

Gary Allen Bennett, J.D. and M. Ed.

Personal Email: [REDACTED] Mobile Phone: [REDACTED]

Education

University of Wisconsin School of Law, J.D. (2011)

- Student Bar Association, Vice President of Academic Affairs: *Provided academic program evaluation to law school leaders on school policies and practices, faculty recruitment and retention, course offerings, and student engagement; managed various educational administrative tasks, e.g. budget development and management.*
- Q-Law: *Co-Chair and 1L Representative for LGBT affinity group; managed educational administrative tasks, e.g. fundraising and alumni relationship management.*
- Wisconsin International Law Journal: *Symposium Editor and Associate Articles Editor; collaboratively managed educational administrative tasks, e.g. implementation of policies and practices for article procurement, review, approval, and publication.*
- Wisconsin Vis Moot: *Advanced to elimination rounds at 2010 Willem C. Vis Moot (Austria); Co-coached 2011 Vis East Moot (Hong Kong).*
- Tax Law Assistantship: *Provided research and drafting assistance on issues related international tax law to Professor Allison Christians.*
- Constitutional Law Assistantship: *Provided research and drafting assistance on issues related to the intersection of law and politics to Professor Linda S. Greene.*
- Contract Law Instructor: *Co-taught a contract law review course for first-year students.*
- Academic Awards: *Dean's Honors for tax and constitutional law courses; Dean's List.*
- ILSA: *Peer mentee and mentor (affinity group for Native American students and allies).*
- Externship: *Judicial Extern to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman.*
- Research: *Authored papers and presented on issues related to global wine trade disputes, gender discrimination, marriage equality in Wisconsin, and barriers to school choice.*

University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Education, M. Ed. (2007)

- Cohort Learning Model: *collaborated with a cohort of elementary school educators from district schools and charter schools to earn a masters degree while teaching full-time.*
- School Law: *Curriculum included coursework on state and federal school laws.*
- Research: *Capstone research evaluated a proprietary reading intervention program.*

Pepperdine University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (2005)

- Pepperdine Debate: *All-American Debater, Team Captain, Debate Scholarship.*
- Intercultural Affairs Coordinator: *Provided academic program evaluation to the Manager of Intercultural Affairs, particularly related to the planning and implementation of campus convocations; served as an ad hoc advisor to school leaders on issues related to Pepperdine's stance on LGBT student rights.*
- Pepperdine International Programs: *Spanish Language and Culture Program in Spain*
- Pepperdine Volunteer Center: *Project Coordinator and literacy volunteer*
- National Conference of Undergraduate Research: *Presented original research that used the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as an artifact to criticize constructed gender norms.¹*

¹ Completed prior to a transfer from the University of Utah, no degree was conferred by the University of Utah prior to my transfer.

Relevant Work Experience

Office of State Senator Alberta Darling, Chief of Staff (Madison, WI; Aug. 2013-Current)

Manage a team of six full-time employees; assist with the development and implementation of a diverse legislative agenda including management of issues before the Joint Committee on Finance; and serve as Senator Darling's primary point person for issues related to school law.

- Collaborate with school leaders, including charter leaders, higher education leaders, and education policy stakeholders to identify potential legislation based on community feedback, academic program evaluations, and market demands.
- Prepare written memoranda and oral briefings for state and local decision-makers on issues related to school law, including Wisconsin's recently reformed charter laws.
- Provide policy advice and analysis to legislative leaders and members of the executive branch on issues related to school reform, particularly during the '15-'17 budget process.
- Serve as a liaison to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, higher education institutions, and school law stakeholders on the local, state, and national levels.
- Generate and maintain essential data for schools receiving public funding, including charter schools, in order to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.
- Facilitate consistent communication to keep policy stakeholders and school leaders current with charter school research, policies, and issues at the state and national levels.
- Represent Senator Darling in school activities, including charter school activities.
- Ensure compliance with Wisconsin's Open Records law using policies and practices from the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Wisconsin State Senate Chief Clerk.
- Collaboratively manage issues before the Joint Committee on Finance, particularly PK-20 issues.
- Serve as Senator Darling's senior policy advisor for the Senate Education Committee.
- Provide analysis of agency compliance with the implementation of state and federal funds, including grant money.
- Manage a staff of six full-time employees using policies and practices that encourage innovation through collaboration, communication, and authentic community engagement.

Office of State Senator Lena C. Taylor, Policy Advisor (Madison, WI; Jan. 2012-Aug. 2013)

Provided legislative analysis and policy advice on issues related to education policy, higher education policy, labor reforms, healthcare, and public finance.

- Collaborated with the Department of Instruction and Legislative Council to address constituents' concerns related to school compliance with state and federal laws.
- Gathered essential data on schools in the 4th State Senate District to provide academic program evaluations and generate potential legislative proposals.
- Developed and maintained processes to keep the Senator, her constituents, and policy stakeholders current on proposed, pending, and enacted legislation.
- Collaborated with higher education stakeholders, industry regulators, and policy stakeholders to successfully expand access to CPA certification.
- Provided legal advice on whether proposed school reforms complied with federal laws.
- Developed and maintained relationships with Milwaukee community leaders, including charter school leaders.
- Assisted with the development and implementation of a method to track legislation.

(Relevant Work Experience Continued)

EdTogether, Co-Founding Partner (Madison, WI; Jan. 2011- Dec. 2011)

Collaboratively founded an education policy non-profit with other Teach for America alumni prior to securing a position where I could effectuate education law from within the legislature.

- Designed and implemented a program review model of Wisconsin schools to identify success stories and areas of concern.
- Collaboratively analyzed essential data from Wisconsin schools, including charter schools, to identify and select policy priorities for a non-profit start-up.
- Assisted with the strategic planning and implementation of a capital campaign.
- Collaboratively designed and implemented policies and practices for brand promotion, white paper production, and internal operating procedures.

University of Wisconsin Law School, Adjunct Instructor (Madison, WI; Fall 2011)

Designed a legislative process seminar analyzing legal questions surrounding Act 10.

- Planned and implemented a course on 2011 Wisconsin Act 10.
- Engaged tenured faculty on issues related to effective curriculum planning and instructional methods for higher education classrooms.
- Managed educational administrative tasks, e.g. student recruitment and retention, student advising, and compliance with institutional policies and practices.
- Facilitated a process using electronic reminders and personalized contacts to keep students current with course expectations and trending issues related to course materials.

Axley Brynelson, Law Clerk (Madison, WI; June 2009 – Jan. 2010)

Participated in a summer law clerkship program.

- Drafted court motions for a client matter related to defense of a school district official.
- Assisted with evaluation of a school district official's compliance with state and federal laws during discovery.
- Provided legal research and writing assistance to corporate and litigation partners.

YKVN Lawyers, (Sagion, Vietnam; June-Aug. 2009)

Participated in an international law externship offered by the East Asian Law Center.

- Assisted with due diligence in accordance with industry policies and practices.
- Prepared written and oral analysis regarding compliance with Vietnamese tax laws.
- Implemented policies and procedures to keep clients current with Vietnamese environmental and land use regulations.

Clark County School District, Teacher (Las Vegas, NV; Aug. 2005-Aug. 2008)

Served as a second grade teacher in an inclusion classroom.

- Utilized best practices and ongoing academic program evaluations to increase 100% of my students' proficiency levels in core academic areas by at least 1.5 grade levels.
- Managed educational administrative tasks as a member of school level and regional level committees.
- Participated in the authorization process related to the review and approval of proposed instructional program and materials.

(Relevant Work Experience Continued – Clark County School District)

- Worked with school leaders to ensure compliance with regional initiatives and grant requirements, including annual review of school income and expenses.
- Ensured all federal and state laws pertaining to schools were followed as a member of school leadership teams, e.g. special education committees and Title I workgroups.
- Prepared annual reports on performance of students, grade levels, and school as a member of professional development teams.
- Developed corrective plans for students with declining or flat performance and extension plans for students who met or exceeded personalized learning expectations
- Engaged in academic program evaluation as a liaison to taskforces for district curriculum development and standardized test design.
- Developed and implemented policies and practices related to student data collection, analysis, and reporting on the classroom and school levels.
- Planned and implemented a site-based professional development program aligned with student outcomes, educator needs, and community expectations.
- Assisted with grant writing and management for federal, local, and private grants
- Developed and implemented a community engagement model that empowered families to more effectively support their students' learning.

Teach for America, Corps Member and Project Coordinator (Las Vegas, NV: Aug. 2005-Aug. 2007)

Participated in an AmeriCorps supported alternative route to teacher preparation program focused on achieving educational equality and equity in the United States.

- Developed and maintained quality practices for curriculum planning and instruction consistent with standards expressed by research institutions and mentor teachers
- Developed policies and practices for an application process that encouraged innovation for participation at a professional development conference for educators from various states in the southwest; participated in the authorization process for participation and presentation at the conference including review and approval of presentation applications.
- Ensured all federal and state laws were followed with regard to receiving state licensure.
- Prepared corrective plans for my curriculum planning & instructional practices based on evaluation of essential data, mentor feedback, and structured self-reflection.
- Implemented and participated in cross-sector program review with educators from district schools and charter schools, including analysis about potential closure of campuses.

Community Involvement

- Leadership for Education Equality: *Public Leaders Fellow; Policy Leaders Academy*
- Teach for America Native Alliance Initiative: *2015 Summit Participant*
- Madison Opera Board: *Trustee; Former Executive Committee Member*
- Madison Symphony Orchestra Board: *Advisor; Education Committee*