



# 2025 Staff Directory

**Wisconsin Legislative Council**  
*Supporting Effective Lawmaking Since 1947*

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# Wisconsin Legislative Council



Anne Sappenfield  
Director

February 2025

Dear Legislators and Staff:

I am pleased to present the 2025-26 edition of the Legislative Council Staff Directory.

The directory lists major committee assignments, as well as primary subject area responsibilities, for each attorney and analyst on our staff. In addition, there is an alphabetical listing of those primary subject areas at the back of the directory. The index identifies the staff members who specialize in each subject.

The primary subject area listings may be used to contact the staff directly. However, please do not hesitate to call the Legislative Council Staff offices at 266-1304 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Sappenfield".

Anne Sappenfield  
Director

[anne.sappenfield@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:anne.sappenfield@legis.wisconsin.gov)



## **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Legislative management  
Legislative procedure

## **COMMITTEES**

Joint Legislative Council  
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

# DEPUTY DIRECTORS



## RACHEL LETZING

DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 608-504-5719  
rachel.letzing@legis.wisconsin.gov

### PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS

Environment and forestry  
Labor and employment  
Land use and zoning  
Legislative procedure  
Natural resources

### COMMITTEES

Assembly Committee on Environment  
Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage  
Assembly Committee on Workforce Development, Labor,  
and Integrated Employment



## DANIEL SCHMIDT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 608-504-5712  
dan.schmidt@legis.wisconsin.gov

### PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS

Financial institutions  
Higher education  
Information policy and technology  
Legislative procedure  
Open meetings  
Public records  
Retirement  
Taxation  
Telecommunications

### COMMITTEES

Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage  
Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges  
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems

# LEGAL/RESEARCH SERVICES



## **KATIE BENDER-OLSON**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5713  
katie.bender-olson@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Campaign finance  
Corrections  
Education (K-12)  
Election law  
Ethics and lobby law  
Juvenile justice

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Corrections  
Assembly Committee on Education  
Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties



## **ABBY GORZLANCYK**

STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5711  
abby.gorzlaneyk@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Consumer protection and trade  
Education (K-12)  
Real estate and housing  
State-tribal relations  
Taxation

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection  
Assembly Committee on Education  
Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate  
Assembly Committee on State and Federal Relations  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means



## **SCOTT GROSZ**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5715  
scott.grosz@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Administrative rules  
Economic development  
Local government  
Tax incremental financing  
Taxation

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Commerce  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Utilities and Tourism  
Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules



## **ANNA HENNING**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5716  
anna.henning@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Agriculture  
Constitutional law  
Energy and utilities  
Environment and forestry  
Land use and zoning  
Local government  
Natural resources

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Agriculture  
Assembly Committee on Local Government  
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military  
Affairs



## **EMILY HICKS**

STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5726  
emily.hicks@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Education (K-12)  
Government operations and state affairs  
Higher education  
Labor and employment  
Workforce development

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities  
Assembly Committee on Jobs and Economy  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and  
Economic Development



## **PEGGY HURLEY**

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5724  
peggy.hurley@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Campaign finance  
Courts and judiciary  
Criminal law  
Election law  
Workforce development

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections  
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
Assembly Committee on Small Business Development  
Assembly Committee on Urban Revitalization  
Law Revision Committee



## **MARGIT KELLEY**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5717  
margit.kelley@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Administrative rules  
Family law  
Health  
Insurance  
Labor and employment  
Regulation and licensing  
Workforce development

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care  
Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and  
Economic Development  
Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and  
Forestry  
Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State  
and Federal Affairs  
Joint Committee on Employment Relations



## **THOMAS KOSS**

STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5728  
thomas.koss@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Alcohol beverage  
Criminal law  
Financial institutions  
Government operations and state affairs  
Juvenile justice  
Local government

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
Assembly Committee on Financial Institutions  
Assembly Committee on State Affairs  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government



## **BENJAMIN KRANNER**

SENIOR STAFF ANALYST | 608-504-5722  
benjamin.kranner@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Agriculture  
Energy and utilities  
Environment and forestry  
Natural resources  
Telecommunications  
Tourism

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities  
Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs



## **BRIAN LARSON**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5718  
brian.larson@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Energy and utilities  
Information policy and technology  
Marital property  
Open meetings  
Public records  
Probate and wills  
Taxation  
Telecommunications

### **COMMITTEES**

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue  
Senate Committee on Utilities and Tourism  
Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology  
Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions





## **ETHAN LAUER**

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5729  
ethan.lauer@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Agriculture  
Environment and forestry  
Government operations and state affairs  
Natural resources  
Real estate and housing  
Tourism  
Transportation

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Environment  
Assembly Committee on Rural Development  
Assembly Committee on State Affairs  
Assembly Committee on Transportation  
Law Revision Committee



## **STEVEN MCCARTHY**

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5720  
steven.mccarthy@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Cannabis  
Elderly and aging  
Health  
Local government  
Medicaid  
Mental health  
Regulation and licensing  
State-tribal relations  
Veterans and military affairs

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
Prevention  
Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military  
Affairs



## **KELLY MCGRAW**

STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5725  
kelly.mcgraw@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Elderly and aging  
Health  
Insurance  
Medicaid  
Mental health

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care  
Assembly Committee on Insurance  
Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform  
Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention,  
Children and Families



## **DAVID MOORE**

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5721  
david.moore@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Constitutional law  
Consumer protection and trade  
Courts and judiciary  
Criminal law  
Juvenile justice  
Transportation  
Veterans and military affairs

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government



## AMBER OTIS

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5723  
amber.otis@legis.wisconsin.gov

### PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS

Cannabis  
Child custody  
Child welfare  
Courts and judiciary  
Criminal law  
Family law  
Juvenile justice  
Marital property  
Tourism

### COMMITTEES

Assembly Committee on Children and Families  
Assembly Committee on Tourism  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety



## MELISSA SCHMIDT

PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY | 608-504-5727  
melissa.schmidt@legis.wisconsin.gov

### PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS

Alcohol beverage  
Audit  
Child welfare  
Courts and judiciary  
Criminal law  
Government operations and state affairs  
Open meetings  
Public records

### COMMITTEES

Assembly Committee on Government Operations, Accountability  
and Transparency  
Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention,  
Children and Families  
Joint Committee on Audit



## **PATRICK WARD**

STAFF ATTORNEY | 608-504-5714  
patrick.ward@legis.wisconsin.gov

### **PRIMARY SUBJECT AREAS**

Economic development  
Ethics and lobby law  
Information policy and technology  
Local government  
Real estate and housing  
Regulation and licensing  
Taxation

### **COMMITTEES**

Assembly Committee on Constitution and Ethics  
Assembly Committee on Science, Technology and AI  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue  
Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues and  
Forestry  
Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State  
and Federal Affairs  
Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



## **JULIE LEARNED**

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
julie.learned@legis.wisconsin.gov  
608-504-5702



## **KATIE PATYK**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
katie.patyk@legis.wisconsin.gov  
608-504-5706



## **ANGLINIA WASHINGTON**

FINANCE AND IT OFFICER  
anglinia.washington@legis.wisconsin.gov  
608-504-5705

## STAFF DIRECTORY BY SUBJECT AREA

### **Administrative rules**

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Scott Grosz  
Margit Kelley

### **Agriculture**

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Anna Henning  
Benjamin Kranner  
Ethan Lauer

### **Alcohol beverage**

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Tom Koss  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Audit**

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Melissa Schmidt

### **Campaign finance**

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Katie Bender-Olson  
Peggy Hurley

### **Cannabis**

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Amber Otis  
Steve McCarthy

### **Child custody**

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Amber Otis

### **Child welfare**

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Amber Otis  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Constitutional law**

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Anna Henning  
David Moore

### **Consumer protection and trade**

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Abby Gorzlancyk  
David Moore

### **Corrections**

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Katie Bender-Olson

### **Courts and judiciary**

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Peggy Hurley  
David Moore  
Amber Otis  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Criminal law**

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Peggy Hurley  
Thomas Koss  
David Moore  
Amber Otis  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Economic development**

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Scott Grosz  
Patrick Ward

### **Education (K-12)**

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Abby Gorzlancyk  
Katie Bender-Olson  
Emily Hicks

### **Elderly and aging**

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Steve McCarthy  
Kelly McGraw

### **Election law**

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Katie Bender-Olson  
Peggy Hurley

### **Energy and utilities**

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Anna Henning  
Benjamin Kranner  
Brian Larson

### **Environment and forestry**

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Anna Henning  
Benjamin Kranner  
Ethan Lauer  
Rachel Letzing

### **Ethics and lobby law**

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Katie Bender-Olson  
Patrick Ward

### **Family law**

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Margit Kelley  
Amber Otis

### **Financial institutions**

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Thomas Koss  
Dan Schmidt

### **Government operations and state affairs**

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Emily Hicks  
Tom Koss  
Ethan Lauer  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Health**

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Margit Kelley  
Steve McCarthy  
Kelly McGraw

### **Higher education**

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Emily Hicks  
Dan Schmidt

### **Information policy and technology**

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Brian Larson  
Dan Schmidt  
Patrick Ward

### **Insurance**

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Margit Kelley  
Kelly McGraw

### **Juvenile justice**

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Katie Bender-Olson  
Tom Koss  
David Moore  
Amber Otis

### **Labor and employment**

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Emily Hicks  
Margit Kelley  
Rachel Letzing

### **Land use and zoning**

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Anna Henning  
Rachel Letzing

### **Legislative management**

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Anne Sappenfield

### **Legislative procedure**

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Rachel Letzing  
Anne Sappenfield  
Dan Schmidt

### **Local government**

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Scott Grosz  
Anna Henning  
Tom Koss  
Steve McCarthy  
Patrick Ward

### **Marital property**

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Brian Larson  
Amber Otis

### **Medicaid**

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Steve McCarthy  
Kelly McGraw

### **Mental health**

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Steve McCarthy  
Kelly McGraw

**Natural resources**

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Anna Henning  
Benjamin Kranner  
Ethan Lauer  
Rachel Letzing

**Open meetings**

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Brian Larson  
Dan Schmidt  
Melissa Schmidt

**Public records**

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Brian Larson  
Dan Schmidt  
Melissa Schmidt

**Probate and wills**

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Brian Larson

**Real estate and housing**

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Abby Gorzlancyk  
Ethan Lauer  
Patrick Ward

**Regulation and licensing**

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Margit Kelley  
Steve McCarthy  
Patrick Ward

**Retirement**

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Dan Schmidt

**State-tribal relations**

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Abby Gorzlancyk  
Steve McCarthy

**Tax incremental financing**

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Scott Grosz

**Taxation**

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Abby Gorzlancyk  
Scott Grosz  
Brian Larson  
Dan Schmidt  
Patrick Ward

**Telecommunications**

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Benjamin Kranner  
Brian Larson  
Dan Schmidt

**Tourism**

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Benjamin Kranner  
Ethan Lauer  
Amber Otis

**Transportation**

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Ethan Lauer  
David Moore

**Veterans and military affairs**

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Steve McCarthy  
David Moore

**Workforce development**

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Emily Hicks  
Peggy Hurley  
Margit Kelley



**Address:**

One East Main St., Suite 401  
Madison, WI 53703-3382

**Phone:**

(608) 266-1304

**Email:**

[leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**Website:**

[www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc)