

THE JUDICIARY

Wisconsin Supreme Court

Justices: Annette Kingsland Ziegler, *chief justice*; Ann Walsh Bradley, Patience Drake Roggensack, Rebecca Grassl Bradley, Rebecca Frank Dallet, Brian Hagedorn, Jill J. Karofsky

Clerk of the supreme court: Sheila T. Reiff

Supreme court commissioners: Nancy Kopp, Julie Rich, David Runke, Mark Neuser

Location: Room 16 East, State Capitol, Madison (supreme court); 110 East Main Street, Suite 215, Madison (clerk)

Contact: 608-266-1880 (clerk); 608-266-7442 (commissioners); PO Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/supreme/index.htm>

Number of employees: 38.50

Total budget 2019–21: \$11,062,200

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is the highest court in Wisconsin's court system. It is the final authority on matters pertaining to the Wisconsin Constitution and the highest tribunal for all actions originating in the state court system, except those involving federal constitutional issues appealable to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, it has regulatory and administrative authority over all courts and the

Wisconsin's Supreme Court (*from left*): Justice Brian Hagedorn, Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, former Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler, Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet, Justice Jill J. Karofsky.





TOM SHEEHAN, WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Patience Roggensack delivers the State of the Judiciary address at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference held in Elkhart Lake.

practice of law in the state. In this capacity, it establishes procedural rules and codes of conduct for the courts and for the practice of law, and it regulates and disciplines attorneys, judges, and justices.

The supreme court consists of seven justices elected to 10-year terms. They are chosen in statewide elections on the nonpartisan April ballot and take office on the following August 1. The Wisconsin Constitution provides that only one justice can be elected in any single year. In the event of a vacancy, the governor may appoint a person to serve until an election can be held to fill the seat.

The justices elect one of themselves to be the chief justice for a term of two years. The chief justice serves as administrative head of the court system. Any four justices constitute a quorum for conducting court business.

The court decides which cases it will hear. The supreme court exercises its appellate jurisdiction to review a decision of a lower court if three or more justices approve a petition for review, if the court decides on its own motion to review a matter that has been appealed to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, or if the court accepts a petition for bypass or a certification from the court of appeals. The majority of cases advance from the circuit court to the court of appeals before reaching the supreme court, but the supreme court can bypass the court of appeals, either on its own motion or at the request of the parties; in addition, the court of appeals may certify a case to the supreme court, asking the high court to take

the case directly from the circuit court. The court accepts cases on bypass or on certification if four or more justices approve. Further, although rarely granted, a person may file a petition requesting the supreme court to exercise its superintending authority over actions and proceedings in the circuit courts and court of appeals. The supreme court may also exercise original jurisdiction as the first court to hear a case if four or more justices approve a petition requesting it to do so.

The supreme court does not take testimony. Instead, it decides cases on the basis of written briefs and oral argument. The court is required by statute to deliver its decisions in writing, and it may publish them as it deems appropriate.

Wisconsin Court of Appeals

Chief judge: Lisa S. Neubauer

Clerk of the court of appeals: Sheila T. Reiff

Location: 110 East Main Street, Suite 215, Madison (clerk)

Contact: 608-266-1880; PO Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/appeals/index.htm>

Number of employees: 75.50

Total budget 2019–21: \$22,682,400

In August 2020, the Wisconsin court system launched a voluntary eFiling pilot program for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. The service, now available statewide, allows appellate practitioners to conveniently file and serve nearly all documents electronically and builds on a successful eFiling program already in place for the state's circuit courts.

WISCONSIN COURT SYSTEM Log in How do I...?

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Appellate court eFiling

Electronic filing in Wisconsin courts

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Overview

Mandatory eFiling of briefs, no-merit reports, & petitions for review

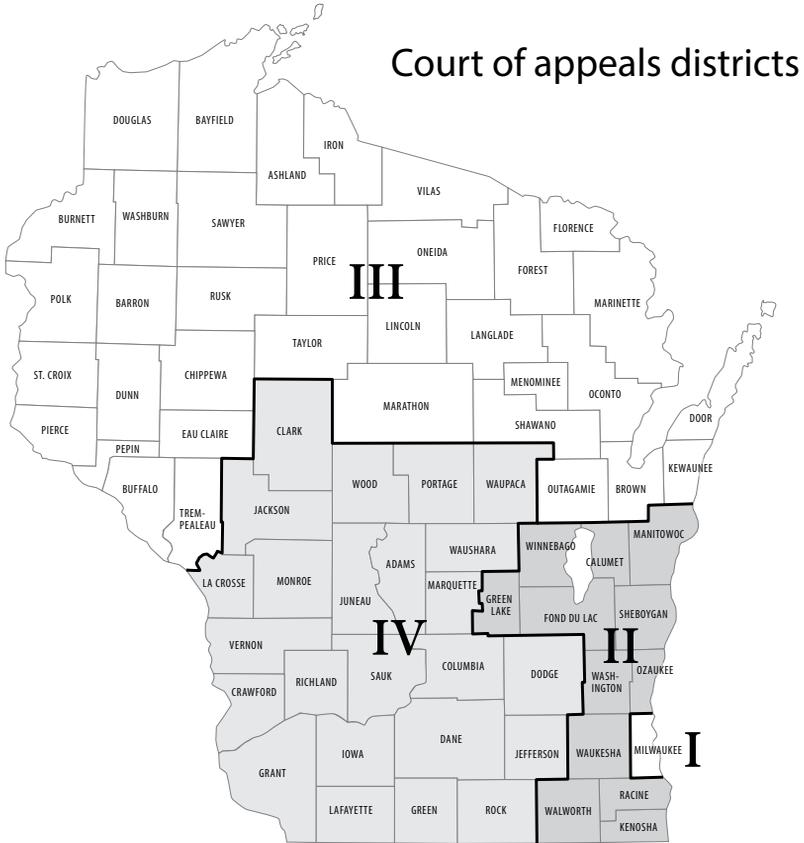
Since 2009, use of the eFiling system has been mandatory for attorneys filing briefs in appeals, no-merit reports, petitions for review, and responses. An electronic copy of each brief must be filed with the court in addition to bound paper copies. Electronic filing of appendices is optional for both attorneys and self-represented litigants. Self-represented litigants may file these documents electronically, but are not required to.

- ▶ [View the 2009 Supreme Court Rules regarding electronic filing of documents @](#)
- ▶ [View 2009 guidance from the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals @](#)

Briefs are publicly available via the [Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Access \(WSCA\) website](#). Other electronically filed documents are viewable only by the attorneys or self-represented parties associated with a particular case.

Appellate court eFiling

- Log in to eFile
- Overview
- Registration
- Timeline
- Rules & requirements
- eFile updates
- User guides & training



DISTRICT I

William W. Brash III, *presiding judge*; Timothy G. Dugan, M. Joseph Donald, Maxine A. White

Contact: 414-227-4680; 330 East Kilbourn Avenue, Suite 1020, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3161

DISTRICT II

Paul F. Reilly, *presiding judge*; Lisa S. Neubauer, Mark D. Gundrum, Shelley A. Grogan

Contact: 262-521-5230; 2727 North Grandview Boulevard, Suite 300, Waukesha, WI 53188-1671

DISTRICT III

Lisa K. Stark, *presiding judge*; Thomas M. Hruz, Mark A. Seidl

Contact: 715-848-1421; 2100 Stewart Avenue, Suite 310, Wausau, WI 54401

DISTRICT IV

Michael R. Fitzpatrick, *presiding judge*; Brian W. Blanchard, JoAnne F. Kloppenburg, Jennifer E. Nashold, Rachel A. Graham

Contact: 608-266-9250; 2921 Landmark Place, Suite 415, Madison, WI 53713-4248

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges serving in four districts. The Wisconsin Supreme Court appoints one of these judges to be the chief judge and to serve as administrative head of the court of appeals for a three-year term. The chief judge in turn appoints a presiding judge for each of the districts. The clerk of the supreme court serves as the clerk for the court of appeals. Court of appeals judges are elected to six-year terms in the nonpartisan April election and begin their terms of office on the following August 1. They must reside in the district from which they are elected. Only one court of appeals judge may be elected in a district in any one year. In the event of a vacancy, the governor may appoint a person to serve until an election can be held to fill the seat.

The court of appeals has appellate jurisdiction, as well as original jurisdiction to issue prerogative writs. The primary function of the court of appeals is to correct errors that occur at the circuit court level. The court also has supervisory authority over all actions and proceedings except those of the supreme court. The final judgments and orders of a circuit court may be appealed to the court of appeals as a matter of right. Other judgments or orders may be appealed upon leave of the appellate court.

The court of appeals usually sits as a three-judge panel to dispose of cases on their merits. However, a single judge may decide certain categories of cases, including juvenile cases; small claims actions; municipal ordinance and traffic regulation violations; and mental health, contempt, and misdemeanor cases. No testimony is taken in the appellate court. The court relies on the trial court record and written briefs in deciding a case, and it hears oral argument when the judges determine it is needed. Both oral argument and “briefs only” cases are placed on a regularly issued calendar. When it is possible to do so without undue delay of civil cases, the court gives preference on the calendar to expedited and criminal appeals, as well as to appeals statutorily required to be given scheduling preference.

Decisions of the appellate court are delivered in writing, and the court’s publication committee determines which decisions will be published. Published opinions have precedential value and may be cited as controlling law in Wisconsin unless overruled by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Circuit Court

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/circuit/index.htm>

Number of state-funded employees: 527.00

Total budget 2019–21: \$209,042,400

DISTRICT 1

Mary E. Triggiano, *chief judge*; Holly Szablewski, *administrator*

Contact: 414-278-5115; Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 North 9th Street, Room 609, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

DISTRICT 2

Jason A. Rossell, *chief judge*; Louis Moore, *administrator*

Contact: 262-636-3133; Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine, WI 53403-1274

DISTRICT 3

Jennifer Dorow, *chief judge*; Michael Neimon, *administrator*

Contact: 262-548-7209; Waukesha County Courthouse, 515 West Moreland Boulevard, Room C-359, Waukesha, WI 53188-2428

DISTRICT 4

Barbara Key, *chief judge*; Jon Bellows, *administrator*

Contact: 920-424-0027; District Court Administrator's Office, 415 Jackson Street, Room 510, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808

DISTRICT 5

Thomas J. Vale, *chief judge*; Theresa Owens, *administrator*

Contact: 608-267-8820; Dane County Courthouse, 215 South Hamilton Street, Room 6111, Madison, WI 53703-3290

DISTRICT 6

District 6 was eliminated by supreme court order effective July 31, 2018.

DISTRICT 7

Robert P. VanDeHey, *chief judge*; Patrick Brummond, *administrator*

Contact: 608-785-9546; La Crosse County Law Enforcement Center, 333 Vine Street, Room 3504, La Crosse, WI 54601-3296

DISTRICT 8

James A. Morrison, *chief judge*; Thomas Schappa, *administrator*

Contact: 920-448-4281; District Court Administrator's Office, 414 East Walnut Street, Suite 100, Green Bay, WI 54301-5020

DISTRICT 9

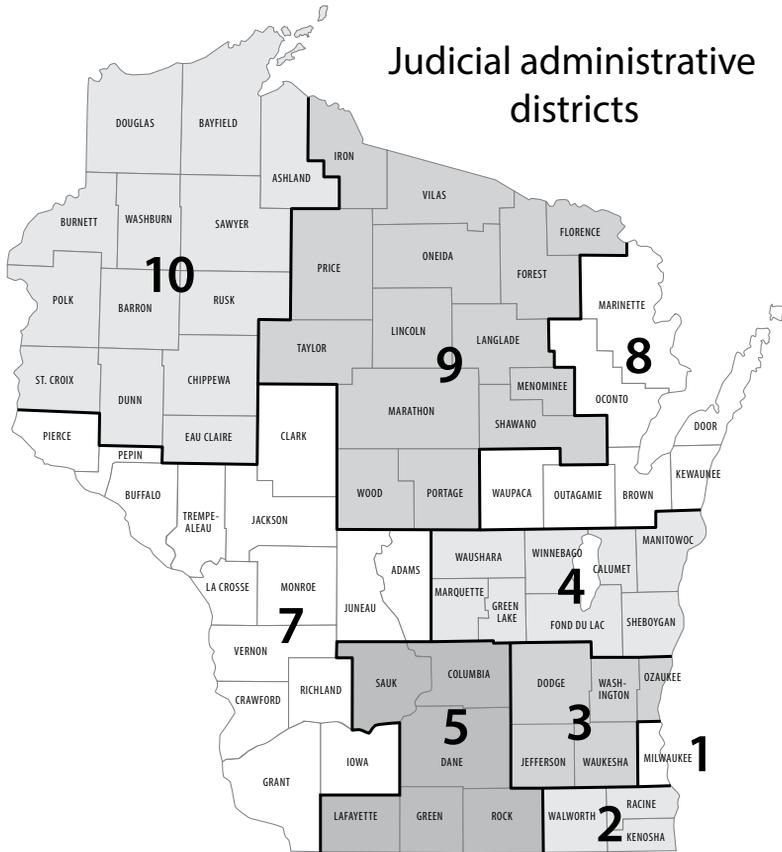
Gregory B. Huber, *chief judge*; Susan Byrnes, *administrator*

Contact: 715-842-3872; District Court Administrator's Office, 2100 Stewart Avenue, Suite 310, Wausau, WI 54401

DISTRICT 10

Maureen D. Boyle, *chief judge*; Christopher Channing, *administrator*

Contact: 715-245-4104; District Court Administrator's Office, 1101 Carmichael Road, Suite 1260, Hudson, WI 54016



The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Wisconsin. It has original jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters unless exclusive jurisdiction is given to another court. It also reviews state agency decisions and hears appeals from municipal courts. Jury trials are conducted only in circuit courts. The circuit court consists of numerous judges serving in 69 circuits. Each circuit consists of the territory of a single county, except for three two-county circuits (Buffalo-Pepin, Florence-Forest, and Menominee-Shawano). Because of the varying size of their caseloads, some circuits have a single judge, while others have multiple judges. Each judge in a circuit holds court separately—circuit judges do not sit as a panel to hear cases—and each judgeship is called a “branch” of the circuit. As of August 1, 2021, there were a total of 253 circuit court branches in the state.

Circuit judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis in the April election and take office the following August 1. The governor may fill circuit court vacancies by appointment, and the appointees serve until a successor is



Grant County Circuit Court Judge Craig R. Day presides over a hearing as a court reporter takes the record using digital audio recording equipment.

elected. The state pays the salaries of circuit judges and court reporters. It also covers some of the expenses for interpreters, guardians ad litem, judicial assistants, court-appointed witnesses, and jury per diems. Counties bear the remaining expenses for operating the circuit courts.

The circuit court is divided into nine judicial administrative districts, each supervised by a chief judge appointed by the supreme court from the district's circuit judges. A judge usually cannot serve more than three successive two-year terms as chief judge. The chief judge has authority to assign judges, manage caseflow, supervise personnel, and conduct financial planning. The chief judge in each district appoints a district court administrator from a list of candidates supplied by the director of state courts. The administrator manages the nonjudicial business of the district at the direction of the chief judge.

Circuit court commissioners are appointed by the circuit court to assist the court, and they must be attorneys licensed to practice law in Wisconsin. They may be authorized by the court to conduct various civil, criminal, family, small claims, juvenile, and probate court proceedings. Their duties include issuing summonses, arrest warrants, or search warrants; conducting initial appearances; setting bail; conducting preliminary examinations and arraignments; imposing monetary penalties in certain traffic cases; conducting certain family, juvenile, and small claims court proceedings; hearing petitions for mental commitments; and conducting uncontested probate proceedings. On their own authority, court

commissioners may perform marriages, administer oaths, take depositions, and issue subpoenas and certain writs.

The statutes require the circuit court for Milwaukee County to have full-time family, small claims, and probate court commissioners. In all other counties, the circuit court is required to have a family court commissioner.

Municipal Court

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/municipal/index.htm>

The legislature has authorized cities, villages, and towns to establish municipal courts to exercise jurisdiction over municipal ordinance violations that have monetary penalties. Municipal courts also have the authority to handle first offense Operating While Under the Influence cases. In addition, municipal courts may rule on the constitutionality of municipal ordinances.

Municipal courts can have multiple branches (judges who hold court separately), and two or more municipalities can form a joint court. As of February 2021, there were 229 municipal courts and 232 municipal judges in Wisconsin. Seventy-nine of these courts are joint courts that serve from 2 to 18 municipalities. Milwaukee has the largest municipal court, with three full-time judges.

There are no jury trials in municipal court. All cases are decided by a judge. Upon convicting a defendant, the municipal court may order payment of a forfeiture plus costs, fees, and surcharges, or it may order community service in lieu of a forfeiture. In general, municipal courts may also order restitution up to \$10,000. In certain cases, a municipal court may suspend or revoke a driver's license.

If a defendant fails to pay a forfeiture or make restitution, the municipal court may suspend the driver's license or order the defendant to jail. Municipal court decisions may be appealed to the circuit court for the county where the offense occurred.

Municipal judges are elected at the nonpartisan April election and take office on May 1. The term of office is four years, unless the municipality has adopted a charter ordinance designating a different term of at least two years, but less than four years. The governing body determines the judge's salary. There is no state requirement that the office be filled by an attorney, but a municipality may enact such a qualification by ordinance. If a municipal judge is ill, disabled, or temporarily absent, the municipal judge may temporarily designate another municipal judge to handle the matter, subject to an order of the chief judge of the judicial administrative district where the municipality is located. In other circumstances, such as when a judge is disqualified, the chief judge of the circuit court administrative district may designate another municipal judge to handle

a matter. Finally, if a municipal judge is incompetent, is unable to act, or fails to act, the chief justice of the supreme court may assign cases to another municipal judge, a former municipal judge, or a former circuit court judge. If no judge is available, the chief justice may transfer a case from municipal court to circuit court.

Auxiliary entities

Office of the Director of State Courts

Director of state courts: Randy R. Koschnick

Deputy director for court operations: Diane M. Fremgen

Deputy director for management services: Caitlin M. Frederick

Location: Room 16 East, State Capitol, Madison (director); 110 East Main Street, Madison (staff)

Contact: 608-266-6828 (director); PO Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688 (director); 110 East Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3356 (staff)

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/offices/director.htm>

Number of employees: 164.25

Total budget 2019–21: \$45,772,000

The director of state courts is appointed by the supreme court and is the chief nonjudicial officer of the Wisconsin court system. The director is responsible for the management of the court system and advises the supreme court, particularly on matters relating to improvements to the court system. The director supervises most state-level court personnel; develops the court system's budget; and directs the courts' work on legislation, public information, and information systems. This office also controls expenditures; allocates space and equipment; supervises judicial education, interdistrict judicial assignments at the circuit court level, and planning and research; and administers the medical malpractice mediation system.

State Bar of Wisconsin

Board of governors, officer members: Cheryl Furstace Daniels, *president*; Margaret Wrenn Hickey, *president-elect*; Kathleen A. Brost, *past president*; Kristen Hardy, *secretary*; Eric L. Andrews, *treasurer*; Charles Stertz, *chair of the board*

Board of governors, district-elected members: Joseph M. Cardamone, III, Margaret Wrenn Hickey, Jennifer L. Johnson, Rochelle Johnson-Bent, Lisa M. Lawless, Odalo J. Ohiku, Amber Lane Raffee August, Amy Elizabeth Wochos, Ryan M. Billings, Elizabeth K. Miles, Anna Frances Coyer Munoz, Krista G. LaFave Rosolino, Nicholas C. Zales, Renee Ann Read, Mary Lynne Donohue, Craig Steger, Jesse Blocher, John P. Macy, AnnMarie M. Sylla, Bradley Yanke, Joel D. Skinner, Jr., Jeff A. Goldman, David M. Gorwitz, Corey Gayle Lorenz, Mitch, Patricia Epstein Putney, Sam Wayne, Katie R. York, Starlyn Tourtillott Miller, Johanna R. Kirk, Jane E. Bucher, Robert G. Barrington, Sherry Coley, Brian P. Dimmer, Lawrence J. Wiesneske

Executive director: Larry J. Martin

Location: 5302 Eastpark Boulevard, Madison

Contact: service@wisbar.org; 608-257-3838 (general); 800-362-9082 (lawyer referral and information service); PO Box 7158, Madison, WI 53707-7158

Website: www.wisbar.org

The State Bar of Wisconsin is a mandatory professional association of all attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. In order to practice law in the state, attorneys must be admitted to practice by the full Wisconsin Supreme Court or by a single justice and must also join the State Bar. The governance and structure of the State Bar are established by the supreme court. The State Bar works to maintain and promote professional standards, improve the administration of justice and the delivery of legal services, and provide continuing legal education to lawyers. The State Bar conducts legal research in substantive law, practice, and procedure and develops related reports and recommendations. It also maintains the roll of attorneys, collects mandatory assessments imposed by the supreme court for supreme court boards and to fund civil legal services for the poor, and performs other administrative services for the judicial system.

David T. Prosser Jr. State Law Library

State law librarian: Amy Crowder

Location: 120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., 2nd Floor, Madison

Contact: wsl.ref@wicourts.gov (reference); 800-322-9755 (toll free); 608-266-1600 (circulation); 608-267-9696 (reference); PO Box 7881, Madison, WI 53707

Website: <http://wilawlibrary.gov>

The State Law Library is a public library open to all citizens of Wisconsin. The library supports the information needs of the officers and employees of the state, and of attorneys and the public. The library is administered by the supreme court, which appoints the state law librarian and determines the rules governing library access. The library acts as a consultant and resource for circuit court libraries throughout the state. Milwaukee County and Dane County contract with the State Law Library for management and operation of their courthouse libraries (the Milwaukee County Law Library and the Dane County Law Library).

The library's collection features session laws, statutory codes, case reporters, administrative rules, and legal indexes of the U.S. government, all 50 states, and U.S. territories. It also includes legal and bar periodicals and legal treatises and encyclopedias relevant to all major areas of law. As a federal depository library, it selects federal documents to complement the legal collection. The collection circulates to judges and court staff, attorneys, legislators, and government personnel. The library offers reference, legal research guidance, and document delivery services, as well as training in the use of legal research tools, databases, and websites.

Lawyer Regulation System

Office of Lawyer Regulation: Keith L. Sellen, *director*

Preliminary Review Committee: Robert Asti, *chair*

Special Preliminary Review Panel: Bruce Schultz, *chair*

Board of Administrative Oversight: Lori Kornblum, *chair*

Location: 110 East Main Street, Suite 315, Madison

Contact: 608-267-7274; 877-315-6941 (toll free); PO Box 1648, Madison, WI 53701-1648

Number of employees: 27.50

Website: <https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/offices/olr.htm>

Total budget 2019–21: \$6,404,200

The Office of Lawyer Regulation assists the supreme court in supervising the practice of law and protecting the public from professional misconduct by persons practicing law in Wisconsin. The system includes several entities.

The Office of Lawyer Regulation receives and evaluates all complaints, inquiries, and grievances related to attorney misconduct or medical incapacity. The office is headed by a director who is appointed by the supreme court. If the allegations against an attorney are not within the office's jurisdiction, staff will close the file. A grievant may make a request for the director to review the decision; the director's decision is then final. The office must investigate any grievance that appears to support an allegation of possible attorney misconduct or incapacity, and the attorney in question must cooperate with the investigation. After investigation, the director decides whether the matter should be forwarded to the Preliminary Review Committee, be dismissed, or be diverted for alternative action. The director may also obtain the attorney's consent to a private or public reprimand. The director may refer a matter to a District Committee for assistance with the investigation.

If the director forwards a matter to the Preliminary Review Committee and a panel of that committee determines there is cause to proceed, the director may seek disciplinary action, ranging from agreement to a private reprimand to filing a formal complaint with the supreme court that requests private or public reprimand, license suspension or revocation, monetary payment, or imposing conditions on the continued practice of law. An attorney may be offered alternatives to formal disciplinary action, including mediation, fee arbitration, law office management assistance, evaluation and treatment for alcohol and other substance abuse, psychological evaluation and treatment, monitoring of the attorney's practice or trust account procedures, continuing legal education, ethics school, or the multistate professional responsibility examination.

Formal disciplinary actions for attorney misconduct are filed by the director with the supreme court, which appoints an attorney or reserve judge to be the



TOM SHEEHAN, WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

In 2019, in the Supreme Court Hearing Room at the capitol, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet discusses the legal system and the role of the courts in with students from Whitefish Bay High School.

referee for each such action. Referees conduct hearings on complaints of attorney misconduct, petitions alleging attorney medical incapacity, and petitions for reinstatement. They make findings, conclusions, and recommendations and submit them to the supreme court for review and appropriate action. Only the supreme court has the authority to suspend or revoke a lawyer's license to practice law in Wisconsin.

If the director receives an allegation of misconduct or incapacity pertaining to an attorney who works in or is retained to assist the Lawyer Regulation System, the director must refer the matter to a special investigator. Special investigators are attorneys who are appointed by the supreme court and who are not currently working in or retained by the lawyer regulation system. The special investigator commences an investigation if he or she determines there is enough information to support a possible finding of cause to proceed on the allegation, but otherwise may close the matter. After an investigation, the special investigator can dismiss the matter or submit an investigative report to the Special Preliminary Review Panel. If this panel determines, after receiving an investigative report from a special investigator, that there is cause to proceed, the special investigator can proceed to file a complaint with the supreme court and prosecute the matter personally or may assign that responsibility to counsel retained by the director for such purposes.

The Board of Administrative Oversight monitors and assesses the performance of the lawyer regulation system and reports its findings to the supreme court. The board reviews with the supreme court the operation of the lawyer regulation system, proposes for consideration by the supreme court substantive and procedural rules related to the regulation of lawyers, and proposes to the supreme court the annual budget for the office of lawyer regulation, after consulting with the director of that office.

Board of Bar Examiners

Chairperson: Marc A. Hammer

Director: Jacquelynn B. Rothstein

Location: 110 East Main Street, Suite 715, Madison

Contact: bbe@wicourts.gov; 608-266-9760; PO Box 2748, Madison, WI 53701-2748

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/offices/bbe.htm>

Number of employees: 6.00

Total budget 2019–21: \$1,650,800

The Board of Bar Examiners administers all bar admissions; it writes and grades the bar examination, reviews motions for admission on proof of practice, and conducts character and fitness investigations of all candidates for admission to the bar, including diploma privilege graduates. The board also administers the Wisconsin mandatory continuing legal education requirement for attorneys.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler (*standing*) discusses Marquette County's legal history during the court's 2019 Justice on Wheels outreach trip to Montello, where the court heard oral argument in three cases. In April 2021, Justice Ziegler was elected as the 27th Wisconsin Supreme Court chief justice, replacing Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, who held the position from 2015 to 2021.



TOM SHEEHAN, WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

Judicial Commission

Members: Yulonda Anderson, Mark Barrette, William W. Brash III, Eileen Burnett, William E. Cullinan, Frank J. Daily, Kendall M. Kelley, Steve C. Miller, Joseph L. Olson

Executive director: Jeremiah C. Van Hecke

Contact: judcmm@wicourts.gov; 608-266-7637; 110 East Main Street, Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703-3328

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/judcom>

Number of employees: 2.00

Total budget 2019–21: \$632,200

The Judicial Commission conducts investigations regarding allegations that a justice, judge, or court commissioner has committed misconduct or has a permanent disability that substantially impairs his or her judicial performance. The commission's investigations are confidential. If the commission finds probable cause that a justice, judge, or court commissioner has engaged in misconduct or has a disability that substantially impairs his or her judicial performance, the commission must file a formal complaint of misconduct or a petition regarding disability with the supreme court.

The commission then prosecutes a proceeding against the judge before a three-judge panel or, if the commission so requested when it filed the complaint or petition, before a jury. The panel of judges, or a single judge to preside over a jury proceeding, is selected by the chief judge of the court of appeals. If the proceeding was held before a panel, the supreme court reviews the panel's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommended disposition and determines the appropriate discipline in cases of misconduct or appropriate action in cases of permanent disability. If the proceeding was held before a jury, the presiding judge files the jury verdict and his or her recommendations regarding appropriate discipline for misconduct or appropriate action for permanent disability with the supreme court for the court's review.

Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee

Members: Bryan Keberlein, *chair*; M. Joseph Donald, *vice chair*; Cynthia Davis, Todd Martens, Dennis Cimpl, Barbara Hart Key, Laura Mahan-Schmitz, Christine E. Ohlis, James R. Troupis

Contact: 608-266-6828; PO Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/committees/judicialconduct.htm>

The Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee gives formal advisory opinions and informal advice to judges and judicial officers regarding whether actions contemplated by the officials comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct. It also makes recommendations to the supreme court about amending of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the rules governing the committee.

Judicial Conference

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/committees/judicialconf.htm>

The Judicial Conference is composed of all supreme court justices, court of appeals judges, circuit court judges, and reserve judges; three municipal court judges designated by the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association; three representatives from the tribal courts; one circuit court commissioner designated by the Family Court Commissioner Association; and one circuit court commissioner designated by the Judicial Court Commissioner Association.

The Judicial Conference meets at least once a year to consider and establish study committees to examine issues relating to the administration of justice and its improvement, consider the reports of such committees, and consider problems pertaining to the administration of justice and make recommendations for improvement; to conduct instructive programs and seminars; to consider and act on reports and recommendations from the committees; to conduct elections; and to consider any other matters and conduct other business included on the agenda.

The Judicial Conference has several standing committees, including committees to prepare model civil, criminal, and juvenile jury instructions. The Judicial Conference may also create additional study committees to examine particular topics. These study committees must report their findings and recommendations to the next annual meeting of the Judicial Conference. The Judicial Conference may also create other committees to perform duties not otherwise covered by the Judicial Conference bylaws.

Judicial Council

Members: William Gleisner, *chair* (designated by State Bar president-elect); Diane M.

Fremgen (designated by director of state courts); Thomas R. Hruz (judge designated by court of appeals), Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz, Robert P. VanDeHey, Hannah Dugan, Scott R. Needham (circuit court judges designated by Judicial Conference); Senator Wanggaard (chairperson, senate judicial committee); Representative Tusler (chair, assembly judicial committee); Steven C. Kilpatrick (designated by attorney general); Sarah Walkenhorst Barber (designated by Legislative Reference Bureau chief); Adam Stevenson (faculty member designated by UW Law School dean); Thomas L. Shriner, Jr. (faculty member designated by Marquette University Law School dean); Adam Plotkin (designated by state public defender); Sarah Zylstra, Margo Kirchner, John R. Orton (State Bar members selected by State Bar); Christian Gossett (district attorney appointed by governor); Benjamin J. Pliskie, Dennis Myers (public members appointed by governor), vacant (justice designated by supreme court)

Contact: 414-651-3182; 19125 Killarney Way, Brookfield, WI 53045

Website: <http://wilawlibrary.gov/judicialcouncil/index.htm>

Number of employees: 0.00

Total budget 2019–21: \$0

The Judicial Council advises the supreme court, the governor, and the legislature on any matter affecting the administration of justice in Wisconsin, and it may recommend changes in the jurisdiction, organization, operation, or business methods of the courts that would result in a more effective and cost-efficient court system. The council studies the rules of pleading, practice, and procedure and advises the supreme court about changes that will simplify procedure and promote efficiency.

Judicial Education Committee

Members: Justice Rebecca F. Dallet, *chair*; Jini Jasti, Thomas Hammer, Randy Koshnick, Lisa K. Stark, Jay R. Tlusty, Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz, Thomas R. Hruz, Mary E. Triggiano, Susan Crawford, Thomas Walsh, Gregory Strasser, Jodi Meier, Maria Lazar, Kelly Iselin, Jason Hanson

Director of Office of Judicial Education: Morgan Young

Contact: jed@wicourts.gov; 608-266-7807; Office of Judicial Education, 110 East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703-3328

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/committees/judicial.htm>

The Judicial Education Committee oversees continuing education programs for the judiciary. All supreme court justices and commissioners, appeals court judges and staff attorneys, and circuit court judges and commissioners must earn 60 credit hours of continuing education every six years in approved educational programs. Reserve judges and municipal court judges are subject to similar continuing education requirements. The committee monitors compliance with the continuing education requirements and refers instances of noncompliance to the supreme court. The committee works with the Office of Judicial Education in the Office of the Director of State Courts, which plans and conducts educational seminars for judges and tracks credits earned by judges.

Planning and Policy Advisory Committee

Chair: Annette Kingsland Ziegler (chief justice of the supreme court)

Contact: 608-266-3121; 110 East Main Street, Suite 410, Madison, WI 53703

Website: <https://wicourts.gov/courts/committees/ppac.htm>

The Planning and Policy Advisory Committee advises the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the director of state courts on planning and policy and assists in a continuing evaluation of the administrative structure of the court system. It participates in the budget process of the Wisconsin judiciary and appoints a subcommittee to confer with the supreme court and the director of state courts in the court's review of the budget. The committee meets at least quarterly, and the supreme court meets with the committee annually. The director of state courts participates in committee deliberations, with full floor and advocacy privileges, but is not a member of the committee and does not have a vote.