

Bryna Godar

975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706 | bryna.godar@wisc.edu

CURRENT POSITION

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI

Staff Attorney, State Democracy Research Initiative, September 2023 to present

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2021

Harvard Law Review, Vice President/Treasurer, Vol. 134

Professor Christine Desan, Public Banking Project Research Assistant

Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice, Research Assistant

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, B.A., *summa cum laude*, Journalism, 2014

Minnesota Daily, Policy Reporter/Projects Editor

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Property, State & Federal Constitutional Law, State & Local Government, Immigration Law, Election Law

Secondary: Federal Courts, Civil Procedure

PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

Property, State Power, and the Unfolding Federalism Fight (job talk paper)

Court Reform and State Constitutions, 121 NW. U. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026) (with Miriam Seifter)

Disenfranchisement Creep, 112 VA. L. REV. 577 (2026)

Note, *A Textual Argument for Challenging Conditions of Confinement Under Habeas*, 135 HARV. L. REV. 1397 (2022)

Recent Adjudication, *Matter of L-E-A-*, 27 I. & N. Dec. 581 (*Att’y Gen.* 2019), 133 HARV. L. REV. 1500 (2020)

CLERKSHIP

Hon. Jeffrey R. Howard, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, Concord, NH

Law Clerk, 2022–2023

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Legal Fellow/Attorney, 2021–2022; *Legal Intern*, Summer 2019

ACLU of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Legal Intern, Summer 2020

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Freelance Reporter, Madison, WI

Reporter, 2017–2018

The Associated Press, Madison, WI

Legislative Relief Reporter, 2016

The Capital Times, Madison, WI

Local Government Reporter, 2014–2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

State Courts, Spring 2027, University of Wisconsin Law School (co-teaching with Miriam Seifter)

Seminar Project Supervisor, State Democracy Research Initiative Seminar, University of Wisconsin Law School, Spring 2025 & Spring 2026 (taught by Miriam Seifter)

Guest Speaker, Law in Action, University of Wisconsin—Madison (Nov. 12, 2024; Apr. 22, 2025; Mar. 10, 2026)

SELECTED COMMENTARY & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[State and Local Property Law Responses to Federal Actions](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (Apr. 20, 2026)

[Minnesota Could Prosecute the ICE Shooter. Trump Can't Pardon Him.](#), SLATE (Jan. 7, 2026)

[State Tools to Address Federal Corruption](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (Dec. 9, 2025)

[Are Federal Officials Immune from State Prosecution?](#), LAWFARE (Nov. 6, 2025)

[Wisconsin Supreme Court Strikes Down Legislative Vetoes](#), STATE COURT REPORT (Aug. 6, 2025)

[Can States Prosecute Federal Officials?](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (July 17, 2025)

- Cited in more than a dozen media outlets, including The Guardian, The New York Times, ProPublica, USA Today, Lawfare, and Law360.

[Wisconsin Supreme Court 2024-25 Term Review and 2025-26 Preview](#), WIS. LAWYER (July 16, 2025)

[Explainer: The Proposed Voter ID Constitutional Amendment on Wisconsin's April Ballot](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (Feb. 24, 2025)

[The Quiet, Terrifying Weaponization of State Judicial Conduct Commissions](#), THE HILL (Nov. 1, 2024)

[Wisconsin Supreme Court: 2023-24 Term Review and 2024-25 Preview](#), WIS. LAWYER (Sept. 2024)

[Explainer: The Proposed Constitutional Amendments on Federal Funding Appearing on Wisconsin's August Primary Ballot](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (July 18, 2024)

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White Paper: State Judicial Conduct Commissions—The Challenge of Judging Judges, STATE

DEMOCRACY RSCH. INITIATIVE (2024)

- Discussed on Strict Scrutiny podcast, *Please Pay Attention to State Courts and Constitutions* (Sept. 12, 2024), and featured in State Court Report newsletter (Aug. 1, 2024).

In Some States That Say They Elect Judges, Governors Choose Them Instead, THE CONVERSATION

(May 21, 2024) (with Harry Isaiah Black)

Policy Spotlight: Public Banking, JUST MONEY (2019)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

The Weaponization of Judicial Conduct Commissions, State and Local Courts Workshop, Penn Carey Law (April 2026)

Court Reform and State Constitutions, Faculty Workshop, University of Wisconsin Law School (February 2026)

Disenfranchisement Creep, Public Law in the States Conference, University of Wisconsin Law School (May 2025)

ADDITIONAL SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

State Judicial Practice Convening, State Democracy Research Initiative, University of Wisconsin Law School (August 2025 & August 2026) (co-organizer)

Exploring State Checks Against Federal Overreach, State Democracy Research Initiative, University of Wisconsin Law School (Mar. 12, 2026) (panelist)

37th Annual Environmental Law Update 2025: Environmental Administrative Rulemaking Panel, State Bar of Wisconsin (Sept. 19, 2025) (co-presenter)

Understanding Judicial Ethics Enforcement, State Democracy Research Initiative & People's Parity Project, University of Wisconsin Law School (Nov. 21, 2024) (panelist)

Election 2024: Legal Issues to Watch in Wisconsin and Beyond, Wisconsin Inns of Court (Oct. 16, 2024) (co-presenter)

Cooks in the Kitchen: Law Development in the Wisconsin Court System, State Bar of Wisconsin (June 20, 2024) (panelist)

Are Changes Coming? A Panel Discussion on the Wisconsin Constitution, Milwaukee Bar Association, Federalist Society & American Constitution Society (Mar. 7, 2024) (panelist)

Judging the Judges: An Overview of State Judicial Ethics Commissions, University of Wisconsin Law School (Jan. 25, 2024) (presenter)

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SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

[Can Houston Officials Investigate Lorenzo Salgado Araujo's Death? Yes, But It Would Be Complicated.](#), HOUSTON CHRON. (July 9, 2026)

[Wisconsin Supreme Court Accepts Another Appeal Aimed at Redrawing Congressional Map](#), WIS. PUB. RADIO (June 15, 2026)

[ICE Agent Charged in Shooting of Immigrant During Minneapolis Crackdown](#), WASH. POST (May 18, 2026)

[Do ICE Officers Have 'Immunity'?](#), RADIO ATLANTIC (Jan. 15, 2026) (podcast)

[Wisconsinites Protest ICE Around the State](#), WIS. PUB. RADIO (Jan. 12, 2026)

[Local Authorities Still Have Jurisdiction to File Charges](#), BBC NEWS (Jan. 8, 2026)

[Legal Experts Say FBI Control of ICE Shooting Investigation May Hinder State Case](#), MPR NEWS (Jan. 8, 2026)

[ICE Shooting in Minnesota Raises Rare Legal Questions](#), WALL ST. J. (Jan. 8, 2026)

[In Push for New Wisconsin Congressional Map, Liberal Firms Invoke Process Created by GOP](#), WIS. PUB. RADIO (Aug. 7, 2025)

[Elon Musk Backtracks on a Legally Questionable Plan to Pay Voters](#), N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 28, 2025)

[What to Know About Referendums in Wisconsin, and Why Citizens Can't Petition for Them](#), MILWAUKEE J.-SENTINEL (Dec. 20, 2024)

For a full list of media appearances, visit [this link](#).

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota (2021); Wisconsin (2023)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (conversational fluency)