**Wendy N. Hess**

**University of South Dakota School of Law  
414 East Clark Street, Room 214, Vermillion, SD 57069**

**605-677-6347/wendy.hess@usd.edu**

Teaching Experience

**Assistant Professor & Director of Fundamental Legal Skills,**

**University of South Dakota School of Law**, Vermillion, SD 2013 – Present

Direct and teach legal research and writing program for first year law students. Supervise full-time visiting legal writing lecturer and teaching assistants. Also developed and taught new course to upper class students on Client Interviewing and Counseling.

**Visiting Assistant Professor & Director, Fundamental Legal Skills,**

**University of South Dakota School of Law**, Vermillion, SD 2012 – 2013

Directed and taugh legal research and writing program for first year law students. Supervises adjunct legal writing professor and teaching assistants.

**Coordinator & Instructor, Critical Legal Skills Program,**

**Phoenix School of Law** (now Arizona Summit Law School), Phoenix, AZ2011 – 2012

Coordinated program providing first and second year legal skills courses and other academic support offerings to law students. Taught legal skills courses and workshops. Conducted individual academic counseling sessions with students to aid their analytical and writing skills development. Organized and presented new student orientation on legal analysis and law school study strategies.

**Adjunct Professor, Legal Interviewing & Counseling,**

**Phoenix School of Law** (now Arizona Summit Law School), Phoenix, AZSummer 2012

Taught legal interviewing and counseling course to law students, using a client-centered counseling model.

Legal Practice Experience

**Program Director, Public Justice Center (PJC)**, Baltimore, MD 2003 – 2011

* Management: directed PJC’s prison reform project; recruited, trained, and supervised staff, law clerks, and volunteers.
* Litigation & Appellate Advocacy: settled a large class action lawsuit regarding medical care and sanitation conditions for pretrial detainees; authored numerous appellate court briefs to state and federal courts.
* Communications: served as media contact; co-produced short documentary film about health crisis in Baltimore City Jail.
* Advising/counseling: provided legal advice and representation; served as mentor to summer law clerks.
* Events and fundraising: prepared grant reports and proposals; planned fundraising event.
* Policy reform: testified before Maryland Legislature on numerous occasions; successfully advocated for passage of a bill to protect educational rights of children in foster care.

**Francis D. Murnaghan Appellate Advocacy Fellow,**

**Public Justice Center**, Baltimore, MD 2002 – 2003

Authored appellate briefs in state and appellate courts on civil rights and poverty law issues including: sexual harassment, civil right to counsel, and the associational rights of public housing tenants. Provided writing and moot court consultation to outside counsel working on appeals involving public interest issues.

**Staff Attorney, Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project**, Lewisburg, PA 2000 – 2002

Provided civil legal representation to local, state, and federal prisoners. Recruited, trained, and supervised law student interns and undergraduate volunteers.

Judicial Clerkship Experience

**Judicial Law Clerk, Judge William Nickerson,**

**U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland**, Baltimore, MD 1999 – 2000

**Judicial Law Clerk, Judge John Eldridge,**

**Maryland Court of Appeals**, Annapolis MD 1998 – 1999

Writing

*Kids Can Change: Reforming South Dakota’s Juvenile Transfer Law to Rehabilitate Youth and Protect Public Safety*, accepted for publication by University of South Dakota Law Review (2014).

Lead author of Open Society Institute (OSI) grant-funded report entitled*: Just Kids: Baltimore’s Youth in the Adult Criminal Justice System* (Oct. 2010), an analysis of the efficacy of prosecuting youth as adults (available at http://justkidsmaryland.org).

Co-author and editor of *Access to Education for Children in State-Supervised Care*, an informational resource authored for the Maryland Department of Human Resources and Maryland State Department of Education.

Education

**University of Denver College of Law, J.D.**, 1998, Order of St. Ives (top 10%) & Chancellor’s Scholar (full scholarship for academic excellence & commitment to public interest)

* Research Assistant for Professor Alan Chen, Civil Rights Scholar; Volunteer, ACLU of Colorado; Vice President, ACLU Student Chapter; Student Law Office Criminal Law Clinic; Denver Municipal Public Defender's Office Intern

**University of Maryland, B.A. Psychology & Political Science; Women’s Studies Certificate**, 1995, *Summa Cum Laude*; Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society; Pi Sigma Alpha Poli/Sci Honor Society

* Research Assistant for Dr. Lisa Aspinwall, Health Psychology

Certification & Bar Memberships

* Member of the following bars: Maryland, 1998; District of Columbia, 2001 (inactive), South Dakota (2013)
* Mediation Certification from Phoenix School of Law Mediation Clinic, March 2012

Recent Service

* Volunteer, Hand to Hand Fair Trade Project of WHEAT, Phoenix, AZ, 2011-2012
* Tutor, Literacy Volunteers of Tucson, 2011
* Docent, American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, 2006-2009
* Mentor, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Baltimore, MD, 2000-2002, 2006-2010
* Member & Past Chair, Md. State Bar Assoc., Correctional Reform Section, 2008-2010
* Board Member, Megaphone Project, Baltimore, MD, 2008-2009
* Film Screener, SILVERDOCS Documentary Film Festival, Silver Spring, MD, 2008