

# Press Release



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Judge Thomas Walsh receives Charles Dunn Wisconsin Lawyer Author Award

**MADISON, Wis. (May 6, 2026)** — Brown County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Walsh has been named the 2026 recipient of the Hon. Charles Dunn Wisconsin Lawyer Author Award, recognizing excellence in legal writing published in *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine.

Presented by the State Bar of Wisconsin's Communications Committee, which serves as the editorial board for the magazine, the award is named in honor of the Wisconsin Supreme Court's first chief justice.

Judge Walsh was recognized for his article, "*Lawyers, Judges, the Third Branch: 'A Republic, If You Can Keep It,'*" 98 Wis. Law. 32-37 (July/August 2025).

The article examines the legal profession and the role attorneys and judges play in preserving the dignity and integrity of the justice system and maintaining the balance of government.

"Judge Walsh's article, while clearly taking a position, avoids that pitfall. Instead, it invites readers to pause and thoughtfully consider our shared responsibilities within the judicial system. His reflections on how we conduct ourselves each day – and his reminder that our duty extends beyond client advocacy to stewardship of the profession itself – strongly resonated with us and, we hope, with many others," the Dunn Award Subcommittee noted.

"By weaving in historical context and literary references, he offered a perspective that was

both insightful and accessible. The writing was engaging and easy to follow, striking a careful balance at a time when measured voices are essential. Ultimately, the article succeeds in rekindling a sense of pride and responsibility among lawyers and judges without veering into extremes."

The subcommittee concluded that Judge Walsh's article "stands as a powerful call to action and a timely reminder of what is at stake if we fail to uphold our obligations and defend the rule of law. Thoughtfully crafted and forward-looking, the piece presents multiple perspectives while grounding its message in history, making it both reflective and impactful."

Judge Walsh serves as editor of *The Wisconsin Journal of Family Law*.

The Charles Dunn Wisconsin Lawyer Author Award recognizes writing excellence in *Wisconsin Lawyer*, the State Bar's official publication.



*Brown County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Walsh is the recipient of the 2026 Charles Dunn Wisconsin Lawyer Author Award. (Photo courtesy of the State Bar of Wisconsin)*

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**ABOUT THE STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN**

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the integrated professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 25,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit [wisbar.org](http://wisbar.org).

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