

Megan Lee – President Elect

Judicare Legal Aid, Wausau, Wisconsin

I am running for President-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division because I am passionate about supporting rural and urban lawyers in their first years of practice. Since graduating from law school, I've worked at a nonprofit law firm in Wausau, Wisconsin.

I have also enjoyed extensive involvement with the State Bar, including serving on the Young Lawyers Division Board, where I've contributed to planning the Young Lawyers Conference and am District Representative for Wisconsin and Minnesota in the ABA's Young Lawyers Division. I am also on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Attorney Retention & Recruitment Committee. And as Chair of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Legal Assistance Committee, I've seen firsthand the challenges young attorneys face in bridging the justice gap.

Practicing in rural Wisconsin fuels my passion for fostering connections among young attorneys statewide. For those of us in rural areas, it's easy to feel isolated when events and resources often center around Madison or Milwaukee. I want to ensure the Young Lawyers Division prioritizes inclusivity and connection—bridging divides between urban and rural attorneys.

If elected President-Elect, I will advocate for innovative ways to involve rural attorneys in YLD activities, unite young lawyers across practice areas and geographies, and ensure that the YLD continues to serve as a dynamic resource for professional growth and collaboration. I believe that, together, we can amplify the voices of young attorneys and strengthen the future of our profession across Wisconsin.



Nadia Gonzalez – Treasurer

Kinship LLC, Madison, Wisconsin

As I finish up my second term as a Director for the Young Lawyers Division, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our membership. I ask for your support in this election as I run for Treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division.

I firmly believe in the Board's commitment to assisting young attorneys in building their practice, networking with other attorneys, and gaining skills through programming to assist them later in their careers, something I have witnessed and played a part in advancing in the past four years serving on the Board of Directors. As a board member, one of the most rewarding things I have done is help plan the annual Young Lawyers Conference, focusing on CLE programming geared towards our membership and providing a space for networking for young lawyers across the state. I hope to continue to foster connections between young attorneys through these types of networking and educational events as we navigate the early years of practice together.

With the legal profession continuing to evolve, the challenges that young attorneys in Wisconsin are far from over and as such, my work advocating for the young attorneys working in Wisconsin is not over. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve as Treasurer for the State Bar's Young Lawyers Division. Thank you for your support and consideration.



Stephanie K. Schmidt – Director, Incumbent

Wisconsin State Public Defender, Hudson, Wisconsin

Hi there! My name is Stephanie and I am running for a second term on the YLD Board of Directors. During my first term, I learned a lot about what it takes to make YLD events happen and what it takes to make young (and other newer) lawyers' voices heard. I hope to use that knowledge to continue to promote the interests of newer lawyers in the field.

While I practice exclusively in Wisconsin at this time, I am licensed in Minnesota as well which gives me insight into how other states approach the practice and attorney wellbeing. I've been with the Wisconsin State Public Defender as an Assistant State Public Defender for 2.5 years and have loved it. In my spare time, I enjoy reading; attempting new hobbies but quickly dropping them; and inundating my friends with memes.

I hope to use the things I've learned in my tenure on the YLD Board and in my career thus far to help the members of YLD grow their careers, find community, maintain wellbeing, and voice their thoughts and concerns to the State Bar.



Caitlin Aladham - Director

Legal Action of Wisconsin, INC., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, J.D., 2024. University of California, Berkeley, B.A. Political Science, 2021. Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Staff Attorney, Family Law Unit. 2024 Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by the Wm. Collins Kohler Foundation.

As a public interest attorney, I want to serve as a director on the Young Lawyers Division Board to represent the interests of other new attorneys who work on tight budgets to serve vulnerable populations. Working in legal aid, I've often found it frustrating that certain avenues that would better my ability to represent my clients, like being able to attend educational events on specialized legal topics, is beyond my means. As such, if elected to the Board, I would advocate for a further reduction in the cost of legal resources and CLE seminars for YLD attorneys, as well as for those lawyers whose firms cannot afford to reimburse them. I would also work to synthesize new and innovative opportunities for public service for all attorneys. This could include practitioner training on how to assist diverse populations or *pro se* litigants, thus allowing private attorneys to expand their pro bono efforts.



Suzanne Caulfield - Director

Quarles, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

My name is Suzanne Caulfield and I would like to ask for your support in electing me to the Board of the Young Lawyers Division.

I qualify as a member of the YLD as this is my first year practicing law following admission to the State Bar. Law is my third career – I started my working life as an engineer, then as a college professor of Math, and in May 2024 I graduated from Marquette University Law School. I am a firm believer that if we want a Young Lawyers Division that is supportive and active in helping our career development, we need to step up and give of our talents to help make that happen. I can bring my leadership and organizational skills to this position to help provide continuing legal education and networking opportunities to its members.

As we say in Ireland, my home country, *mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí* (*encourage young people and they will get there.*) By supporting the YLD I believe I can help create a strong and sustainable State Bar of Wisconsin as we, the members of the YLD, move forward in our careers.



Elizabeth Eickelberg - Director

Husch Blackwell LLP, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Elizabeth's journey into law was inspired by her previous career in government and philanthropy. During this time, she witnessed the significant impact of laws and legal decisions and developed a desire to contribute to the legal system.

Elizabeth graduated from Marquette University Law School in 2024. During her law school summers she completed a Public Interest Law Society (PILS) Fellowship at Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services and served as a Summer Associate at Husch Blackwell. Through these experiences Elizabeth has insight into both public and private sector legal roles. Elizabeth is currently a Commercial Litigation Associate at Husch Blackwell in Milwaukee.

Though originally from the Pacific Northwest, Elizabeth and her husband have decided to make Wisconsin home. As a transplant to Wisconsin and Milwaukee, Elizabeth hopes to join the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Board to further integrate into the Wisconsin legal community and help advocate for young lawyers. A topic of particular importance to Elizabeth is ensuring that young lawyers across the state have access to resources and conversations in support of maintaining mental and physical wellness as they enter the field of law.

In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys trying new restaurants, visiting different parts of Wisconsin, reading, baking, and spending time with her husband and dog.



Samuel Fritz - Director

MCCIP, Madison, Wisconsin

As an early-career attorney with a passion for the law and a deep connection to Wisconsin, I am eager to serve as a Director on the Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division. Born and raised in the Badger State, I have always been inspired by Wisconsin's tradition of community and "law in action." These values guided me through law school and into my early career, where I've focused on helping individuals and businesses protect their intellectual property.

As a young lawyer, I understand the challenges new attorneys face—balancing the pressures of building a career, staying engaged in the legal community, and finding opportunities for growth. Through the Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division, I hope to advocate for programs that support professional development, mentorship, and mental health resources for our members while promoting meaningful community outreach.

I would be thrilled to bring my enthusiasm, ideas, and dedication to this role. I look forward to contributing to Wisconsin's legal community and ensuring the Wisconsin Bar remains an invaluable resource for all its members.



Kristen Lojewski - Director

Lojewski Law LLC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I am eager to join the Board of Directors for Wisconsin's Young Lawyers Division because I am deeply committed to both advancing the legal profession and serving my community. The YLD offers a unique opportunity to foster leadership and growth, not only for young attorneys but also within the broader legal community. I believe that by becoming involved in the YLD, I can contribute to its mission of providing meaningful leadership training, networking opportunities, and encouraging active participation in the State Bar and local bar associations. As an attorney passionate about professional development and the profession as a whole, I am excited by the prospect of helping fellow young lawyers strengthen their skills and leadership potential. Through the YLD, I hope to help shape programs that will empower my peers, bridge gaps in access to legal resources, and inspire future generations of legal professionals. In addition, my involvement in local initiatives has given me a deep appreciation for the importance of community engagement. I am eager to contribute to efforts that enhance the role of attorneys in local communities while promoting diversity and inclusion within the profession. Joining the YLD Board would allow me to collaborate with like-minded individuals and make a meaningful impact in both the legal community and the communities we serve. I appreciate your consideration.



Abrielle Newman – Director

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Abrielle Newman is a Staff Attorney with Legal Action of Wisconsin's Eviction Defense Project in Milwaukee. Abrielle graduated from the Ohio State University in 2018 and the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2021. Abrielle joined Legal Action in March of 2021, where she now coordinates and facilitates EDP operations, volunteer recruitment, client representation, training, and community outreach. In 2024, Abrielle was awarded the YLD's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award and the Association for Women Lawyers' Pro Bono Award. Abrielle volunteers with the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics each week, and she is a member of the State Bar's Legal Assistance Committee. In her free time, Abrielle enjoys volunteering, performing in and attending shows, and watching sports.



Abigail M. Ruckdashel - Director

Cleghorn Jones, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Abigail is a "non-traditional" young lawyer. Abigail is already 30 years old but is in her first year of practice. Her mom likes to say she has "lived many lives" before pursuing law school. Abigail would bring a unique perspective to the board as she has worked as a journalist and special education teacher previously. Those experiences have helped her see the law both work for people and fail people. It also gave Abigail the skills to be able to connect with clients on the human level, and she hopes to share those skills with the board.



Scott A. Small - Director

Seifert, Small & Associates LLC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

As a life-long Wisconsin resident, I am honored and proud to practice law in the Dairy State. Since graduating from Marquette in 2021, I have taken a unique path that led to becoming a partner at a 3-attorney firm in downtown Milwaukee last year. I believe that this experience, learning the ins-and-outs of the legal practice—while also taking on the equally daunting task of running a small business—has prepared me to help other attorneys early in their career find their path.

My practice includes administrative labor and employment law, family law litigation, and general civil litigation, along with pretty much anything that walks in the door. This wide breadth of practice makes me aware of issues in many areas of the law affecting young lawyers. The work that the YLD does now will affect the careers of young lawyers for decades to follow. In my waning spare time, I enjoy golfing, exploring museums, and discovering new watering holes on the weekends!



Denise Wilson – Director

Capital Law Group, S.C., Madison, Wisconsin

My name is Denise Wilson. I was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 2020 and began practicing in 2021. However, I am not your typical young lawyer. I spent over 20 years as a high school teacher, then as an instructional designer/team lead/manager at a software company in Chicago. Born in Maryland, I have lived in Albuquerque NM, Virginia, Illinois, and now make my permanent home in Wisconsin.

I decided to become an attorney in 2015 when I realized that I was tired of being paid to fix problems for customers that actually didn't care about quality - they cared about price. I went to Law School at Loyola University of Chicago Weekend Program. I wanted to use my skills to fix real world problems, to help people. So, I took the leap to see if I had what it takes to become a lawyer all while working full time at my regular job.

Please consider my application for a seat on the Board of Directors so that I can bring a unique, dare I say, diverse? voice to the YLD. Finding a position as a First Year Associate when you already are several decades older than the average bear is a challenge. Our systems are not set up for it. Expectations are not set up for it. If you allow me to, I will bring another voice to the conversation of how to support young lawyers to the State Bar Thank you for your consideration.



Nikki (Qiushi) Yang – Director

LawtonCates S.C., Madison, Wisconsin

I began my law practice in early 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and have dedicated my career to civil litigation, focusing on personal injury, civil rights, and contract disputes. My passion lies in righting wrongs and helping those who have been unjustly harmed receive the justice and compensation they deserve.

When individuals are physically injured or their civil rights are violated, their lives can be put on hold and take a downward turn. I take pride in securing meaningful outcomes for them—helping them regain stability and move forward. Seeing the positive impact of my work on their lives is deeply fulfilling.

The State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division (YLD) plays an essential role in encouraging leadership within the profession and the community. As someone committed to justice, I am eager to contribute to the YLD’s mission of providing leadership training and networking opportunities.

Fluent in both Mandarin and English, I bring a diverse perspective and a strong commitment to advocacy for individuals from all walks of life. I look forward to using my skills, passion, and experience to further the goals of the YLD and make a meaningful impact.

