

KEVIN M. ZIELINSKI

LAW · POLICY · REASON

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Institute for Reforming Government · Delafield, Wisconsin (remote)

Associate Counsel for Legal Reform & Oversight

Hamilton Roddis Court Watch Fellow

Nov. 2025 – Present

May 2025 – Nov. 2025

- Lead IRG Court Watch, the institute's judicial-accountability program; built irgcourtwatch.org and launched its newsletter.
- Designed the scoring methodology behind IRG's Wisconsin Supreme Court scorecards and *Behind the Bench*, a two-year study of 16 Wisconsin Court of Appeals judges.
- Co-authored *Wisconsin Supreme Court Term in Review 2026* and built its interactive online edition.
- Co-authored *The Agency Sunshine Report*, an open-records scorecard of 19 Wisconsin state offices, and built its live Agency Dashboard as sole developer.
- Drafted an amicus brief on the limits of judicial immunity in *United States v. Dugan*, No. 2:25-cr-89 (E.D. Wis. 2025), and a reform toolbox on Wisconsin's REINS Act and companion regulatory statutes.

Crossroad Legal, LLC · Glen Carbon, Illinois · *Legal Intern*

Feb. 2025 – Apr. 2025

- Drafted FOID-card appeals that restored clients' firearm rights; researched Second Amendment and § 1983 fee-shifting issues.

Jackson County State's Attorney's Office · Murphysboro, Illinois · *Rule 711 Intern*

Mar. 2024 – Dec. 2024

- Served the Joseph R. Bartylak Public Interest Fellowship; drafted filings in misdemeanor and felony prosecutions and assisted in court.

TEACHING

Southern Illinois University Carbondale · College of Business & Analytics

Aug. 2025 – Present

Clinical Assistant Professor of Finance & Economics

- Teach FIN 270 (Legal & Social Environment of Business), FIN 280 (Business Law I), and FIN 380 (Business Law II).
- Rated 8.57 of 10 overall in first-semester student evaluations; earlier taught Introduction to Law for Project Upward Bound (2024).

BAR ADMISSION & EDUCATION

Supreme Court of Illinois · Admitted to practice law · ARDC No. 6354911

2026

Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School · Juris Doctor

May 2025

Full-Tuition Merit Scholarship (2022–2025) · Joseph R. Bartylak Public Interest Fellow (2024) · CALI Award, Advanced Constitutional Law

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign · B.S., Molecular & Cellular Biology

May 2011

Dean's List · Two-time Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarship recipient

PUBLICATIONS

- *Judicial Immunity in Wisconsin Has Limitations Attached to the Role of a Judge*, IRG Court Watch (May 28, 2025).
- *SCOTUS Clarifies Scope of RICO's Civil Cause of Action*, The Federalist Society (Apr. 15, 2025).
- *When Silence Counts as Violence: United States v. Delligatti*, The Federalist Society (Apr. 1, 2025).
- *What to Do With Dewberry?: Dewberry Group v. Dewberry Engineers* (with Zvi Rosen), The Federalist Society (Feb. 28, 2025).
- *SAFE-T for Whom? How Legislative Overreach Transformed Criminals into Victims*, SSRN (Jan. 19, 2024).

LEADERSHIP & SPEAKING

- **Chapter President**, The Federalist Society, SIU Simmons Law (2024–2025). Runner-up, FEDI Award for Most-Improved Chapter; hosted Illinois Supreme Court Justice David K. Overstreet, USDA Assistant Secretary Devon Westhill, and others.
- **Student Liaison**, Criminal Law & Procedure Practice Group, The Federalist Society (2024–2025).
- **Panelist**, "A Critical Lens on Current Issues" (Illinois SAFE-T Act), SIU Simmons Law School (2024).