

# Bryna Godar

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

## CURRENT POSITION

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**University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI**

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

## EDUCATION

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**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

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

*Secondary:* Federal Courts, Civil Procedure

## PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

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*Property, State Power, and the Unfolding Federalism Fight*, 102 WASH. L. REV. (forthcoming 2027) (job talk paper)

*Court Reform and State Constitutions*, 121 NW. U. L. REV. 73 (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

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

*Law Clerk*, 2022–2023

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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**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

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## 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)

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## 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

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*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

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*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

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[\*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](#).

## LANGUAGES

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Spanish (conversational fluency)

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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Minnesota (2021); Wisconsin (2023)