

Hon. Ramona A. Gonzalez

SUMMARY

Visionary institutional leader in and outside the courtroom with demonstrated experience serving diverse stakeholder groups (e.g. the accused, victims, prosecution, families, communities, staff, etc.). Servant and transformational leader known for elevating, engaging, and inspiring followers to reach new heights. Driven to create positive change in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Demonstrated catalyst for change domestically and internationally. Strategist capable of building from the ground up, leading reform initiatives, or carrying existing visions to fruition.

THEMES

Executive Leadership | Advancing Others

Demonstrated organizational leadership, and coalition building across varying stakeholder groups. Select groups for strategic plan creation, implementation, and volunteer engagement include:

- **La Crosse County Criminal Justice Management Council (CJMC)** Judicial member (2008 – present). Lead efforts to reduce reliance on incarceration to address community safety and perpetrator accountability using research based approaches leading to costs savings of millions of dollars to La Crosse County.
- **Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare:** Judicial Member (2012 – present). Strategic planning and implementation of policies and best practices for improving the child welfare system in Wisconsin including successfully shepherding legislative changes.
- **Wisconsin Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee:** (1996-2002). Tasked with setting the judicial education agenda for all judges in the state of Wisconsin. As a Judicial Member worked to integrate the issues of domestic violence and diversity in educational offerings for all court officers.
- **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:** Diversity Directorate Assistant Branch Chief Atlantic West (2014 – present). Tasked with implementing the directive of the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard to ensure promoting an inclusive atmosphere of acceptance and respect and creating an environment which fosters an appreciation of the values, skills, and abilities of each individual.
- **Civil Rights Coordinator U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary – 8th Western Rivers Region:** (2015 – present). Responsible for carrying out the spirit and intent of the Coast Guard's equal opportunity program. Auxiliary Civil Rights Coordinator is an adjunct member of the Coast Guard district's civil rights program staff and is responsible for administering equal opportunity policies within the Region, and investigating discrimination and sexual harassment complaints.
- **Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators:** Curator (2015 – present). Recognized for membership as a community leader to aid in the Society's mission. Wisconsin Historical Society was founded in 1846, and is ranked as one of the largest, most active, and diversified state historical societies in the nation. Managing an annual budget in excess of \$21 million guided by the firm belief that increasing the public's knowledge of history has profound societal, cultural, and economic benefit.

Judicial Leadership | Advancing the Field

Committed to advancing judicial leadership and public service across 30+ years of experience in the courts.

- **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ):** President-Elect 2018-19; Treasurer 2017-18, Board Member
- **Commission on Judicial Elections and Ethics:** Member
- **Wisconsin Judicial College:** Associate Dean (1996 – 2002)
- **Wisconsin Bar Access to Justice Commission:** Member
- **State Bar Legal Assistance Committee:** Member
- **Uniform Bond Committee:** Member
- **AFCC Think Tank on Shared Parenting:** Steering Committee Member
- **Working Group to Develop Guide to Good Practice on the application Article 13 (1) (b) in the 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction:** US Representative

THEMES cont'd

Vulnerable Populations | Championing for the Rights of Others

A thought-leader and advocate at a community, regional, state, and national level for keeping children safe and families strong, and providing service to other vulnerable populations such as the elderly and homeless.

- **NCJFCJ Family Violence and Domestic Relations Advisory Committee:** Member, Vice-Chair and Chair (2006 – 2015)
- **Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare:** Member (2012 – present)
- **Wisconsin Judicial Committee to Improve Interpretation and Translation:** Member (2006 – 2012)
- **Latin American Judges' Seminar on the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction:** US Representative (2004)
- **The Hague Project for International Co-Operation and the Protection of Children:** Expert Judge Participant (2005)
- **Judges Seminar on the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Noordwijk, the Netherlands:** US Representative (2003)
- **US Judicial Advisory Council on International Family Abduction:** Member Judge (ongoing)
- **National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence:** Faculty (ongoing)
- **Wisconsin Bar Access to Justice Study Committee:** Member (2006-2007)
- **Wisconsin Bar Legal Assistance Committee:** Judicial Member (2006-2009)
- **Wisconsin Call to Action Group on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse:** Member ((2004-2006)
- **Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force:** Member 2016-18
- **Legislative Committee on Relative Caregivers:** Public Member (2003)

Speaking | A Leading Voice

Frequent speaker, trainer, and contributor participating in 10+ roundtable, presentations, conferences, or other speaking engagements for each of the last five years.

- **Major League Baseball (MLB) Rookie Development Program – Presentation on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Santa Domingo, DR (2015, 2016)**
- **The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women – Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape: Criminal Justice and Medical Consequences of Sexual Assault, Monrovia, Liberia:** Trainer (2010)
- **6th International Seminar: Mexico – United States: 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon & Guanajuato:** Speaker (2009)
- **Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law Study Group:** Participant (2008)
- **International Trainer on Hague Private Conference on Civil Child Abductions:** Ongoing

Diversity | Paving Paths for Others

Motivated from personal experiences to advance the equality for all in every facet of professional work. Broke barriers in La Crosse County as the first female judge, and first woman of color to hold an elected position.

- **NCJFCJ Board of Directors Diversity Committee:** Member
- **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:** Diversity Directorate, Civil Rights Coordinator
- **Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.:** Recognition of Sensitivity and Appreciation of Diversity of Culture and Lifestyles of Southeast Asian Refugees (2003)
- **Wisconsin State Bar Participation of Women in the Bar Committee:** Member (1995 – 1998)
- **Outstanding Women Award:** Coulee Region YWCA (1998)

EXPERIENCE

Presiding Judge, State of Wisconsin Circuit Court <i>La Crosse County Circuit Court</i>	1995 – Present
Judicial Court Commissioner <i>La Crosse County Circuit Court, Hon. Peter G. Pappas</i>	1982 – 1995
Attorney in Private Practice <i>Stuber and Gonzalez Sauer, Becker, Flanagan & Lynch Bosshard</i>	1982 – 1995
Law Clerk <i>La Crosse County Circuit Court</i>	1981 – 1982

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, WI	1981
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science Loyola University, Chicago, IL	1978

SELECT AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITIONS

A full list of awards, honors, and recognitions is available upon request.

- **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI):** 2014 *Angel in Adoption*TM award
- **State Bar of Wisconsin:** President Award (2006)
- **YWCA Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):** Award for Exceptional Leadership, Support, and Promotion of YWCA CASA for Kids program (2004)
- **Wisconsin Law Journal:** Ten Exceptional Women in the Law (2003)
- **American Academy of Adoption Attorneys:** Distinguished Jurist Award (2002)
- **University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee & the Department of Public Instruction:** Award of Excellence recognizing dedication to jurisprudence and serving as an exemplary role model to young women in Wisconsin (1998)