



Law Office of
Dawn Sydney, PLLC

Family Law for All Families

Dawn Sydney, JD, MPA

EDUCATION

Seattle University, M.P.A. (2012)	Seattle, Washington
Washington University School of Law, J.D. (1991)	St. Louis, Missouri
International and Comparative Law Instituted (1989)	Soviet Union/Poland
Miami University, B.A. (1987)	Oxford, Ohio

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Admitted to Washington State Bar in April 2011

Law Offices of Dawn Sydney, PLLC (2017- present) Family Law Attorney/Guardian Ad Litem	Seattle, WA
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Bucklin Evens, PLLC (2013-2017) Family Law Attorney	Mercer Island, WA
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Michael W. Bugni & Associates (2009-2013) Attorney/Family Law Paralegal	Seattle, WA
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Skellenger Bender, PS (2005-2009) Family Law Paralegal	Seattle, WA
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Non-profit Professional Experience (1991-2005)

Significant public policy experience working with state and national non-profit social justice organizations including from the National Coalition for the Homeless (Washington, DC) and Citizen's for Missouri's Children (St. Louis) on issues ranging from child abuse and neglect, health care issues, including substance abuse and mental health, and domestic violence.

While working in public policy, frequent presenter at regional and national conferences, including invited to speak at an international symposium (Madrid, Spain).

Local Non-profit Volunteer Experience

Editor: Family Law Deskbook (published in 2023)
WSBA Family Law Executive Committee (2020 to present)

In addition, engaged in many different legal and non-legal non-profits in Washington State including Coalition to End Gender Based Violence (Family Law Committee), KCBA Neighborhood Legal Clinic (Legal Services), Legal Voice (Legislative Committee), Food Lifeline (Volunteer), and Women's Funding Alliance (Board Member).

Frequent presenter at meetings and local conferences regarding issues related to family law.

Activities/Affiliations/Publications

- American Bar Association
 - Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence
 - Family Law Committee
- Washington State Bar Association
 - Family Law Executive Committee
- King County Bar Association
 - Family Law Section
 - Public Policy Committee

M.P.A. Thesis (2012)

Coercive Control: Necessary Expansion of the Definition of Domestic Violence

Authored Publications

- *Violence Against Pregnant Women: Encyclopedia of Childbearing* (Oryx, 1993)
- *Life and Death on the Streets: Health Care Reform and Homelessness*. National Coalition for the Homeless (1993)
- *Shredding the Safety Net: The Contract with America's Impact on Poor and Homeless People*. National Coalition for the Homeless (1994)
- *Helping Battered Women and Children out of Homelessness: The Role of Homeless Shelters and Other Service Providers*. Travelers Aid International (1995)

Assisted in Drafting the Following Published Work

- Tax Reform. 1988: A Legislative History of the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988, Public Law No. 100-647. Hein & Co., 1994.
- Disability Law in the United States: A legislative History of the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990: Public Law 101-336 (Federal Disabilities). Hein & Co., 1992
- Bankruptcy Reform Amendments: A Legislative History of the Bankruptcy Amendments & Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, Public Law 98-353. Hein & Co., 1992
- Tax Reform. 1969: A Legislative History of the Tax Reform Act of 1969. Hein & Co., Inc., 1991.

I am nearing the end of my first term on FLEC, where I have been actively involved in the work of the committee and section. I am currently a co-chair for the WSBA Family Law mid-year– a great conference we are excited to share with all of you!

My legal practice is exclusive to family law, including representing survivors of domestic violence in family law cases, experience that guides my analysis of proposed new laws. Prior to practicing law, I worked extensively at the state and federal level in public policy on social justice issues. I bring that experience to FLEC's work on legislation that impacts family law matters. I have attached my resume which further outlines my background and experience for your information.

I am excited to use what I have learned in my first FLEC term to be even more engaged in meeting the needs of the family law bar. I want to represent you and your voice on FLEC and in doing that, would respectfully ask for your vote of confidence in serving on FLEC another term. Please reach out if you have any questions or want to discuss with me how I can better represent your voice on FLEC.