

MARY E. TRIGGIANO

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Distinguished legal professional with over three decades of experience spanning judicial leadership, legal practice, restorative justice innovation, and legal education. Currently serving as Director of the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice and Clinical Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School. Former Chief Judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court with extensive experience in problem-solving courts, trauma-informed justice, and system-wide leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marquette University Law School – Milwaukee, WI

Director, Andrew Center for Restorative Justice

Clinical Professor of Law

June 2023 – Present

Milwaukee County Circuit Court – Milwaukee, WI

Chief Judge

February 2020 – April 2023

- Led Judicial District 1, overseeing 46 circuit courts, 23 court commissioners, and court personnel
- Managed budget, grants, and pandemic-related crisis response and recovery
- Oversaw 19 municipal courts
- Member, Committee of Chief Judges (statewide judicial leadership)

Circuit Court Judge

Civil Division

August 2017 – February 2020

Children's Division – Family Drug Treatment Court

August 2013 – August 2017

Healthy Infant Court

August 2015 – August 2017

Domestic Violence Court, Presiding Judge

August 2010 – August 2013

Misdemeanor Division

August 2009 – August 2010

Children's Division, Presiding Judge

August 2004 – August 2009

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. – Milwaukee, WI

Managing Attorney, Milwaukee Office

Director, Volunteer Lawyers Project

March 1994 – July 2004

- Coordinated 1,500+ volunteer attorneys across 11 counties
- Supervised multidisciplinary staff
- Managed grants and complex litigation strategy
- Designed legal training programs and pro bono initiatives

Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren, S.C. – Milwaukee, WI

Associate Attorney – Litigation

May 1988 – February 1994

- Litigated complex commercial, contract, bankruptcy, and family law matters
- Argued motions in state and federal courts
- Engaged in extensive pro bono representation

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE EXPERIENCE

- Integrated restorative practices in Juvenile Justice, Family Drug Treatment Court and Healthy Infant Court (2013–2017)
- Planning Committee, Restorative Justice Initiative Conferences, Marquette University Law School (2012–2013)
- Guest Lecturer, Restorative Justice Initiative (2008, 2009, 2022)
- Panelist, Turkish Delegation Visit (2012)

- Facilitator and participant in victim-offender panels and restorative justice programming
- Contributor to restorative justice efforts in schools, courts, and community settings

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor, Marquette University Law School

2017 – 2020

- Co-taught *Problem-Solving Courts and the Neuroscience of Trauma* with interdisciplinary faculty

JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

- Committee of Chief Judges (2020–2023)
- Chair, Milwaukee Community Justice Council (2020–2023)
- Race Equity & Procedural Justice Committee (2018–2023)
- Violence Reduction, Public Health & Safety Team (2021–present)
- Wisconsin Trial Judges Association Board Member (2012–2020)
- National Council on Juvenile & Family Court Judges (2004–2018)
- Judicial faculty, presenter, and planning committee member across statewide initiatives

(Full list available upon request)

PUBLICATIONS

- *Restorative Justice Up Close: First-Person Accounts of an Approach That Works*, Edited by Sally Swarthout Wolf and forward by Howard Zehr (2026) (Mary Triggiano and Janine Geske stories included).
- *The Peace Building Power of Restorative Justice Communities: Hope Post War & Large-Scale Conflicts* due to be published by Routledge. (Invited to co-author a chapter with Professor Gabe Velez, possible title: *From Courtrooms to Classrooms: Expanding Our Thinking of "Success" in Restorative Justice Across Contexts of Conflict*).

- *Vision Zero: Zero Traffic Deaths Action Plan*, City of Milwaukee – included in the plan document: restorative justice to reduce traffic violence (July 2025) (ACRJ key contributor to the plan)
- *Mental Health Law in Wisconsin: A Guide for Legal and Healthcare Professionals* (2021) – Co-authored Preface
- “Gideon’s New Trumpet,” *Wisconsin Lawyer* (2009)
- “High Quality Representation from a Manager’s Perspective” (2003)
- “Defense of Battered Women from Post-Conviction Perspective,” *Wisconsin Woman’s Law Journal* (1988)

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Frequent presenter on:

- Trauma-informed justice
- Restorative justice practices
- Judicial decision-making
- Child welfare and family systems
- Treatment Courts

Delivered presentations to thousands of justice system professionals statewide and nationally. Regular guest judge, lecturer, keynote speaker, and panelist across academic and professional settings.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Active leadership and membership in:

- State Bar of Wisconsin (Past Board of Governors, committees, leadership roles)
- Association for Women Lawyers (Past President; mentoring initiatives)
- Milwaukee Bar Association
- National Association of Women Judges
- Numerous advisory boards, judicial committees, and community organizations

Extensive involvement in pro bono, youth development, domestic violence prevention, and child welfare initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Marquette Law School

Admissions Committee (2024-25)

Judicial Committee (2025- present)

Youth Empowerment Society, faculty rep.

Medical College of WI Neuroscience Research Center, Board Member

Wisconsin Appleseed Foundation, Board Member

Wisconsin Community Services, Board Member

Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellow

National Association of Community and Restorative Justice, member (2023-present)

Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators Committee on Legal Education and Bar Admission Reform (2024-25)

State Community Justice Council - Effective Justice Strategies Committee: Treatment Court Standards subcommittee; Race Equity subcommittee; Inclusive Language subcommittee

HONORS & AWARDS

Recipient of numerous distinguished honors, including:

- Gwen Moore Restorative Justice Award (Project Return)
- Wisconsin Law Foundation Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award
- Milwaukee Bar Association E. Michael McCann Distinguished Public Service Award
- Justinian Society Jurist of the Year
- Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Aulik Award
- Association for Women Lawyers Founders Award

(Full list available upon request)

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, 1988

Wisconsin Woman's Law Journal

University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

B.S., Political Science & Criminal Justice, *magna cum laude*, 1984

ADMISSIONS

- Wisconsin State Bar (1988)
- U.S. District Court – Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court – Western District of Wisconsin

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Divorce Mediation Training (2003)
- National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (2010)
- Trauma-Informed Justice Training (2015–2016)