

COREY F. FINKELMEYER



EXPERIENCE

November 2004-Present Director of Civil Litigation Unit, Wisconsin Department of Justice
June 1999-October 2004 Assistant Attorney General, Wisconsin Department of Justice

Extensive Leadership and Managerial Experience

- Entrusted with direct supervisory responsibility over a diverse staff of 45 employees. Employees include 25 assistant attorneys general; 13 paralegals; and 7 administrative assistants.
- Maintain direct supervisory responsibility over the following areas of practice: civil rights; medical malpractice; personal injury; general torts; subrogation; eminent domain; employment discrimination; worker’s compensation; contracts; and labor standards.
- Exclusive responsibility for the assignment of cases and other duties to unit staff. Oversee a unit case load consistently ranging between 750 and 1,000 active cases.
- Proven ability to identify strengths and weaknesses of staff which in turn has resulted in a significant reduction in settlement and verdict payments by the State of Wisconsin.
- Created a mentoring program for new attorneys to enhance their experience and improve overall performance by pairing them with more experienced colleagues for extensive litigation training.
- Developed a case management system.
- Served as Department of Justice’s representative to minority recruitment fairs.
- Facilitate and coordinate the Civil Litigation Unit’s partnership with the UW Law School Externship Program.

Wide Ranging and Successful Litigation and Appellate Experience

- Significant trial and negotiation experience.
 - Successful in representation as lead counsel for social worker accused of negligence and violations of constitutional rights in the death of a baby she placed in foster care. Social worker found not liable. *Slade v. Lusk, et al.*, Milwaukee County Case No. 02-CV-7068.
 - In 2006, successful in representation as lead counsel of state trooper accused of using excessive force during an arrest in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Trooper found not liable by a Milwaukee jury. *Jackson v. Perales, et al.*, Eastern District Court Case No. 03-C-941.
 - In 2007, negotiated a settlement agreement as lead counsel for the State in a class action involving Wisconsin’s most secure prison. The agreement allows the State to more efficiently use the institution while providing a more humane environment for inmates housed there. *Jones él v. Frank, et al.*, Western District Court Case No. 00-C-421-C.
 - Successful representation as co-counsel in employment action alleging race and sex discrimination at UW-Platteville. UW found not liable. *Walker v. Board of Regents*, Western District Court Case No. 03-C-66-C.

- Successful representation as co-counsel in employment action alleging sex discrimination and retaliation at UW-River Falls. UW found not liable. *Schils v. Board of Regents*, Western District Court Case No. 98-C-760-S.
 - In 2010, negotiated a settlement agreement as lead counsel for the State in a class action involving Wisconsin's largest female prison. *Flynn v. Doyle*, Eastern District Court Case No. 06-C-537.
 - Primary negotiator for the State in all civil matters
- Significant writing and oral argument experience.
 - Argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court twice. *In Matter of Application of Prisoner Litigation Reform Act in State ex rel. Cramer v. Schwarz*, 236 Wis.2d 473, 613 N.W.2d 591, 2000 WI 86; *State ex rel. L'Minggio v. Gamble*, 263 Wis.2d 55, 667 N.W.2d 1, 2003 WI 82.
 - Successfully argued in *Meyers v. Schultz*, 277 Wis.2d 845, 690 N.W.2d 873, 2004 WI App 234 that a private company's instructions for assembling equipment did not constitute a "law" for ministerial duty purposes, thus preserving discretionary immunity for all state employees in this commonly recurring situation.
 - Drafted winning brief in case alleging negligence by several UW employees in their maintenance of a dormitory. Demonstrated clear understanding of both sovereign and discretionary immunities as well as the notice of claim and safe place statutes. *Hoff v. University of Wisconsin*, Dane County Case No. 04-CV-120.
 - Successfully defended UW Medical School's decision to dismiss a student from its physician's assistant program against an allegation of discrimination in a Ch. 227 review. *Hanlon v. Board of Regents*, Columbia County Case No. 02-CV-372.
 - Successfully defended UW-Madison's decision to not allow in-state tuition to a student under Ch. 36. *Hoerth v. Board of Regents*, Dane County Case No. 03-CV-1042.
 - Successfully argued in several cases that the exception found in *Burnett v. Alt*, 224 Wis. 2d 72, 89, 589 N.W.2d 21 (1999), applied to a UW professor who did not want to testify as an expert witness in cases involving the effect of stray voltage on dairy output. As a result, the courts applied the *Alt* rule expansively and did not limit its application to only medical malpractice cases. (e.g. *Stubrud v. Northern States Power*, Eau Claire County Case No. 00-CV-564.).
 - Authored section on governmental immunities for the State Bar of Wisconsin

High Level Counseling and Training Experience

- Chief advisor to the Attorney General on all issues related to the State's liability.
- The Department of Justice's primary liaison with the university and state agencies.
- Chief legal advisor to the Department of Administration's Bureau of Risk Management.
- Advise cabinet secretaries and their executive staff regarding litigation and potential liabilities.
- Member of the Committee on the Reappointment of the Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin Federal Court.
- Provide regular training on civil litigation to the university system and state agencies.
- Presenter on how to improve and enhance management skills at the National Association of Attorneys General conference.
- Presenter on negotiations at the National Association of Attorneys General conference.
- Presenter on deposition preparation at the National Association of Attorneys General conference.
- Presenter on how to enhance the lawyer-client relationship in the public sector at the National Association of Attorneys General conference.

- Presenter on civil litigation at the State's judicial conference.
- Presenter on civil litigation at the State prosecutors' conference.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, *cum laude*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999.

Bachelor of Arts, *with Distinction*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1996. Majors: Political Science, History, International Relations.

PERSONAL

Member of the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin

Member McClellan Park Neighborhood Association

Coach for Eastside and Kennedy Little Leagues

Coach for YMCA Flag Football