

UW-Madison Criminal Justice/Sociology/Legal Studies Speed Mentoring
Speed Mentor Bios/Order
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

1 Kendra Gurnee (Academic Program Manager, Pharmacology and Toxicology major - UW-Madison)

Kendra graduated with majors in Sociology and Legal Studies and a certificate in Criminal Justice, followed by a Master of Social Work degree. During college, she interned at a police department, the Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation, United Way, and Mendota Mental Health Institute (and helped create CJSA!) She also worked as a peer advisor at SOAR, which led her to a career in higher education and student services. In her current role she manages all aspects of the Pharmacology and Toxicology major, including academic and career advising, admissions, curriculum, events, policies, and more - even without a science background!

2 Gunce Derin (Program Coordinator, Prison Education Initiative) The UW–Madison Prison Education Initiative (PEI), led by the Division of Continuing Studies and the School of Education, gives learners who are incarcerated in Wisconsin state prisons the opportunity to reframe their futures through higher education. The PEI connects efforts across UW–Madison and Universities of Wisconsin to create collaborative UW degree and certificate programs, supported by a Workforce Innovation Grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. As the Program Coordinator, Gunce provides direct administrative support and oversees multiple projects. Odyssey Beyond Bars offers college jumpstart programs to students incarcerated in Wisconsin state prisons. They are part of the UW Odyssey Project, which for 22 years has empowered students living in poverty to overcome obstacles, find their voices and reframe their futures. Their jumpstart programs combine noncredit and for-credit courses with wraparound supports that help students succeed long-term, including tutoring, academic and financial aid advising, and an alumni support network. Many program alumni use their Odyssey Beyond Bars experience as a first step toward a college degree and as a foundation for success when they leave prison and return to their communities.

3 Kiara Hibler (Capital Defense Victim Liaison & Mitigation Specialist/ Filed Instructor & Advisor) Kiara Hibler is in private practice as a Defense Victim Outreach liaison, working on state and federal capital cases. She has also served as a Mitigation Specialist, responsible for thoroughly investigating the life history of a defendant facing the death penalty as a possible sentence on state, federal and military tribunal cases. Additionally, Kiara has worked on cases of incarcerated individuals who were sentenced as youth to life without parole and who, in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, have the opportunity for re-sentencing hearings. Kiara has been a field instructor and advisor for the Legal Studies & Criminal Justice internship program since 2018 and really enjoys working with students as they explore their academic and career goals.

4 Ryan Klavekoske (Special Agent at Wisconsin Department of Justice- Division of Criminal Investigation) Special Agent Klavekoske has been in law enforcement for over twenty years. Ryan was employed with several local law enforcement agencies in southern Wisconsin before serving the City of Beaver Dam Police Department for fourteen years. During this time, Mr. Klavekoske served in various capacities, including patrol, patrol supervisor and seven years as a general case detective. In this capacity, Ryan was the department liaison to the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and investigated numerous cases related to the sexual abuse of children and online sexual exploitation of children. In 2015, Ryan began employment with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and has been assigned to the ICAC Task Force. As part of this assignment, Ryan has investigated numerous cases of online sexual exploitation of

children. Ryan has facilitated and designed instruction for the Wisconsin ICAC investigative school and created training programs for local law enforcement related to patrol response to child exploitation complaints. Ryan has lectured extensively to adult community groups regarding current online trends for parents and others who oversee children. Ryan also instructs law enforcement nationwide for Fox Valley Technical College regarding ICAC online investigative techniques.

5 Jason Ostrenga (Lieutenant, Madison Police Department) --Graduated from UW-Madison; spring 1997 in Behavioral Science and Law with a Criminal Justice Certificate. --Was a correctional officer for 2 years after graduating from UW-Madison. --Been a police officer for Madison PD since May/1999. 10 years Patrol, 10 years Sergeant, 5 years as Lieutenant. --Currently Commander of SWAT, Gang Unit, and Joint Terrorism Task Force --Supervised Violent Crime Unit and Burglary Crime Unit for 2 years --Have been on SWAT since 2003 (operator for 17 years, Commander 4) --While at Madison PD was a member of the drug unit 5 years and a neighborhood police officer (2 years) --I have also been a member of the Special Events Team and Amigos En Azul (I am Mexican)

6 Mackenzie Cole (Mental Health Officer, Madison Police Department) I am a 2020 graduate of UW with majors in Psychology and Legal Studies with a Criminal Justice Certificate. After graduation I was hired by the Madison Police Department and worked as a Patrol Officer in both the North and Midtown Districts. I've been the West District Mental Health Officer since 2023. In my role I work with individuals living with mental illness, cognitive disabilities, dementia, etc. by connecting them to resources and diverting them away from the criminal justice system when possible.

7 Madison Neinfeldt (Corrections Field Supervisor, WI Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections) Hello! I'm Madison Neinfeldt, a Corrections Field Supervisor in Madison. I went to UW Madison and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and a Criminal Justice Certificate. During my time at UW Madison, I interned with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and worked alongside Probation and Parole Agents to supervise sex offenders. After graduating from UW Madison, I worked as a Probation and Parole Agent for four years where I worked with a specialty caseload of LGBTQIA+ sex offenders. I worked collaboratively with clients, treatment providers, law enforcement, and other community partners toward the goal of reducing recidivism and rehabilitating clients with empathy and evidence-based practices. Since then, I have been promoted to Corrections Field Supervisor where I now supervise a team of Probation and Parole Agents.

8 Faun Moses (Appellate Division Director, WI State Public Defender's Office) Faun Moses joined the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office in the early 2000s as a volunteer in the Administrative office. She then became an investigative intern while an undergraduate student at UW-Madison. After graduating, she worked as an Investigator in the Fond du Lac region from 2005 to 2007. She then attended UW-Madison Law School, where she worked with the Innocence Project, ACLU's Capital Punishment Project, and interned in the SPD's Madison Trial Office Adult and Juvenile Division, as part of the Defender Project. After law school, in 2010, Faun began working in the Madison Appellate office of the SPD. In 2015, Faun started working in the Janesville Trial office of the SPD as a Local Attorney Manager and was subsequently promoted to Regional Attorney Manager of the Janesville Region, in 2017. In 2023, Faun became the Appellate Division Director. Faun received her law degree from UW-Madison Law School and undergraduate degree in Sociology/certificate in Criminal Justice, from UW-Madison.

9 Douglas Buan (Chief Information Office, Wind River Payments))My name is Douglas Buan and I'm a 1994 graduate of UW Madison with a BA in Behavioral Science & Law and a Certificate in Criminal Justice. I worked for a short time in local law enforcement after which I worked the rest of my career in risk

management and fraud in the credit card industry. In this role, I worked with federal, state, and local law enforcement regularly during criminal investigations. I can probably best mentor for students that are interested in working in law enforcement or tangentially related positions in private industry.

10 Ja'Lia Butler (Law Student, UW Law School) Ja'Lia, a third-year law student (3L) at the University of Wisconsin, is actively engaged in the legal community. Her journey began at University of Wisconsin, where she graduated in May 2021 with a double major in Political Science and Legal Studies, complemented by a Certificate in Criminal Justice. During her undergraduate years, she co-founded BLSA (Pre-Law), showcasing her commitment to fostering a supportive environment for aspiring legal professionals. Venturing beyond academia, Ja'Lia immersed herself in practical experiences. She spent a transformative semester in Washington, DC, participating in the Wisconsin in Washington program, which broadened her perspective on legal and political matters. Post-graduation, she delved into the intricacies of the legal field, working at the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and subsequently joining a local law firm on a full-time basis. Her passion for criminal defense and systemic reform has shaped her legal experiences, including representing clients through the Criminal Defense and Youth Advocacy Clinic and conducting research on the intersection of criminal law and the family regulation system as a Research Assistant. She has gained litigation experience through roles at the Campaign Legal Center, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C., and the Eviction Defense Clinic. Ja'Lia also engages in community-based legal work, having assisted clients with expungement and pardon applications through the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics and connecting undergraduate students with internship opportunities as a Project Assistant for the Center for Law, Society, and Justice. She seeks to use her legal education to challenge systemic inequities and advocate for justice-involved individuals.

11 Marcus Berghahn (Partner, Hurley Burish s.c.) Marcus J Berghahn defends individuals and businesses accused of criminal misconduct. His practice encompasses all types of criminal cases at all stages of criminal proceedings in state and federal court. Because of the depth of his experience, Marcus also counsels witnesses and victims when they are involved in criminal proceedings. For almost ten years Marcus was an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School where he taught a seminar on constitutional and criminal law. Marcus is a double Badger, completing both undergraduate and law school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

12 Isabella Ricker (Legal Assistant, Strauss Borrelli PLLC) Hello! I graduated from UW-Madison in 2023 with majors in Legal Studies, Political Science, and Gender & Women's Studies. I currently work as a legal assistant at Strauss Borrelli PLLC, a class action law firm headquartered in Chicago. My job responsibilities include investigating leads for possible consumer protection cases, conducting initial intakes with potential clients, managing client relationships, and drafting legal documents. I would be happy to speak with students about class action litigation, working at a law firm, job searching, and gap-year experience before law school.

13 Jillian Soderman (Legal Assistant, Foley & Lardner LLP) I graduated UW Madison in 2023 with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies and double majored in Psychology with certificates in Criminal Justice and Gender and Women's Studies. Following graduation I attended Madison College and completed a Paralegal degree. I have worked as a legal assistant since September 2023 first at the Governor's Office and currently at Foley & Lardner LLP. I am currently studying for the LSAT and hope to begin law school in the fall of 2026.

14 Janine Frank (Lead Claims Specialist, WI-DOJ, Crime Victim Compensation Program) has both a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from UW - Madison. She has worked in jail diversion through the

Dane County Treatment Alternative Program and as a federal probation officer for the Western District of Wisconsin. She currently works for the WI Department of Justice as a claims specialist for the Crime Victim Compensation Program.

15 Michelle Frazier (Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer, Advocate Health) Michelle Bergholz Frazier is the Enterprise Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer of Advocate Health. She plays a crucial role in ensuring adherence to legal and ethical standards within Advocate Health. Michelle has over 20 years of experience in health law and health care regulatory compliance. She joined Aurora Health Care in February 2014 as Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer. Prior to her tenure with Advocate Health, Michelle practiced with the law firm of von Briesen & Roper for over 10 years, focusing on regulatory compliance, billing and payment, fraud and abuse, privacy and other general health law matters. She also managed a solo health law practice, dividing time between her practice and serving as part-time compliance counsel for a national long-term care provider. Michelle is past chair of the Health Law Section of the Milwaukee County Bar Association and member of the State Bars of Wisconsin and Minnesota. She also is an adjunct professor for Marquette University Law School and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

16 Adriana Romero (SJD Candidate, UW Law School) Adriana Romero-Sánchez is an SJD candidate at UW-Madison Law School on a Fulbright-Minciencias (Colombia) scholarship. Adriana is interested in a broad spectrum of topics related to criminal justice policy, prisons, transitional justice, sociology of punishment, and geographies of law. Before beginning her graduate studies at UW Law School, Adriana worked as a legal advisor for the transitional justice tribunal (the Special Jurisdiction for Peace) in Colombia. She was also a criminal justice policy advisor in the Colombian Ministry of Justice.

17 Ben Gonring (Local Attorney Manager, Wisconsin State Public Defender) graduated with high honors from the University of Notre Dame in May of 1993, earning a B.A. in Government. He received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating with honors in December of 1995. Admitted to the Bar in January of 1996, he began working for the Office of the State Public Defender in June of the same year. He was honored with the agency's Outstanding Achievement Award in November of 1997 and later with induction into the Rubin Society for "outstanding contribution to the community." In 2005 he was given Dane County's Competency Builder Award, presented for "years of service and dedication to the kids and families of Dane County." He was presented in 2009 with the Ervin Bruner Award, given annually to someone in Dane County who has made "substantial contributions to juvenile justice" over their career. In 2018, the Wisconsin Law Journal named him a "Leader in the Law." He has four times been named by Madison Magazine one of the Dane County's top lawyers in the area of Juvenile Law. Representing children in both delinquency and protective services cases, as well as parents in termination of parental rights cases, he has worked in the juvenile unit of the Madison Trial office his entire career and has been the head of that unit since 2009.

18 Troy Knudsen (Sheriff (retired), Rock County Sheriff's Office) I graduated from UW-Madison in 1988 and took a job with the Rock County Sheriff's Office. I started as a Correctional Officer and worked my way through the ranks to Sheriff before retiring in 2023.

19 Paige Michels (Lead Social Worker, Dane County Department of Human Services) I am the lead social worker in the High-Risk Unit for Youth Justice with the Dane County Department of Human Services. I have been a social worker in Youth Justice for five years. In this role, I assist youth and families through the youth justice court process and in fulfilling the terms of their court orders, while providing support, case management, and connection to resources.

20 Erik Nielsen (Social Worker- Youth Justice – Dane County Department of Human Services) I have been a social worker for Dane County Human Services for over 30 years, primarily in youth justice. I got my master's degree in social work from UW Madison. Working with teenagers and their families is always an adventure.

21 Madison Schwartz (First Year Law School Student, UW Law School) I am a first year law student at the University of Wisconsin Law School. I graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in political science and legal studies and certificates in criminal justice, public policy, and gender and women's studies in 2023. Before attending law school, I worked as a legal assistant at a civil litigation defense firm here in Madison, Wisconsin.