

STEVEN J. ALAGNA

Washington University School of Law
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO

Assistant Professor of Practice, Director of the Appellate Clinic, 2023–present

Lecturer in Law, 2021–2022

- Direct the Appellate Clinic, which represents clients in criminal and civil-rights appeals in federal courts; teach a weekly seminar about appellate practice; supervise student advocates in client communications, briefing, and oral advocacy
- Teach Legal Practice I and II, a required course for first-year J.D. students; design and implement lesson plans; provide live and written evaluation and other feedback, especially on written work product; counsel students seeking career and law-school advice

Selected Appellate Clinic Matters

- *Simmons v. Whitaker*, 106 F.4th 379 (4th Cir. 2024) (reversing summary judgment and reviving clinic client’s excessive-force claim)
- *Lamar v. Payne*, No. 22-2164, 2024 WL 3643641 (8th Cir. 2024) (reversing summary judgment and reviving clinic client’s retaliatory-discipline claim)
- Merits-stage amicus brief on behalf of Equal Justice USA in *Thornell v. Jones*, No. 22-982 (U.S.)
- Amicus brief on behalf of Human Rights Campaign Foundation in *Brandt v. Griffin*, No. 23-2681 (8th Cir.) (en banc)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Charlotte, NC

Law Clerk to the Honorable Albert Diaz, 2022–2023

- Researched and drafted bench memoranda and opinions for argued cases, emergency motions, and other procedural postures
- Researched and advised on ethical issues related to the Judicial Conference’s Committee on Codes of Conduct, including its Divestiture Subcommittee

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, St. Louis, MO

Litigation Associate, 2016–2022

- Researched and drafted complex motions and memoranda, appellate briefs, petitions for writs of certiorari, and other pleadings
- Served as legal-writing coach and writing evaluator for Recruiting Committee
- Represented clients before various state and federal trial and appellate courts and FINRA arbitration panels
- Represented firm in BAMSL’s Pro Bono Committee and chaired BAMSL’s LGBTQ+ Committee

Selected Litigation Experience

- *Dubikovskyy v. Goun*, No. 21-1289 (8th Cir.) (briefed, argued, and won reversal of post-trial judgment that had denied relief under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction)
- *Chen v. D’Amico*, No. 20-35241 (9th Cir.) (co-authored brief in successful appeal vacating district court’s summary judgment for defendants in civil-rights case)
- *Lange v. California*, No. 20-18 (U.S.) (co-authored merits-stage amicus brief for Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Fourth Amendment case)
- *Krukas v. AARP, Inc.*, No. 18-1124 (D.D.C.) (led briefing of successful motion for summary judgment against putative nationwide consumer class action)
- *Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association v. Ross*, No. 20-97 (U.S.) (co-authored petition-stage amicus brief for Utah counties and representatives in Antiquities Act case)
- *Sharif v. Barr*, No. 19-1478 (8th Cir.) (drafted reply brief and argued appeal for pro-bono client in immigration case)

Summer Associate, 2014 and 2015

ACLU of Missouri, St. Louis, MO

Law Clerk, Fall 2015 and Fall 2016 (volunteer)

EDUCATION

Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO

J.D., Certificate in Public Interest Law, May 2016

- Selected honors: *summa cum laude*; Order of the Coif; Dan Carter-Earl Tedrow Memorial Award; Judge Amandus Brackman Moot Court Award; 2016 Voice of the Class Graduation Speaker; Judge William H. Webster Society of Scholars; CALI Awards in Property, Family Law, Corporations, and Conflict of Laws
- Selected activities: 2016 ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regional Champion and National Octofinalist; Wash U. Law Review Chief Notes Editor; Teaching Assistant for Legal Practice; Co-President of OUTLaw; Co-President of American Indian Law Students Association; Co-Instructor, Women and the Law

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

M.Ed., May 2013

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

B.A., Political Science & Spanish, May 2011

- Selected honors: *magna cum laude*; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Delta Pi; Stephen Kertesz Prize for the best senior thesis in International Relations

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- *The Pedagogical Value of Clinical Amicus Advocacy*, 75 WASH. U. J.L. & POL'Y 47 (2024)
 - Reprinted in annual supplement to West's *Advocacy: The Art of Pleading a Cause* (3d ed.)
 - Cited in public comment by clinical professors in response to proposed amendment to Fed. R. App. P. 29 (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/USC-RULES-AP-2024-0001-0407>)
- *The Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act: New Obligations for Federal Judges*, 107 JUDICATURE 78 (2023) (co-authored with the Hon. Albert Diaz)
- *Why Obergefell Should Not Impact American Indian Tribal Marriage Laws*, 93 WASH U. L. REV. 1577 (2016)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Board of Governors, Human Rights Campaign
- Board of Directors, Episcopal City Mission
- Senior Warden, Christ Church Cathedral
- Volunteer Asst. Coach, WashU Law National Moot Court Team

BARS AND ADMISSIONS

- Barred in Missouri (good standing) and Illinois (inactive)
- Admitted to E.D. Mo., W.D. Mo., C.D. Ill., 4th Cir., 6th Cir., 7th Cir., 8th Cir., 9th Cir., 10th Cir., and U.S. Supreme Court.

SERVICE

- WashULaw Clerkship Committee, 2024–present
- Faculty co-sponsor, OUTLaw, 2023–present