

**MARIA M. LEWIS**  
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## **EDUCATION**

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**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON** Madison, WI  
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, 2014 January 2010-August 2014  
Dissertation-Navigating the grey area: A review of a school district's documentation of the relationship between disability and student misconduct

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL**  
J.D., 2012 August 2008 – December 2012

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** Chicago, IL  
B. A. (Concentration: Law, Letters, and Society) September 2002 - June 2006

## **EXPERIENCE**

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**The Pennsylvania State University** State College, PA  
Assistant Professor August 2015-

*Department of Education Policy Studies, College of Education*

- Teach undergraduate and graduate level courses in education law, diversity and equity and personnel management
- Conduct research on the intersection of education law and policy, particularly as it relates to equity and diversity
- Advise graduate students on their academic program and research projects
- Engage in collaborative research projects with faculty and students in the College of Education

**The Pennsylvania State University** State College, PA  
Faculty Affiliate August 2015-

*Penn State Law*

- Work collaboratively with faculty on research projects related to civil rights and constitutional law
- Participate in law school events related to education law
- Present relevant scholarly research to the law school community
- Review and provide feedback to faculty and students on their research

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** Madison, WI  
School Administration Consultant December 2014-June 2015

*Division for Learning Support, Special Education Team*

- Monitor local educational agencies for compliance with state and federal special education laws
- Assist with planning, development, implementation and evaluation of statewide monitoring system
- Conduct investigations of state complaints in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Provide technical assistance to public agencies responsible for ensuring that students receive a free appropriate public education

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON** Madison, WI  
Instructor of Public School Law September 2013-May 2014

*Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis*

- Employed as Instructor for “Public School Law,” a course for graduate students and law students and “Legal Rights and Responsibilities for Teachers,” a course for current teachers
- Lecture and facilitate discussion around issues such as religion and freedom of speech under the First Amendment, discrimination, special education, employment law and negligence
- Design classroom activities and assignments in a manner that allows students to apply the law to real world situations

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON** Madison, WI  
Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant for Dr. Julie Mead May 2010-August 2013  
*Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis*

- Employed as Teaching Assistant for three courses designed for pre-service teachers, current teachers, future administrators and law students: “Legal Aspects of Elementary and Secondary Education,” “Legal Aspects of Special Education and Pupil Services” and “Legal Rights and Responsibilities for Teachers”
- Assisted in developing multiple approaches to the delivery of course content, including face-to-face activities, online communication, blending learning opportunities and telepresence technology
- Responsible for grading papers, monitoring the online discussion forum and maintaining course website
- Participated in research projects related to special education and school choice

**DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN**

Madison, WI

Law Clerk

June 2010-May 2011

*Schools/Civil Rights Team*

- Conducted legal research and wrote legal memorandum related to special education eligibility and student discipline
- Drafted demand letters to school districts, legal briefs, legal complaints and motions
- Conducted legislative research on the seclusion and restraint of students with disabilities

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

Madison, WI

Small Group Discussion Leader

January 2010-June 2010

*University of Wisconsin Law School*

- Led and facilitated discussion group for first year law students in Property course
- Provided an overview of course content and discussed individual cases that were assigned for course reading
- Helped students prepare for their final exam by discussing practice exams as a group and providing individual feedback

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

Madison, WI

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Paula Hillmann and Dr. Julie Mead

August 2009-May 2010

*Department of Educational Psychology, Masters of Science for Professional Educators*

- Employed as Teaching Assistant for “Learning Communities” and “Understanding Legal Rights and Responsibilities”
- Responsible for grading and monitoring online discussion forum for courses designed for current teachers
- Provide weekly feedback to students on their work

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

Madison, WI

Research Assistant

May 2009-August 2009

*School of Education under the direction of Dr. Julie Mead*

- Contacted state education agencies to gather data regarding the disproportionality of minorities in special education
- Combined and analyzed data in an effort to identify trends that may be helpful at the local, state, and national levels
- Assisted in determining the next steps for follow-up research

**RESEARCH/PRESENTATIONS**

Lewis, M.M. (2015, November). Symposium-*LGBTQ Rights are Human Rights: Socially Responsible Approaches for Teachers*. National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Eckes, S.E., Lewis, M.M., & Bailey, D.A. (2015, November). *LGBTQ Students and Teachers: Law, Policy and Ethics in P-16 Schools*. Annual Meeting, Education Law Association. Cleveland, OH.

Fetter-Harrott, A. Lewis, M.M., Mead, J.F., Eckes, S.E., Sun, J.C. (2015, April). *Toward Justice for LGBT Students and Parents: Law, Policy and Praxis*. Annual Meeting, American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Lewis, M.M. (2014, November) *Was the student’s behavior caused by, or did it have a direct and substantial relationship to, the student’s disability? Understanding the implementation of manifestation determination review in one large urban school district*. Annual Meeting, Education Law Association, San Diego, CO.

Lewis, M.M. (2014, April) *Navigating the Grey Area: Understanding the Factors that Influence Decision Makers during Manifestation Determination Review*. Annual Meeting, American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Lewis, M.M. (2013, November) *School Discipline and the Fundamental Right to Education: The Constitutional Inadequacies of Wisconsin's Expulsion Laws*. Annual Meeting, Education Law Association, Westminster, CO.

Lewis, M.M. (2013, August 25). *Fighting the T-Shirt Wars: Freedom of Speech and LGBTQ Student Rights*, National LGBT Bar Association's Lavender Law Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Mead, J.F., & Lewis, M.M. (2012, November 9). *The American Legislative Exchange Council: Tracking Its Influence in School Law*, Annual Meeting, Education Law Association, Hilton Head, SC.

Mead, J.F., Lewis, M.M., & Brown, S. (2010, November 14). *Local Education Agency Responses to Significant Disproportionality*, Annual Meeting, Education Law Association, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mead, J.F., Lewis, M.M., & Brown, S. (2009, October 24). *Significant Disproportionality and Coordinated Early Intervening Services: An Examination of State and District Responses to IDEA's Directive*. Annual Meeting of the, Education Law Association, Louisville, KY.

### **PUBLICATIONS/WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Lewis, M.M. (2014). School Discipline and the Fundamental Right to Education: The Constitutional Inadequacies of Wisconsin's Expulsion laws. *Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal*, 1, 41-69.

Lewis, M.M. (2015). The Fourth Amendment in Schools: An Ambiguous Precedent and the Role that Gender Plays in Determining Reasonableness. *Buffalo Journal of Gender, Law & Social Policy*.

Lewis, M.M., Fetter-Harrott A., Sun, J.C., Eckes, S.E. (in press). *Legal Issues Related to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Public Schools*. Social Education.

Mead, J.F., & Lewis, M.M. (in press) *The Implications of Use of Parental Choice as a Legal Circuit Breaker*. American Educational Research Journal.

Lewis, M.M. (under review). *Fighting the T-Shirt Wars: Freedom of Speech and LGBTQ Student Rights*.

Mead, J.F., & Lewis, M.M. (in preparation). *The American Legislative Exchange Council: Tracking Its Influence in School Law*.

Lewis, M.M. (in preparation). *Was the student's behavior caused by or did they have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability? Understanding the implementation of manifestation determination review in one large urban school district*.

Lewis, M.M. (in preparation). *Access to Seemingly Inaccessible Data: Buy-in, IRB and Confidentiality*.

Lewis, M.M. (in preparation). *Were the Student's Actions a Manifestation of His or Her Disability? Examples from Practice*.

### **SERVICE**

Membership Coordinator/Webmaster-Law and Education SIG, American Educational Research Association  
Reviewer, American Journal of Education  
Reviewer, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

### **AWARDS**

Children's Justice Project Fellowship, University of Wisconsin Law School (2009)  
Junior Scholar's Forum, Lavender Law Conference, LGBT Bar Association (2013)  
Emerging Scholar Award, Law and Education SIG, American Educational Research Association (2014)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Education Law Association  
American Educational Research Association

### **BAR ADMISSION**

Wisconsin Bar Association

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Education Law and Policy

Discrimination/Equity

Special Education

Student Discipline/Due Process