

MERRITT LYNN DUBLIN

Contact: College of Law, University of Idaho, PO Box 83720-0051, Boise, Idaho 83720-0051
Tele. 208.577.4495 Email mdublin@uidaho.edu

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Co-championed “Foster Care Reform Act” (July 2016) refocusing child protection court authority to best interests of children
- Exceptional legal training and mentoring as a successful commercial litigation associate in large law firm
- Large and small government law office management experience
- Chief counsel role to child protective services agency
- Extensive experience and comfort in federal and state court proceedings in a wide range of disciplines including family law and child protection
- Experience presenting legal and non-legal trainings
- Excellent research, writing and analytical skills
- Capable, competent and works well independently with little direction

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL DIRECTOR AND SUPERVISING ATTORNEY- 7/12 to present

University of Idaho, College of Law, Family Justice Clinic

Teach and supervise third year law students gaining practical experience advising and representing victims of domestic violence in protection, divorce, child custody and child protection legal matters and cases. Responsible for clinic management and oversight, teaching content and procedure, professional skills, and values, supervision of cases, and outreach to courts and domestic violence support services to provide legal services.

LEAD DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL 8/18 to present

Office of the Idaho Attorney General, Criminal Division, Idaho State Police Unit

Supervise and manage a team of three attorneys and three staff providing in-house legal services and representation to the numerous divisions of the Idaho State Police including the Director’s Office and Headquarters, Financial Services Office, Office of Professional Standards, Peace Officer Standards and Training, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Sex Offender Registry, Patrol and Investigations, Regional Communications Centers, ISP Training, Human Resources and Fusion Center. Represent the Idaho State Police in administrative and judicial proceedings including state and federal court and before hearing officers and boards; advise Command staff on personnel and internal investigations, policy and procedures, and manage litigation and tort claims against the agency.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL 6/18 to 8/18

Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Division, Idaho Department of Corrections

Provided advice and representation to the Idaho Department of Correction in personnel matters, prisoner litigation and policies and procedures until requested to serve as Lead DAG for Idaho State Police.

OF COUNSEL FOR FAMILY LAW CASELOAD 12/15 to 10/17

Cox Law PLLC

Handled all aspects of thriving family law practice including representing clients in divorce, custody, paternity, guardianship, adoption, protection order and child protection proceedings.

SOLO PRACTITIONER, MEDIATOR AND CONTRACT ATTORNEY 10/15 to 6/18

Represented clients in various trial and appellate proceedings including divorce, custody, paternity, guardianship, adoption, protection order and child protection proceedings; mediated divorce and custody proceedings; provided low cost Guardian ad litem services for low income families in guardianship proceedings; served as a volunteer attorney for CASA Guardians ad litem in Fourth Judicial District advocating for the best interests of foster children; served as interim program manager of Family Advocates GAL program; provided representation and advice to Idaho school district clients on education, employment and personnel law.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LAW ATTORNEY 4/13 to 2/15

Eberharter-Maki & Tappen

Developed labor, employment and education law expertise and rebuilt employment and personnel practice of small firm specializing in Idaho education law; represented and advised Idaho school districts in all matters of education law with an emphasis on employment and special education law; defended school districts in federal court litigation involving the ADA and IDEA; drafted appellate briefs for Ninth Circuit appeals; represented school districts in administrative hearings pursuant to the IDEA; defended school districts in administrative proceedings against the IHRC, EEOC, OCR and Department of Labor; developed expertise in Idaho state education laws, regulations and policy; drafted and advised on school district policy relating to personnel; represented school district administration in union contract negotiations, grievances and due process hearings; conducted personnel and special education complaint investigations; prepared and presented legal education seminars and trainings for human resource administrators.

MEDIATOR/Manager – Family Architects/WeVorce 6/12 to 4/13

Guided families through child focused divorce and custody resolution process; supervised office; developed clients; participated in product development for Boise based start-up company.

LAW CLERK - Honorable Larry M. Boyle 10/08 to 06/12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, District of Idaho

Drafted memoranda of decision and orders for United States Magistrate Judge; assisted with all procedural and substantive proceedings related to criminal and civil litigation and administrative agency reviews; managed judicial caseload and chambers administration; supervised externs; participated on court special project committees; assisted judge with special projects and creating and presenting legal education.

MATERNITY SABBATICAL & CONTRACT ATTORNEY 10/05 to 10/08

Relocated to Idaho; obtained part-time contract work after passing the Idaho bar exam; handled criminal appeals under contract with Idaho State Appellate Public Defender.

CHIEF COUNSEL – 8/03 to 10/05

Office of the Arizona Attorney General, Child and Family Protection Division, Protective Services Section

Oversaw the legal representation of the State of Arizona in all child protection matters; managed 85 attorneys and 120 support staff in eight offices statewide responsible for handling all dependency and severance litigation, appeals and child welfare policy matters; provided general counsel and policy advice to senior management of the client agency; directly supervised staff of nine subordinate managers and administrative support; managed \$12 million statewide budget; advocated before the legislature on behalf of client agency and the Attorney General's office in budget and policy matters; assisted in drafting legislation for child welfare reform; represented the client agency in high profile cases and assisted in public relations management; actively participated on the Attorney General Office management teams; worked actively with outside agencies, state and national councils and associations to improve Arizona child welfare services.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION ATTORNEY - Bryan Cave LLP 10/97 to 8/03 Handled all aspects of cases in large firm commercial litigation practice; supervised junior associate attorneys; argued procedural and substantive motions in state and federal court, represented clients in mediation/arbitration/settlement conferences and administrative appeals; prepared cases for jury trials and assisted in drafting appeals to both state and federal courts of appeal; drafted settlement and related litigation agreements; principal practice areas included commercial contract and tort

disputes, real estate disputes, landowner representation in condemnation actions, class action defense in the banking context, professional liability defense, employment disputes and state bar disciplinary defense; some creditor representation in bankruptcy court.

LAW CLERK - Honorable Stephen M. McNamee 9/96 to 10/97

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, District of Arizona

Drafted memoranda of decision and orders for United States District Court Judge and assisted in procedural and substantive proceedings related to civil litigation and administrative agency reviews; served as Bailiff for civil and criminal jury and bench trials.

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, College of Law, Tucson AZ; J.D.; graduated *cum laude*, May 1996; *Arizona Law Review*; Dean's List; College of Law Dean's Achievement Award Recipient; 2L *Ares Fellow*/ student teacher research and writing 1L class.

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM; B.A., Psychology, Minor, Chemistry; May 1991

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Idaho Department of Education Supervisory Academy, 24 hours, April 2021

Daigle Internal Affairs Training Program, 35 hours, June 2020

Defense Research Institute Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability, January 2020

Americans for Effective Law Enforcement (AELE), Investigation, Management, and Use of Lethal and Less Lethal Force Workshop, 23 hours, May 2019

Custody Mediator Training, 20 hours,

Northwest Institute for Dispute Resolution, University of Idaho College of Law, Moscow, ID; 40 Hour Basic Civil Mediator Training, May 2012

The Litigator's Guide to Effective Performance in Mediation Training, May 2011

Federal Bar Association, District of Idaho; Advanced Mediation Training, May 2012

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

United States District Court, District of Idaho, admitted May 2013

United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, admitted May 2013

Idaho State Bar, admitted May 2007

NOTABLE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Active parent of student athlete – 2011 to present.

National Association of Forensic Counsel, 2021 founding member.

Ventana Leadership Training and Community Service- 2020, 2021- participant in and coach of intensive experiential leadership and emotional development training; co-create women's transitional group home in Meridian, Idaho.

Family Law Section, Idaho State Bar, Judicial; Council member, 2016 to 2018.

Child Protection Law Section, Idaho State Bar

Family Advocates, Board of Directors and Attorney Liaison to Attorney Advisory Board 2011 to 2013, Attorney Advisory Committee member, 2011 to 2015.

Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, Sounds Start law education presenter, as needed

Girl Scout Leader, 2011 to 2015.

Northwest Animal Companions (NAC), Board of Directors, July 2007 to June 2009; Secretary & President, legal advisor, foster family, advisor and youth humane educator; fundraising and volunteer coordination, July 2007 – 2012.