



WENDY KLOEPPNER

Partner

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Wendy Kloeppner is an experienced attorney with over two decades of legal experience in criminal and civil litigation. Her distinguished career includes serving as a State's Attorney in Lake, Hughes, Meade, and Butte Counties in South Dakota. In these roles, she prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases, managed grand jury and preliminary proceedings, and provided legal counsel to county officials. Wendy's leadership extended to guiding legal teams, managing annual budgets, and representing the South Dakota Department of Social Services in abuse and neglect proceedings.

Wendy's extensive experience, leadership skills, and commitment to justice make her a formidable presence in the legal field. Her dedication to upholding the law and advocating for businesses, municipalities, counties, and government entities alike stands as a testament to her professional excellence.

Education:

University Of South Dakota, School of Law, Vermillion, South Dakota

Juris Doctor, May 1998

- Emphasis: Constitutional Law
- Copy Editor: South Dakota Law Review, 1997-1998
- Published Casenote Writer: South Dakota Law Review
- Research Assistant in Constitutional Law topics for Professor David S. Day

Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota

Bachelor of Science, March 1995

- Major: Criminal Justice - Emphasis in Writing Minor: Business Administration

Bar Admissions:

South Dakota and United States Supreme Court

Previous Employment:

State's Attorney (Appointed & Elected), Office of the State's Attorney

- **Lake County, South Dakota**, Madison, South Dakota (February 2018 – 2024)
- **Hughes County, South Dakota**, Pierre, South Dakota (April 2013 – February 2018)
- **Interim State's Attorney, Butte County**, Belle Fourche, South Dakota (January 2004 – June 2005)
 - Prosecute all criminal, juvenile and abuse & neglect cases, including conducting jury trials, grand jury and preliminary proceedings. Represent County Boards of Commissioners in civil matters and provide legal advice to County officials.

Deputy State's Attorney, Office of the State's Attorney

- **Hughes County, South Dakota**, Pierre, South Dakota (June 2009 – April 2013)
- **Meade County, South Dakota**, Sturgis, South Dakota (February 2007 - June 2009)
- **Butte County, South Dakota**, Belle Fourche, South Dakota (January 2003- February 2007)
 - Prosecute all criminal, juvenile and abuse & neglect cases, including conducting jury trials, grand jury and preliminary proceedings. Represent County Boards of Commissioners in civil matters and provide legal advice to County officials.

Director, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing, South Dakota Department of Commerce and Regulation, Pierre, South Dakota (September 1999 - January 2003)

- Oversee twenty-two professional and occupational boards. Act as liaison between agency and legislature during session, perform lobbying and testify before committees. Analyze and draft legislation. Review decisions of the Human Rights Office.

Law Clerk, Supreme Court of South Dakota, (Justice John Konenkamp) Pierre, South Dakota (August 1998 - July 1999)

- Draft memos on issues facing the court. Complete legal research for assigned justice. Assist in the writing of conference and final opinions of the court.

Professional Associations:

- President, Young Lawyers Section, South Dakota Bar (2007 - 2008)
- Member, Board of Bar Commissioners, South Dakota Bar (2008 - 2009, 2012- 2013)
- Member, Board of South Dakota State's Attorney's Association (2014-2016, 2018 -2019, 2021 - 2024) (elected position)
- Member, South Dakota Jolene's Law Task Force (2015 -2016) (appointment to Task Force made by South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugard)
- Member, Advisory Board, South Dakota Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, University of South Dakota (2016-June 2024)
- Member, South Dakota Unified Judicial System Committee on Indigent Defense (2015 -2019)
- Member, South Dakota Legislature House Bill 1064 - Indigent Legal Services Task Force (appointment to Task Force made by the South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley) (March-October 2023)
- Member, South Dakota Open Meetings Commission (appointment to Commission made by the South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley) (January 2024 - June 2024)