



# MARGARET W. HICKEY

## STATE BAR PRESIDENT-ELECT

— *An Experienced Leader* —

### BACKGROUND

Born and raised in Beaver Dam, WI

Graduate of Marquette University (1982 summa cum laude) and University of Wisconsin Law School (1986 cum laude)

### MY PRIORITIES IF ELECTED AS STATE BAR PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Provide innovative solutions and support all attorneys** in meeting the challenges of practicing in a Covid challenged and competitive environment including: provide the best education and support for a remote law practice, support continued remote court appearances for court efficiency, to provide greater access to justice, and to permit attorneys to practice in distant counties. Support better broad band access throughout the state to facilitate remote practice for all.

**Promote diversity and inclusion.** Our Bar must reflect the diversity of the general population and must include the views of all attorneys. I serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Committee, focusing on educational programs on intrinsic bias, cultural competence and related issues. I will push for the Bar's diversity and inclusion plan and goals to be reality.

**Support younger attorneys.** Graduating into a recession during a pandemic is daunting. As President-Elect I would support newer attorneys who are the future of the profession, including: possible reduced fees, reduced or free CLE, advocating for debt forgiveness, mentoring, or office management help. I serve on the Leadership Development Committee that seeks to mentor young lawyers and future leaders.

**Social Justice and Access to Justice.** Access to justice disparities are magnified by the pandemic. As a Bar, we need to and can do more. I have served on the Legal Aid of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund Boards. I will work within the Bar to expand access to justice and to address inequities in our legal system.

### LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Board of Governors (2005-15 and 2018 – Present)

Member of Executive and Finance Committee

Milwaukee Bar President

Family Law Section Board Chair and Elder Law and Special Needs Section Chair

Founding partner of Becker, Hickey & Poster in 1991, a small law firm practicing in elder and family law in Milwaukee and throughout the State.

### STATE WIDE SUPPORT

#### Former State Bar Presidents:

R. George Burnett

Patrick J. Fiedler

D. Michael Guerin

Diane Diel

Robert R. Gagan

Paul G. Swanson

James Brennan

#### Partial list of supporters:

Ben Adams  
Steven Allen  
Steven Bach  
Gregory Banchy  
Linda Balisle  
Robert Barrington  
Maren Beerman  
Daniel Bestul  
John Birdsall  
James CW Bock  
Barry Book  
Christy Brooks  
Randall Brotherhood  
Kathryn Bullon  
John Busch  
Terry Campbell  
Joseph Cardamone III  
James J. Casey Jr.  
Kelly Centofanti  
Sherry Coley  
Shannon Corallo  
M. Christine Cowles  
Jennifer D'Amato  
John Danner  
Lisa Derr  
George Dionisopoulos  
Mary Lynne Donohue  
Michael Dwyer  
Andrew Falkowski  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
Julie Lee Foley

Beth Froelich  
Roy Froemming  
Cheryl Gemignani  
Donna Ginzl  
Peter Grosskopf  
Patricia Grove  
James Hall  
Susan Hansen  
Kristopher Hanson  
Rhonda Hazen  
John Heide  
Megann Hendrix  
Gregg Herman  
Kathleen Healy  
Peter Hickey  
Tiffany Highstrom  
John Hogan  
Barbara Hughes  
Ruth Irvings  
Matthew Johnson  
Corinne Kaplan  
David Kowalski  
Christopher Krimmers  
Lisa Kritzke  
Alison Krueger  
Steven J. Krueger  
Lisa Lawless  
Catherine La Fleur  
Dayna Lefebvre  
Mary Leonard  
Emily Loe

Jessica Liebau  
Kevin Lyons  
John Macy  
John V. McCoy  
David McClurg  
Frances Martin  
N. Lynnette McNeely  
Anthony Menting  
Marta Meyers  
Rebecca Millenbach  
Holly Mullin  
Anna Muñoz  
Ginger Murray  
Randy Nash  
Kate Neugent  
Tiara Oates  
Rebecca Oettinger  
Jennifer O'Neill  
Alan Panak  
Howard Pollack  
Heather Poster  
Renee Read  
Greg W. Renz  
Ashley Richter  
Elise Clancy Ruoho  
Elizabeth Ruthmansdorfer  
Michael Schiffler  
Jolene Schneider  
John Schober  
Nancy Sennett  
Amy Shapiro

Thomas Shriner  
Joel Skinner  
Carlton Stansbury  
Emily Stedman  
Paul Sturgul  
AnnMarie Sylla  
Emily Tercilla  
Natasha Torry  
April Toy  
Jennifer Van Kirk  
Linda Vanden Heuvel  
Daniel Walsh  
John Wesley Warren  
Carol Wessels  
William West  
David Westrup  
Janice Wexler  
Sarah Whiting  
Reg Wydeven  
Eric Zaeske  
Margaret Zickuhr  
Karen Zimmermann

# MY BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE MATTER

## **I have years of leadership, litigation and office management experience.**

During 35 years of private practice, I have run my own law firm for 30 years.

While running a small business is not comparable to working for a corporation, the government or in a larger firm, I understand the challenges of budgeting, managing employees, attracting and retaining clients, and the imperative of professionalism. I have done all of this while raising a family (4 adult children of whom I am extremely proud) and volunteering approximately 20-30 hours per month for the Bar and in other activities. I have had tremendous support from my husband, law partners, staff members, friends and colleagues. I have learned to juggle responsibilities, know when to delegate and speak up when a task is beyond my expertise. I am also not afraid of a challenge or to speak up even if it may be unpopular.

My practice ranges from representing a person with disabilities on SSI with about \$800 monthly income, to representing sophisticated, wealthy clients who own large businesses in divorce and in estate planning. I believe that my skills permit me to relate to people from all walks of life,

I have tried complex lawsuits including a six day evidentiary arbitration and a two week divorce trial. Since the pandemic, I have handled many hearings by Zoom including evidentiary trials (although I would not recommend them!) My practice includes daily client and family interactions, trial and appellate work. The stress of meeting deadlines, competently practicing in several areas and still having a personal life is real. I understand the challenges that attorneys face having a work/life balance and the mental health issues raised by the practice. My leadership at the State Bar would include supporting lawyers, work/life balance issues and office management, particularly for younger attorneys who need support to succeed.

## **My life experience is to welcome and support diversity, inclusion and access.**

I was raised in a small town, Beaver Dam, with little diversity, but my parents were open minded, caring people. I was actually taught not to be racist or bigoted by parents who called out racism or bigotry when it happened. At age 17, I lived in Colombia, South America as an exchange student, where I attended a year of high school. I learned that racism and bigotry are not uniquely American. And I saw our country, which is really a wonderful, but sometimes troubled place, from another perspective. This helped to shape me as an adult. My work as President Elect would focus on the elimination of bias in our justice system and on the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in our profession so that attorneys represent and understand the population we serve.

In my career I have tried to put my efforts into not only improving our profession, but also helping those who are underserved by our profession. My early work was on the Family Law Section Board was on a child support committee and I served as a Public Member on the Joint Legislative Council Special Committee. Since then, I chaired the Boards of the Family Law and the Elder Law and Special Needs Sections. I have served on the Milwaukee Bar Association Board (President 2004) and the MBA Foundation. I was on the Foundation Board when we decided that all Foundation funds would be used to support the Milwaukee Justice Center ("MJC"). I volunteered at the MJC at the brief legal advice clinic to assist low income clients.

I have served on the Legal Aid Board of Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, both of which advocate for and raise funds for low income clients with civil legal needs. My service on the Board of Governors for over a decade includes serving as Chair of the Board, on Finance, Chair of Executive Committee, work on the Leadership Development Committee to mentor younger attorneys in Ready, Set Practice and work on the Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Committee, especially on education issues. I would work to increase access to justice as State Bar President Elect.

## **I have peer support.**

In a number of organizations, I have been recommended to join by my peers. This includes the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys and the American College of Family Trial Attorneys. I have been named in *Superlawyers* for over 15 years in Elder Law and repeatedly in the top 25 women attorneys in the State, and one year in the top 10. I am listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* in family law and elder law. I have been elected to state-wide positions (Treasurer of the Bar - 2009) and locally (Milwaukee Bar President). This support would better enable me to represent all of you as a Bar leader.

## **I ask for your vote.**

I will bring experience, passion and commitment to my job as President Elect of the State Bar. It would be a privilege to serve all of you. I ask for your vote.