

LEON W. TODD

• Milwaukee, Wisconsin • 53211

Experience

**Office of the State Public Defender
Appellate Division**

Milwaukee, WI

Assistant State Public Defender

2014 to Present

- Represent a high volume of indigent clients on appeal in criminal, termination of parental rights, and mental health commitment cases
- Meet with and advise clients who are incarcerated throughout the state
- Review trial court case records and transcripts to identify postconviction and appellate issues
- Draft postconviction and postdisposition motions and litigate cases at evidentiary and non-evidentiary hearings before Wisconsin Circuit Courts
- Draft and file briefs and other appellate filings with the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court
- Supervise the work of investigators and legal secretaries as it relates to my cases
- Mentor new attorneys as co-counsel to support their professional development and maintain consistent expectations
- Assist in the hiring process of new attorneys by reviewing resumes and conducting and scoring interviews
- Argued case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in which the court unanimously held that the community caretaker doctrine does not permit law enforcement officers to inventory and tow a vehicle after learning that the driver does not have a valid license, when the driver is not arrested and the vehicle is lawfully parked and not obstructing traffic
- Successfully litigated case in which the Wisconsin Court of Appeals held that the police lacked reasonable suspicion to stop and detain the defendant simply for talking to a woman for a brief period of time in a "high-prostitution" area
- Argued numerous other criminal cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court involving a range of issues, including: whether pretrial testimony made in connection with plea negotiations is admissible under Wisconsin's rules of evidence; whether a forensic toxicology report is testimonial under the Confrontation Clause; whether compliance with Wisconsin's safe transport statute provides "safe harbor" from prosecution for carrying a concealed weapon; and whether a non-custodial interrogation at a police station becomes custodial for *Miranda* purposes once the defendant confesses to a serious crime
- Planned and participated in a panel presentation titled "The Criminalization of Blackness" for the 2019 State Public Defender's Annual Criminal Defense Conference

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.
Staff Attorney

Racine, WI
2009 to 2014

- Advised and represented low-income clients in the areas of housing, family, public benefits, and consumer law
- Represented clients in large and small claims trials and on appeal in state and federal court
- Mediated and negotiated settlements in family law, eviction, and other small claims cases
- Represented clients in administrative proceedings before the Social Security Administration and various public housing authorities
- Drafted pleadings, discovery documents, motions, and trial and appellate briefs
- Conducted direct and cross-examinations of witnesses at depositions, hearings, and trials
- Supervised the work of paralegals and legal secretaries as it related to my cases
- Successfully defended many clients in eviction proceedings
- Won case resulting in reinstatement of Section 8 housing voucher and \$12,000 attorney's fee award
- Litigated § 1983 action in federal court resulting in \$35,000 settlement
- Taught Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses on Section 8 housing law and divorce procedure
- Presented workshops on tenant rights to clients of Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency

Foley & Lardner LLP
Litigation Associate

Milwaukee, WI
2004 to 2009

- Litigated cases before trial and appellate courts in the areas of contract law, product liability, insurance disputes, and other commercial matters
- Drafted memoranda, pleadings, discovery documents, motions, and briefs
- Mediated and negotiated settlements in commercial cases
- Supervised the work of paralegals and legal secretaries as it related to my cases
- Successfully moved for summary judgment in numerous product liability cases, resulting in dismissal of the lawsuits
- Won motion for summary judgment for \$200,000 in contract dispute case
- Litigated contract dispute with now-Appellate Court Judge Lisa Neubauer resulting in \$7.4 million savings for corporate client
- Won injunction in pro bono case enjoining denial of a state inmate's hormone therapy treatment on Eighth Amendment grounds

Education

University of Wisconsin Law School
Juris Doctor

Madison, WI
2001 to 2004

- *Cum Laude* Graduate
- Dean's List

- *Wisconsin Law Review*, Managing Editor
- Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project (LAIP), Legal Intern
- Criminal Appeals Project, Legal Intern
- Black Law Students Association, Member

University of Wisconsin

Bachelor of Arts

Madison, WI

1997 to 2000

- Political Science Major
- Pre-Law Society, Member

Bar Admissions

- Wisconsin
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Community Involvement

- Wisconsin Justice Initiative, Board of Directors, Member (2018-Present)
- Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Board of Directors, Member (2014-Present)
- Racine Fatherhood Coalition, Member Representative (2011-14)
- NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin, Board of Directors, Member (2004-10) and Vice President (2010-11)
- Milwaukee Bar Association, Member
- Three Holy Women Parish, Member
- Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers (WAAL), Member
- Milwaukee Turners, Member