



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:

- State: South Dakota
- United States Supreme Court

Experience:

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

Lake County, South Dakota, Madison, SD, Feb. 2018 – 2024

Hughes County, South Dakota, Pierre, SD, Apr. 2013 – Feb. 2018

Interim State's Attorney, Butte County, Belle Fourche, SD, Jan. 2004 – Jun. 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.

Office of the State's Attorney, South Dakota

Deputy State's Attorney, Hughes County, South Dakota, Pierre, SD, Jun. 2009 – Apr. 2013

Deputy State's Attorney, Meade County, South Dakota, Sturgis, SD, Feb. 2007 – Jun. 2009

Deputy State's Attorney, Butte County, South Dakota, Belle Fourche, SD, Jan. 2003- Feb. 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.

South Dakota Department of Commerce and Regulation, Pierre, South Dakota

Director, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing, Sep. 1999 – Jan. 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.

Supreme Court of South Dakota, (Justice John Konenkamp) Pierre, SD

Law Clerk, Aug. 1998 – Jul. 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 Daugaard)
- 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)