

## Faculty Biographies

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**COSTELLO, KEVIN** Kevin Costello has been a Court Commissioner in Waukesha County since 2018 and prior to that a Commissioner in Milwaukee County for 14 years. On his first day on his first job as an assistant district attorney, his supervisor told Kevin to open Ch. 48 and learn it. He said he would get right on it, and after the supervisor left, he asked the secretary what Ch. 48 was and where he could find it. Thus began a career in Children's Law that extended from that first day as an ADA, through 20 years as a private practitioner engaging in all aspects of this area of law and being the senior staff representative for the private bar at Milwaukee County's Children Court and now as a Commissioner. Commissioner Costello also serves as a member of the Wisconsin Commission on Children, Families and the Courts. Contact Information: [kevin.costello1@wicourts.gov](mailto:kevin.costello1@wicourts.gov)

**FOLEY, CHRISTOPHER** Christopher Foley has been a Circuit Court Judge for Milwaukee County since 1985. He previously served as chair of the Juvenile Jury Instruction Committee and served for over 10 years on the Juvenile Benchbook Committee. Judge Foley was named a "Milwaukeean of the Year" in 1996 by Milwaukee Magazine and was given the Children's Service Society Service to Children Award in 1997 for his work in implementing the Foster Care Conversion Project, which freed hundreds of children for adoption who had been mired in long-term foster care. He has been the recipient of United State Congress' Angels in Adoption Award; Jockey Being Family's Jurist of the Year; Marquette University's Professional Achievement Award; and very recently given Wisconsin State Bar's Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award. Judge Foley has testified before congressional committees and appeared on ABC News Nightline and NBC's Today Show discussing child custody disputes. A graduate of Marquette Law School in 1978, Judge Foley was a law clerk for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, a Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney and a Milwaukee Municipal Court judge before he was appointed to succeed his father, the Honorable Leander J. Foley, Jr., as a circuit judge. He has been re-elected without opposition six times. He and his wife, Deb, are the proud parents of seven children: Rebecca, Christopher, Jr., Patrick, Kevin, Sean), Donald and Ben. Additionally, they are also proud grandparents of Nora Grace Foley, 10/16/20 and Leander Donald Cramer, 6/11/22! Contact Information: [christopher.foley@wicourts.gov](mailto:christopher.foley@wicourts.gov)

**JAMIESON, ANTON** Commissioner Anton Jamieson has been a circuit court commissioner since 2006. His primary responsibilities are in juvenile and family court. He has been a faculty member at the National Judicial Institute for Domestic Violence and the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking. He serves as a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare (WJCCW) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Judicial Workgroup. In his spare time, he actively seeks players of sheephead. Contact Information: [anton.jamieson@wicourts.gov](mailto:anton.jamieson@wicourts.gov)

**KLICKO, WENDY** Judge Wendy J.N. Klicko was elected to the Circuit Court of Sauk County in 2016. After graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1997, she began her legal career with Cross, Jenks, Mercer and Maffei in Baraboo practicing family law and insurance defense. She then spent 16 years as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for Sauk County representing the Department of Human Services in Chapter 48 cases involving child abuse/neglect and termination of parental rights, Chapter 51 mental commitments and Chapter 54/55 guardianship and protective placement cases. She is a faculty member for New Judge Orientation and Child Welfare Law Orientation, judicial representative on the DCF/PIP Advisory Group and State Team Planning for the Children's Bureau, judicial representative on the Wisconsin Commission on Children, Family and the Courts, and member of the

Family Model Recording Keeping Committee and Juvenile Law Benchbook Committee. She is a long-time member and past president of the Rotary Club of Baraboo and past board member of the Baraboo Theatre Guild. Contact Information: [wendy.klicko@wicourts.gov](mailto:wendy.klicko@wicourts.gov)

**ROSSELL, JASON** Judge Jason A. Rossell presides over Branch 2 of the Circuit Court for Kenosha County. After his appointment to the bench in November 2011, Judge Rossell, was elected to a six year term beginning in August 2012 and was subsequently re-elected in 2018. He is currently assigned to the Juvenile and Family Court rotation. In April 2017, Judge Rossell was appointed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court as the Chief of District II, encompassing Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties. Judge Rossell is a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare, and the Legislative Committee of the Judicial Conference. Prior to taking the Bench, Judge Rossell, was a sole practitioner and Guardian Ad Litem for three years. Before starting his own practice, Judge Rossell, served as an Assistant District Attorney for over six years. He is a proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School and the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. Judge Rossell is married with two children and is an active member of Crossway Community Church. Contact information: [jason.rossell@wicourts.gov](mailto:jason.rossell@wicourts.gov)

**VLACK, III EDWARD** Edward Vlack was “born on a mountain top in Tennessee, killed a bear when he was only three”...nope that is not right. Edward Vlack is “faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound”....nope that is not right, either. Let’s try again... Edward Vlack has been a St. Croix County Circuit Court judge since 2001. Born and raised in North Chicago, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago (really!), Judge Vlack received his undergraduate degree from Marquette University in 1971, and his J.D. from Marquette University in 1974. While in law school, Judge Vlack volunteered at the Milwaukee County Legal Aid Society and interned with the Milwaukee County Public Defender’s Office. After graduation from law school, Judge Vlack was in private practice in Hudson, Wisconsin, from May, 1974 until October 1979, and then in private practice in River Falls, Wisconsin, from October, 1979 until taking the bench in August, 2001. While in private practice, Judge Vlack served as the Family Court Commissioner for Pierce County, Wisconsin from January, 1985, until taking the bench in 2001, and also served as the Family Court Commissioner for St. Croix County, Wisconsin from January, 1988, until taking the bench in 2001. Since taking the bench, Judge Vlack has served on the Pro Se Family Court Forms Committee, the Pro Se Small Claims Forms Committee, the Pro Se Name Change Forms Committee, the 10th District Self-Represented Litigants Committee, and is currently a member of the Records Management Committee. Judge Vlack was also on the Children’s Court Improvement Project Online Training Steering Committee, which developed online child welfare training activities for the use of judges and other court personnel. Judge Vlack was an Associate Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College from 2010 until 2016, and has taught the Judicial Sentencing Skills Program at the Wisconsin Judicial College since 2011, with Judge Guy Dutcher of Waushara County. Judge Vlack has been on the faculty of and taught at the Child Welfare Law Orientation Conference since 2008. Judge Vlack has also presented at the Municipal Judge Trial Seminar, the Civil Law Seminar, the Civil Evidence Workshop, the Criminal Evidence Workshop, the Criminal Law and Sentencing Institute, the Court of Appeals Seminar, and the Wisconsin Judicial Conference. Judge Vlack presided over the St. Croix County Drug Court from its inception in 2006 until stepping down in 2016. He currently presides over the St. Croix County Domestic Violence Court. Judge Vlack has three wonderful daughters and six super grandchildren, and he is truly the luckiest man in the UNIVERSE. His faithful sidekick, a Black Lab, who came with the name Warden, tries to get Judge Vlack to slow down from his volunteer firefighting duties, as well as from his other activities of family get-togethers, jogging, kayaking, camping, and traveling. Contact Information: [edward.vlack@wicourts.gov](mailto:edward.vlack@wicourts.gov)