

DEBRA J. KRAFT

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

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Qualifications Summary

Accomplished policy advocate with experience in coalition and consensus-building and legislative reform. Proficient at project management, analysis, strategy development and issue resolution. Clear communication ability. Solid team building and professional leadership skills. Strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Effective administrator and cost-conscious manager. Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated attorney.

Professional Experience

Deputy Director, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute (2009-2013). General Counsel, Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing (2007-2008). Of Counsel, Hanthorn & Kraft, LLP (2005-2007). Associate, Weiss Berzowski Brady, LLP (2004-2005). Vice President-Administration & General Counsel, Business Venture Start-ups (1999-2004). Of Counsel and Contract Attorney, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. (1997-1999). Corporate Counsel & Assistant Corporate Secretary, Quad/Graphics, Inc. (1992-1996). Attorney, Ameritech (1989-1991). Associate, Cook and Franke, S.C. (1985-1988). Assistant District Attorney, Office of the Milwaukee County District Attorney (1981-1985).

Professional and Civic Activities

City of Milwaukee Chief Election Inspector (2014-present). Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Inc. (2013-present). Appointed by the Chair of the State of Wisconsin Evidence Based Practices Subcommittee of the Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as a working member of the Subcommittee (2013-2014). Appointed by the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance as working member to the Mental Health Parity Subgroup of the Health Council (2010-2011). Participant in Mosaic Partnership (2009-2010). Director, Secretary (2007-2008), Vice Chair (2006-2007) and Member of Executive Committee (2006-2008) of Community Health Charities of Wisconsin, 2004-2010. Member of Business Ethics Review Panel, Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges, Inc., Fall, 2004. Member of the Leadership Board for the Committee of A Thousand of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, 1999. Director of Friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee Board, 1997-1999. Milwaukee Forum, 1993-1999. Rotary Club of Milwaukee-North Shore, 1988-1990. Rotary International Scholarship Recipient, 1984.

Education and Honors

Georgetown University's Leadership Academy on Addressing Disparities in Mental Health Care, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development/National Technical Assistance Center (Santa Fe, New Mexico) Fall 2010. LL.M. Seminar in Public International Law, University of Edinburgh (Scotland, United Kingdom), (Rotary International Scholar), 1985-1986. JD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1981. BA-Political Science (with Honors), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1978.

Bar and Court Admissions

Member, State Bar of Wisconsin, 1981. Admitted to practice, United States District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, 1981.

Selected Presentations/Publications

Speaker: "Wisconsin Parity Update", Making Parity Real Symposia Series, Madison, WI, February 2011, and Green Bay, WI, January 2010. Speaker: "The Nuts and Bolts of Successful Public Advocacy by Non-Profit Organizations", United Way- Milwaukee, WI, October 2010. Featured Luncheon Speaker: "MATI Analysis of Parity Legislation", Open Society Institute Fall 2009 Learning Session, Baltimore, MD, October 2009. Guest Speaker: Michael, Best & Friedrich Corporate Practice Group, March 1996. Co-Author, "Act 453 Provides Impetus for Quad/Graphics and City of West Allis Transaction," Wisconsin Lawyer, July 1994. Guest Speaker: "Putting Out Fires: The Service Needs of a Small In-House Law Department," Summer 1994 Wisconsin Bar Annual Convention. Also past speaker at various Rotary Club functions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Deputy Director and Counsel

2009-2013

Responsible for assisting the Director in the development and advancement of policies and legislation to reduce poverty and its effects in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, with federal, state and local legislative advocacy initiatives such as health care reform, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, supportive housing zoning changes and criminal justice reform. Duties also include providing legal counsel and research; management of outside counsel; and oversight as Deputy Director for policy development initiatives and the operations of the work of a professional staff. The Public Policy Institute is a division of the largest non-profit agency providing basic-needs advocacy and services to low-income and at-risk individuals in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

- Project director of agency team working in collaboration with Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm and other key statewide criminal justice stakeholders on initiative to implement statewide criminal justice system reform through public education, grassroots coalition building and outreach with ultimate goal of enacting legislation. Team leader of planning group for first-of-its kind statewide educational symposium attended by over 250 guests that featured expert panels and elected government officials.
- Special projects included the review, revision and passage of City of Milwaukee zoning ordinances to promote safe and supervised supportive housing as part of intergovernmental workgroup led by Department of City Development Deputy Commissioner Martha Brown; and the management and coordination of advocacy communications advancing ongoing initiatives.
- Assisted in drafting and engaging in advocacy, including lobbying, for legislation resulting in the successful enactment of the Wisconsin Parity Act in April, 2010.
- Appointed by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to assist in the drafting of administrative rules implementing the Wisconsin Parity Act.
- Conducted ground-breaking federal research project into the applicability of the Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 to Medicaid managed care organizations.
- Planned and developed the Public Policy Institute's "Conversations with Policy Leaders" speaker series; and designed format of Making Parity Real symposia, a statewide series featuring moderated dialogue among local stakeholders to assess the major state policy challenges facing addiction and mental health services in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
Madison, Wisconsin
General Counsel

2007-2008

Supervisor and manager of the Office of Legal Counsel, consisting of six attorneys and two paralegals. Responsible for rendering advice and opinion on administrative, legal and policy matters as General Counsel, chief legal advisor and member of senior management team for this State of Wisconsin regulatory agency. With an annual operating budget of \$12.4 million and 112 employees, the Department issued and renewed over 120 types of professional credentials for 343,000 licensees, provided legal and administrative support for 24 regulatory boards, and annually investigated and prosecuted over 2500 complaints regarding professional conduct.

Hanthorn & Kraft, LLP
Dallas, Texas (Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin)
Of Counsel

2005-2007

Practice included the provision of general corporate and real estate services for small and medium-sized businesses.

Weiss Berzowski Brady, LLP
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Associate

2004-2005

Practice encompassed general corporate and real estate law for small and medium-size businesses in this mid-sized business law practice firm, including the negotiation of mortgage financings, residential real estate closings, preparation of condominium, shareholder, partnership and construction documents, legal research and related matters.

Business Venture Start-Ups
Provided legal counsel and business advice for management, and established business infrastructures for entrepreneurial ventures in diverse industries.

1999-2004

- **Related Partner Start-Up Businesses (1999-2000, 2001-2004)**
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(Kowata Tree LLC, Krakir Trading LLC - Vice President-Administration, General Counsel & Member/Kirby Associates - General Counsel)
- **Microgy Cogeneration Systems, Inc. (2001-2001)**
Golden, Colorado (Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin)
Vice President-Administration & Corporate Counsel

Godfrey & Kahn S.C.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Contract Attorney (1998-1999); Of Counsel (1997-1998)

1997-1999

Practice encompassed commercial real estate transactions in this large comprehensive business law practice firm.

- Contract Attorney position responsible for the representation of the largest Wisconsin renderer in a facility acquisition. Project included major urban rezoning issues. Responsible for coordinating, directing and managing local government and business lobbying efforts and the development and implementation of strategy.
- Of Counsel contract position with Real Estate Practice Group. Responsible for representing purchasers and sellers in all aspects of the conveyance of commercial real property, including the acquisition and development of shopping center sites on behalf of a large national department store. Also represented borrowers in mortgage refinancings, including loans from securitized commercial mortgage pool lenders.

Quad/Graphics Inc.

1992-1996

Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Corporate Counsel & Assistant Corporate Secretary

Responsible for the management of corporate legal affairs for one of the largest printing companies in North America with multiple subsidiaries and annual revenues in excess of \$1.2 billion. Provided legal and business advice to senior management in all aspects of business. Established and administered in-house law department, including the hiring and supervision of administrative and professional staff and outside legal counsel. Scope of responsibility included general corporate law, acquisitions, real estate, environmental law, contracts, finance, health care, transportation, employment, intellectual property and litigation management practice areas.

- Negotiated and directed complex acquisitions, including multimillion dollar printing facilities in Wisconsin and West Virginia.
- Developed and presented in-house educational legal seminars in the areas of employment, intellectual property and contracts/antitrust law.
- Provided legal and business infrastructure, including the development of standard forms and documents, for diverse business areas.

Ameritech (Affiliated Companies)

1989-1991

Chicago, Illinois (Assigned to Milwaukee, Wisconsin headquarters)

Marketing Attorney-Ameritech Services, Inc. (1991)/Attorney-Wisconsin Bell, Inc. (1989-1991)

Cook & Franke S.C.

1985, 1986-1988

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Associate

Office of the Milwaukee County District Attorney

1981-1985

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Assistant District Attorney

