business matters. Kristen was also an adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School

Within the community, Kristen is a board member for the Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee Bar Association and LOTUS Legal Clinic. In 2023, Governor Tony Evers reappointed her to the Judicial Selection Advisory Committee, a group responsible for interviewing and recommending candidates for judicial appointments. She is past chair of the State Bar Board of Governors, past secretary of the State Bar, a past president of the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers (WAAL), where she served in various capacities between 2014 and 2020.



Michael F. Moore is the founder of Moore’s Law LLC and helps both lawyers and law firms create professional success. Michael creates value for law firms with strategic growth initiatives and resource optimization. He creates value for lawyers with individual coaching in client development and leadership. Michael has taught State Bar CLE programs on Alternative Billing strategies, Client Intake procedures and Time Management techniques for lawyers. His articles in Wisconsin Lawyer magazine have addressed generational conflicts in law firms, the work/life balance challenges faced by women lawyers and effective law firm compensation programs. For more information, please visit www.moores-law.com.



Hon. James D. Peterson, District Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. Prior to joining the court, he was a shareholder at the firm of Godfrey & Kahn, S.C., with a litigation practice focused on intellectual property disputes. He earned his B.S., M.A., Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Before his legal career, he taught film and television history and criticism at the University of Notre Dame. He is an enthusiastic fan of the Fighting Irish whenever they play Duke.



Christina Plum, University of Wisconsin Law School (1995), is the Chief Staff Attorney for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in Madison, Wisconsin. She is a former adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she taught public speaking for law students from 2003-2017. She has given presentations on oral communication and public speaking for the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy and other bar association conferences. She is a Past President of the State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division and a Past Chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division. She currently serves as Wisconsin's ABA State Delegate and as Secretary for the ABA Litigation Section.



Jay Winston, Leadership Development Specialist, City of Madison, manages all leadership and supervisor programming throughout the City of Madison to ensure leadership/supervisor effectiveness at every level. With a decade of experience in training, facilitating, and coaching across various sectors, Jay seamlessly integrates the science of teaching and learning to ensure deep and impactful learning experiences.

She brings her expertise in education, psychology, and talent development to create engaging and reflective sessions, delivering on a wide range of topics including professional development, leadership development, supervisor orientation, equity and belonging, and more! Jay is proud Badger Alumna with an educational background that demonstrates her commitment to emotional, mental, and social wellbeing, education, learning, equity, data, and analytics!

Session 3 Judicial Panelists



Hon. Pedro A. Colón is an Appellate Judge, Court of Appeals - District 1 (11/2023-present), Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge (2010-11/2023), Wisconsin State Legislature (1999-2010), Joint Committee on Finance (2006-10), Judiciary Committee (1999-08), Private Practice (1994-2006), Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District, Commissioner (2006-10), Milwaukee Area Technical College, Board Member (2004-08).

Colón graduated from Marquette University, B.A. (1991); University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D. (1994)



Hon. Jorge Fragoso Gov. Evers appointed Jorge Fragoso to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court – Branch 23 to fill the vacancy created by Judge Lindsey Grady’s resignation. Fragoso assumed office on November 4, 2023 and his current term ends on August 1, 2030.

Since 2021, Fragoso had been an associate at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown LLP, focusing on criminal defense, appeals, and civil litigation. He began his legal career as an assistant state public defender in Waukesha County, representing indigent clients as a trial lawyer and serving as a member of the drug and alcohol treatment courts. In

2016, he moved to the public defender’s appellate division in Milwaukee, handling postconviction matters and criminal appeals. Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous oral arguments in front of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Fragoso is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He served as a member of the Wisconsin Criminal Justice Coordinating Council from 2019 to 2021, has volunteered with both the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Milwaukee, and is an active member of the Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association.



Hon. Jacob Frost is a judge for the Dane County Circuit Court of Wisconsin. He was appointed by Governor Tony Evers on July 4, 2020, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Hon. Richard Niess.

Frost earned a bachelor's degree in German and political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2007. He then completed J.D. at the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2010.

After graduation from law school, Frost entered into private practice. He started as an associate at Boardman Clark in Madison, rising through the ranks to become a partner in 2017. During his tenure there, Frost represented individuals and businesses in a wide range of legal matters, including commercial and personal litigation, debt collection, landlord tenant law, and family law. His focus, however, was on several unique industries, such as the banking and dealership industries.

Frost sat on the Board of Access to Independence, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources, services, and advocacy for people with any type of disability.



Hon. Amber Raffet August is a dedicated and respected public servant currently serving as the Circuit Court Judge for Branch 14 in Milwaukee. Appointed to this role by Governor Tony Evers, she brings more than a decade of legal experience and an unwavering commitment to justice, fairness, and community service to her position.

Judge Raffet August began her legal career at Grzeca Law Group, and immigration law firm based in Milwaukee. She then transitioned to RISE Law Center, where she tirelessly represented survivors of violence in family law and immigration proceedings. Her passion for family law led her to the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, where she advocated for the best interests of children from indigent families during family court litigation.

Prior to her appointment as Circuit Court Judge, she served as an Assistant Family court Commissioner for Milwaukee County. In this role, she presided over a range of family court proceedings, demonstrating exceptional legal acumen and real empathy for those she represented.