



Volunteer Attorney: John Conley

John K. Conley is Legal Counsel for Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Services. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

Please describe your education leading up to law school?

I attended UW-Eau Claire – Barron County and graduated from UW – Madison. I majored in Broad Field Social Studies which gave me the option to become a teacher.

Why did you decide to go to law school and become an attorney?

Once I knew professional hockey and rock stardom were not in the cards, (due to a lack of talent), I figured out any STEM major would also be done in by that deficit and so by process of elimination I was left with a liberal arts degree. My mother was a teacher and my father practiced law so those were the two career paths I looked into pursuing. I initially entered law school with the idea of practicing labor law but ended up in family law.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy all of the great restaurants and entertainment venues Milwaukee has to offer. From the Back Room to the Fiserv Forum I enjoy live music and sports with friends and family.

Why do you volunteer at the MVLC?

There is no greater satisfaction a person can experience than knowing you helped someone. I have never left MVLC without thinking I accomplished something worth so much more than a few hours of my time.

Why do you think pro bono work is important?

The courts are set up as an adversarial system with the expectation that each side will be represented. Part of the value of representation is to fully understand the proceedings and what the possible outcomes will be. The vast majority of family law litigants are not appearing with a lawyer so it is left to the MVLC to try to level the playing field.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at MVLC?

The team work of the clinic with students and lawyers working together to accomplish the same goal of serving an underrepresented community.