

Mitch

University of Wisconsin Law School, Economic Justice Institute, 975 Bascom Mall, Room 1348, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 Phone: (608) 263-9575 Email: mitch@wisc.edu

Professional Experience

Hearing Examiner, *City of Madison***May 2021 – June 2026**

- ♦ Review evidence and listen to arguments, explain legal processes, apply the law and issue written decisions.

Director, Economic Justice Institute, *University of Wisconsin Law School***Sept 2019 – Oct 2025**

- ♦ Manage a growing civil clinical law firm within the school with 10 lawyers and over 50 clinical law students.
- ♦ Listen to attorneys, staff, students, clients, and stakeholders; address their needs with limited resources.
- ♦ Communicate with Law School Deans; coordinate clinic operations to meet the school's strategic priorities from recruitment and admissions through matriculation and alumni engagement.

Director, Neighborhood Law Clinic, *University of Wisconsin Law School***May 2008 – Present**

- ♦ Design and revise curricular materials and experiential education methods for clinical program.
- ♦ Teach substantive and reflective class sessions on housing law, employment law, public benefits, ethics, civil procedure, client interviewing, fact investigation, legal research and writing, trial preparation, trial advocacy, appellate procedure, administrative procedure, and community lawyering.
- ♦ Supervise, coach, critique, and evaluate students who work full-time in the summer and part-time in the fall and spring semesters, guiding their professional development.

Race-Equity Fellow, *Racial Justice Training Institute, Shriver Center***April 2017 – October 2017**

- ♦ Invited to participate in the 6-month training with a select group of lawyers to build capacity and establish a national network of race and equity advocates.
- ♦ Developed plans for statewide initiatives to promote racial equity throughout Wisconsin legal systems.

Founder & Executive Director, *Community Justice Incorporated***May 2004 – May 2009**

- ♦ Developed and managed an innovative non-profit charitable law firm that provides greatly-needed representation to hundreds of low-income families and individuals every year.
- ♦ Solicited and secured individual and corporate donors, as well as agency and foundation grant funding to further support the organization's mission.

Volunteer Attorney & Board Member, *Unemployment Insurance Appeals Clinic***2004-2013**

- ♦ Trained and supervised law students on client interviewing, substantive unemployment law, legal research and writing, as well as administrative hearing and appeal procedures.
- ♦ Created policies and procedures and revised the organization's forms and handbook.

Education and Training

Juris Doctorate, *University of Wisconsin Law School***Dec 2003**

- ♦ Received Ray A. Brown Award For Leadership, Character, & Service; graduated in 2.5 years.
- ♦ Developed skills and experience as a clinical student in the LAIP Project, Criminal Appeals Project, Consumer Law Clinic, and Unemployment Appeals Clinic.

Judicial Clerk for Judge Patrick J. Fiedler, *Dane County Circuit Court***Aug 2003 – Dec 2003**

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Selected Presentations

Mitch. (September 7, 2023) *Law Review Symposium – Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Legal Clinic*. Panel presenter at the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law.

Mitch. (March 30, 2022) *Housing Law: Representing Tenants in Non-Eviction Cases*. Online half-day CLE presentation to Legal Action of Wisconsin's staff and volunteer lawyers project attorneys.

Mitch. (May 8, 2018) *Rental Housing Rights & Responsibilities for Rural Landlords*. Presentation at the Juneau Community Center, in collaboration with the UW Speakers Bureau.

Mitch. (April 13, 2018) *Defining, Finding, and Serving Legal Aid Clients*. Panel presenter at the Annual Access to Justice Consortium Conference in Atlanta.

Mitch. (March 9, 2018) *Eviction Defense: Innovative Method to fulfill your Professional Responsibility*. Spring Summit hosted by Law and Advocacy for Racial Justice and the Jewish Law Student Association in Madison.

Mitch. (December 15, 2016) *Evicted. True Stories, Common Problems, Possible Solutions*. Presentation at the Wisconsin Supreme Court's 2016 Civil Law Seminar in Wisconsin Dells.

Mitch. (October 27, 2016) *Eviction in Dane County*. Panel presenter at the publication event for the report, Evicted in Dane County, by Revel Sims, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, in Madison Wisconsin.

Mitch. (April 1 & 2, 2016) *Nonprofits--Vision, Structure, and Hard Choices*. Panel Chair and presenter at the Access to Justice 3 Conference at the University of Missouri, Kansas City Law School.

Mitch. (February 19, 2016) *[Not] Waiting for Gideon: Innovative Approaches to Expanding Access to Civil Justice*. Panel presentation at Yale Law School.

Mitch. (November 12, 2015) *Sliding Scale and Reduced Fee Law Offices*. Panel presentation at the Advancing Equal Access to Justice conference hosted by UC-Hastings and Stanford Law Schools.

Mitch. (April 26, 2013). *Landlord and Tenant Litigation*. CLE presentation in Wausau to educate lawyers and court commissioners on the how the recent changes in Wisconsin rental housing are being used in litigation.

Mitch. (November 11, 2012). *Teaching Legal Resilience*. Panel presentation at the 2012 Midwest Clinical Conference, Saint Louis University School of Law.

Selected Journal and Book Publications

“From Habitability to Equal Opportunity: Navigating the Crossroads to Housing That Is Both Fair and Habitable.” 58 UIC L. REV. 69 (2024).

“Wisconsin Landlord Tenant Law Manual.” (Author of several chapters) State Bar of Wisconsin Pinnacle, 2021.

“Tipping the Scales of Justice: The Role of Non-Profit Sliding-Scale Law Firms in the Delivery of Legal Services.” 20 NYU J. of Legs & Pub. Pol'y 375 (2017).

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Selected Gift and Grant Funding

Clinical Fellows, Helped connect and inform donors and secure over 2 million in funding from foundations to increase the education and services of UW-Law School Clinics

Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin, Recipient of competitive 1.3 million in funding from Schmidt Futures' Alliance for the American Dream National Competition. Funding to improve employment opportunities and increase income for thousands of Wisconsin residents.

Eviction Diversion and Defense Partnership, Built community relationships needed to secure over \$875,000 and establish a new clinic focused on housing stability.

Sample Litigation

Illegal Eviction Defense & Subsequent Litigation. 2017 – 2018, Rock County

Obtained dismissal in court of an illegal (and retaliatory) eviction filed against a disabled man who required a service dog. This disabled client contacted the law clinic after finding there is no capacity (no lawyers) in a rural corner of Rock county that could provide affordable eviction defense services. After successful eviction defense (and unsuccessful negotiations), the NLC filed an action against the landlord for stealing from the disabled renter and obtained a judgment of more than \$10,000.

Research Interests

- ◆ Increasing Access to Justice through innovative systems and methods of legal aid service delivery;
- ◆ Housing policies & laws in action--comparative analysis of eviction statutes and court procedures across several states;
- ◆ Clinical pedagogy, curricular design, and implementation;
- ◆ Legal Systems interventions for improving community health outcomes.

Selected Professional Service and Associations

- ◆ Elected to the State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors in 2020, reelected in 2022
- ◆ Appointed by UW Law School Dean to serve as:
 - The Law School's Representative on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission
 - One of the Law School's Representatives to the American Association of Law Schools
- ◆ Admitted to Practice before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and US District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin
- ◆ American Bar Association member, Clinical Legal Education Association member, Dane County Bar Association member, Wisconsin State Bar member and Past Chair of its Public Interest Law Section