

DARIA SPARTAN, JD

Career History

Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

September 2023 – present

Managing Attorney, Children's Representation Program

- Manage, monitor, and oversee the performance of contract attorneys and their adherence to statewide standards for children's representation within assigned management regions.
- Support and facilitate the development of regional communities of practice, including coordination of systemic legal representational strategies for children and youth in dependency cases.
- Provide technical support to contractors across the state. This includes fielding questions directly from contractors as well as monitoring and responding to inquiries posted on the CRP listserv.
- Support the CRP's child welfare and juvenile court system improvement efforts consistent with OCLA's focus on reducing disparate adverse outcomes for children and youth who are negatively impacted by social, cultural, racial, ability-based practices and biases.

Washington State Attorney General's Office

January 2022 – September 2023

Assistant Attorney General, Tacoma Division SHS

- The Social and Health Services Section attorneys maintain an active general dependency caseload. Cases assigned may also include family law matters including non-parental custody petitions, public disclosure/confidentiality issues, and some fair hearings appeals.
- Advise and represent the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) in court proceedings and through appeal, requiring familiarity and knowledge of applicable rules, statutes, and procedures. Review relevant petitions and other documents, consult with social workers and other DCYF employees, submit and respond to discovery, prepare witnesses and evidence for hearing or trial, review reports submitted to the court, perform research and analysis, submit relevant briefing to the court, consider settlement options, and take other action related to these matters. Also communicate frequently with other attorneys and guardians ad litem to resolve issues related to the underlying case.

Spartan Law Office, Pierce County, WA

July 2014-December 2021

Title 26 Guardian ad Litem, Title 11.130 Court Visitor; Pierce County Superior Court

Attorney for Children, Department of Assigned Counsel; Pierce County Superior Court, Juvenile Court

- Guardian ad Litem: Duties include conducting home visits and interviews with the parent parties, third party collateral contacts, request and review medical records, education records, legal records, therapy records and recommendations as well as DCYF CPS investigations; coordinating with community service agencies regarding the issues ordered to be reported or investigated to the Court and forming recommendations for the Court.
- Attorney for Children in Dependency actions: Duties include investigating the dependency case; reviewing the child's social services, therapeutic, substance, medical, law enforcement, school and other records and requesting services for the child; reviewing the court file; contacting lawyers and other parties for background information, interviewing individuals involved with the child; attending proceedings and hearings in the child's interests; and filing pleadings necessary for the case.

Admitted to Washington Bar in 2013, after ten years of practice in Iowa.

Education

Drake University Law School, Des Moines, IA May 2002
Juris Doctor

Nantes Université, Nantes, France Summer 2001
Summer Study- International Law

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA May 1999
Bachelor of Arts, General Studies

Admitted to Practice

- Washington State Supreme Court, 2013
- United States District Court, Washington, Western District, 2016
- Iowa Supreme Court, 2003
- United States District Court, Iowa, Southern District, 2004

Community Engagement

- WSBA's Juvenile Law Section, CLE and Outreach Coordinator 2024-2025