

KEVIN M. ZIELINSKI

Juris Doctor | *Illinois Attorney No. 6354911*

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Kevin M. Zielinski

LAW & POLICY REFORM

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Illinois-licensed attorney with a dual track in legal-policy research and undergraduate business-law instruction. Current work centers on Wisconsin appellate practice through IRG's Court Watch Initiative—including opinion analysis, judicial scorecard development, and amicus support—alongside curriculum design and classroom instruction at SIU-Carbondale's College of Business & Analytics. Background in constitutional law, regulatory oversight, and applied legal writing for both academic and policy audiences.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois — Admitted March 16, 2026 (Bar No. 6354911)

SKILLS

- Wisconsin appellate opinion analysis and judicial scorecard development
- Legal research across state and federal authorities (Westlaw — Advanced Certified; Lexis)
- Legal writing across genres: amicus briefs, scholarly articles, op-eds, internal memoranda, and litigation drafts
- Constitutional law analysis and doctrinal argument construction (CALI Award, Advanced Constitutional Law)
- Administrative law and rulemaking review; public records / FOIA practice and document analysis
- Statutory and regulatory interpretation
- Curriculum design and college-level instruction (FIN 270; incoming FIN 280, FIN 380)
- Bluebook citation and legal style editing
- Public speaking, panel presentation, and event organization
- AI-assisted technical execution: end-to-end design, build, and deployment of public-facing web platforms using Claude Code ([IRGCourtWatch.org](https://www.ircourtwatch.org))
- Microsoft Office, Canvas LMS, Excel-based case and data tracking



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Counsel for Legal Reform & Oversight

Nov. 2025 – Present

Institute for Reforming Government — Delafield, WI

- Lead legal analyst for IRG’s Court Watch Initiative: review and summarize Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals oral arguments, brief decisions, and maintain the appellate judicial scorecard.
- Designed, built, and deployed IRGCourtWatch.org — IRG’s public-facing judicial oversight platform featuring Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals scorecards, litigation analysis, educational primers, and policy reports.
- Identify judicial trends and assess their downstream policy implications for IRG’s reform agenda.
- Conduct legal and policy research supporting IRG’s reform initiatives and oversight projects.
- Support the Center for Investigative Oversight: track administrative rulemaking, review executive orders, evaluate state agencies, draft public records requests, and analyze returned documents.
- Designed and deployed the [IRG Court Watch website](#) to publish scorecards, reports, litigation tracking, and public-facing legal analysis.
- Developed AI-assisted publication and research workflows to accelerate appellate opinion analysis, legal-content production, and digital dissemination across IRG’s Court Watch initiative.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Finance

Aug. 2025 – Present

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale College of Business & Analytics

- Instructor of record, FIN 270: Legal and Social Environment of Business. Designed and delivered the full curriculum—lectures, assessments, and evaluations—for undergraduate students.
- Appointed to expand teaching load to FIN 280: Business Law I (Fall 2026) and FIN 380: Business Law II (Spring 2027), each running concurrently with FIN 270 (six credit hours per semester).
- Teaching effectiveness, FIN 270 (Fall 2025): 4.6/5.0 overall instructor rating; 94% recommendation rate.
- Selected student feedback: “Clear, engaging, and practical—this course finally made business law make sense.” “Challenging but fair exams that tested real understanding, not memorization.”

Hamilton Roddis Court Watch Fellow

May 2025 – Nov. 2025

Institute for Reforming Government — Delafield, WI

- Conducted legal research for local government, state judiciary, and policy purposes.
- Co-authored the IRG Court Watch Report: Wisconsin Supreme Court Term in Review (July 2025).
- Drafted amicus brief for the Center for American Rights, *United States v. Dugan*, No. 2:25-cr-89 (E.D. Wis. June 9, 2025).
- Co-authored *Judicial Immunity in Wisconsin Has Limitations Attached to the Role of a Judge* (May 28, 2025).

Legal Intern**Feb. 2025 – May 2025***Crossroad Legal, LLC — Glen Carbon, IL*

- Drafted FOID-card appeals for unconstitutional FOID cards revocation cases
- Researched and authored articles on Second Amendment doctrine and Illinois firearm regulation.
- Drafted memoranda summarizing complex legal issues and recommending positions to supervising attorneys.

Rule 711 Legal Intern**Mar. 2024 – Jan. 2025***Jackson County State's Attorney's Office — Murphysboro, IL*

- Operated under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 license to actively participate in misdemeanor and felony proceedings in the Illinois Fifth District.
- Drafted charging documents, motions, and supporting briefs that aided successful prosecutions.
- Organized evidence portfolios and assisted attorneys at hearings and trial.

Instructor — Introduction to Law**June 2024 – July 2024***Project Upward Bound, Southern Illinois University — Carbondale, IL*

- Designed and taught a 6-week syllabus on foundational legal concepts to a cohort of 13 high school students.
- Anchored doctrine in current events and used structured group discussion to develop critical-reasoning skills.

Research Assistant — Lesar Law Library**Jan. 2024 – May 2024***Southern Illinois University, Simmons Law School — Carbondale, IL*

- Produced instructional Bluebook citation videos used as 1L reference material.
- Streamlined research resources for first-year law students.
- Earned Thomson Reuters Legal Research certifications (Basic through Advanced).

Law School Ambassador**Jan. 2023 – May 2024***Southern Illinois University, Simmons Law School — Carbondale, IL*

- Mentored prospective law students and led admissions tours.
- Supported alumni engagement and admissions outreach in the Office of Admissions.

EARLIER TEACHING & TUTORING

Private Tutor & Admissions Consultant**July 2019 – Aug. 2023***Self-Employed — Palatine & Carbondale, IL*

- Built and ran an independent tutoring practice serving secondary and undergraduate students; designed individualized curricula based on diagnostic assessments.
- Worked with a wide range of students, from gifted learners to those facing significant academic challenges.

SAT Preparation Course Instructor**Jan. 2021 – April 2021***College Admission Planning (CAP) — Arlington Heights, IL*

- Drafted ten original SAT English tests and ten original SAT Reading tests for institutional use.
- Instructed high school students in SAT Reading Comprehension and Writing & Language.

Tutor Manager & Family Care Coordinator

Nov. 2019 – Mar. 2020

Tutor Doctor — Chicago, IL

- Recruited, interviewed, and managed a regional tutor team across the Chicago area.
- Matched tutors with students, monitored academic progress, and served as primary liaison for families.

Online Academic Tutor

May 2017 – Nov. 2019

Varsity Tutors, Chegg, TutorMe — Remote

- Provided on-demand remote tutoring across English Composition, AP Biology, Chemistry, and Physiology.
- Awarded “Best of Tutors” recognition multiple years on Tutors.com.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor

May 2025

Southern Illinois University — Simmons Law School, Carbondale, IL

- [CALI Award — Advanced Constitutional Law](#)
- Full-Tuition Scholarship
- Joseph R. Bartylak Fellowship
- President — The Federalist Society, SIU Chapter (May 2024 – May 2025)
- Selected coursework: Legal Writing, Advanced Constitutional Law, Negotiations, Trusts & Estates, Business Organizations, Evidence, Family Law, Medical Malpractice, Commercial Law, Transactional Skills, Criminal Procedure, Bioethics.

Bachelor of Science, Molecular & Cell Biology

Jan. 2015

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- GPA: 3.54 | Dean’s List (Fall 2010)
- Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarship (2007, 2008)
- Vice-President — UIUC Pre-Dental Club (2010–2011)

PUBLICATIONS & SELECTED WRITING

- Co-Author, [IRG Court Watch: Decisions that Matter: A Wisconsin Supreme Court Scorecard \(2025 Term\)](#), May 2026.
- Co-Author, [Behind the Bench: How Wisconsin’s Court of Appeals Judges Actually Decide: An Analysis of the Judiciary’s Workhouse](#), May 2026.
- Co-Author, [IRG Court Watch Spring Report: 12 Ways the Wisconsin Supreme Court Will Impact Wisconsin’s Government, Policy, and Its People](#), March 2026.
- Co-Author, [The Wisconsin Administrative Reform Toolbox: A Practical Legislative Handbook for Restoring Lawmaking Authority](#), February 2026.
- Co-Author, [IRG Court Watch Report: Wisconsin Supreme Court Term in Review](#), (July 2025).
- [Brief for Center for American Rights as Amicus Curiae, United States v. Dugan](#), No. 2:25-cr-89 (E.D. Wis. June 9, 2025).

- Co-Author, [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 (April 15, 2025).
- [When Silence Counts as Violence: United States v. Delligatti](#), The Federalist Society (April 1, 2025).
- [What to Do With Dewberry?: Dewberry Group v. Dewberry Engineers](#), (with Prof. Zvi Rosen), The Federalist Society (Feb. 28, 2025).
- [SAFE-T for Whom? Legislative Overreach Transformed Criminals into Victims](#), SSRN (Jan. 19, 2024).

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Student Liaison, Criminal Law and Procedure Practice Group, The Federalist Society (Sep. 2024 – July 2025).
- Chapter President, The Federalist Society, SIU Simmons Law School (May 2024 – May 2025) — increased active membership 4,000%; organized speaker events; FEDI Award for Most-Improved Chapter, Runner-Up.
- Panelist, A Critical Lens on Current Issues, SIU Simmons Law School (Spring 2024) — presented on the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Anthropic: Claude 101 — Anthropic Academy (2026)
- Thomson Reuters — Advanced, Intermediate, and Basic Legal Research (Feb. 2023).
- Thomson Reuters — Litigation Certification (March 2025).
- Thomson Reuters — Legal Research & Writing Certification (Feb. 2024).
- Tutor Skill Academic Game Plan Certification (2019).
- Indiana University School of Education Advanced Level Certificate for Doctoral Students (2018).
- “Best of Tutors” — Tutors.com (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

REFERENCES

Professor Chris Behan — *Professor of Law, SIU Simmons Law School* | cbehan@siu.edu

Professor Zvi Rosen — *Professor of Law, UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law* | zvi@zvirosen.com

Lt. Jarin Dunnigan — *Carbondale Police Lieutenant* | jdunnigan@carbondaileil.gov

CJ Szafir — *Executive Director, IRG* | cs@reforminggovernment.org

Chris Reader — *Chief of Staff and General Counsel, IRG* | cr@reforminggovernment.org

Jake Curtis — *General Counsel, IRG* | jc@reforminggovernment.org