

## **WILLIAM M. VESNESKI, MSW, JD, PhD**

School of Social Work  
University of Washington  
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### **EDUCATION**

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**PhD** in Social Welfare (2012), University of Washington, Seattle, WA

*Graduate Certificate*, Law and Society Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

*Dissertation*: Judging parents: Courts, child welfare and criteria for terminating parental rights

**MSW** (1998), School of Social Work, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**JD** (1991), School of Law, Seattle University, Seattle, WA

**BS** (1987), St. Martin's College, Olympia, WA

### **TEACHING**

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**Full-Time Lecturer, University of Washington, School of Social Work**, Seattle, WA (2015 – Present)

- Recipient of *MSW Students' Choice Teaching Award*, 2015, 2017

Faculty member teaching across the curriculum and within two MSW concentrations (*Children, Youth and Families* and *Administration and Policy Practice*). Serve as thesis chair to graduate students and committee member for doctoral students. Courses taught:

- SW 311: Social Welfare Practice II – Families and Groups
- SW 497: Social Work Spain: Social Justice in Times of Crisis (Study Abroad)
- SW 495: Race, Kids and Crime (Discovery Seminar for Early Fall Start)
- SW 500: Intellectual and Historical Foundations of Social Work Practice, *Lead Instructor*
- SW 501: Poverty and Inequality, *Lead Instructor*
- SW 511: Micro/Meso Social Work Practice II – Families and Groups
- SW 512: Macro Practice I: Organizations, Community, Policy Practice
- SW 513: Macro Practice IV: Organizations and Community Practice
- SW 533: Community Centered Practice with Diverse Children, Families and Youth
- SW 561: Concepts and Methods of Policy Analysis
- SWF 552: Contemporary Social Welfare Policy (Doctoral Course)
- SWF 581: Qualitative Research Methods and Design (Doctoral Course)

### **RESEARCH**

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**Insight Prison Project**, Seattle, WA

Research Consultant (Co-Investigator: Katherine Beckett, PhD) (2017-present)

Design and complete an evaluation of an 18-month long restorative justice program in use at the Monroe Correctional Complex (medium security prison). The program involves weekly group sessions with trained volunteers and 30 inmates serving life sentences. Key outcomes focus on violence prevention, overall well-being, and empathy.

**Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA**  
Research Consultant (2015-Present)

In collaboration with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, serve as the lead legal researcher for mixed-methods studies of child welfare policies with a focus on prevention of abuse and neglect and subsidized kinship guardianship. Specific tasks include design of legal research, analysis of state laws and administrative codes, supervising legal researchers, and preparation of manuscripts.

**Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), Seattle, WA**  
Lead Researcher (Co-Investigators: Tatiana Masters, PhD and Gita Mehrotra, PhD) (2014-2015)

Designed and completed a study of diversity of licensed attorneys in Washington State. Project elements included a review of literature concerning the barriers and challenges faced by attorneys of color and members of other marginalized populations, critical analysis of previous studies completed by the WSBA, latent class analysis of bar membership, and managing a team of consultants. Project resulted in two white papers disseminated to the association's 30,000 members and presentations to the Association's leadership.

**Schultz Family Foundation and Starbucks, Seattle, WA**  
Lead Evaluator (2013-2014)

Designed a formative evaluation of a collaborative effort by the Schultz Family Foundation and Starbucks to develop and implement a barista training program for opportunity youth in three cities (Seattle, New York, and Gulf Port, MS). Project elements included development of logic models and data collection instruments, staff interviews and youth focus groups, data analysis, report writing, and presentations to the Schultz family.

**The Hague Domestic Violence Project, University of Washington, Seattle, WA**  
Research Associate (Principal Investigators: Taryn Lindhorst, PhD & Jeffrey Edleson, PhD) (2008 – 2011)

Member of an interdisciplinary research team examining the Hague Convention's implications for battered women. Primary responsibility was to design and implement a qualitative research study examining U.S. judicial opinions issued in Hague cases. Specific tasks included development and finalization of study sample, creation of coding sheets for data collection, content analysis of judicial opinions, presentation of findings to research team and at conferences, and preparation of manuscript.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer Reviewed*

Killos, L., **Vesneski, W.**, Pecora, P., Rebbe, R. & S. Christian (2018). A national analysis of guardianship assistance policy and implementation. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 94, 115-125.

**Vesneski, W.**, Killos, L., Pecora, P. & McIntire, E. (2017). An analysis of state law and policy regarding subsidized guardianship for children: Innovations in permanency. *UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy*, 21, 27-75.

Wulczyn, F., **Vesneski, W.**, Huhr, S., Monahan-Price, K., Martinez, Z., Verhulst, C. & C. Weiss (2016). The value added impact of fast-track adoption. *Global Social Welfare*, 3(2), 97-106.

**Vesneski, W.** (2011). State law and the termination of parental rights. *Family Court Review*, 49, 364-378.

**Vesneski, W.**, Lindhorst, T. & J. Edleson. (2011). U.S. judicial implementation of the Hague Convention in cases of domestic violence. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 62, 1-21.

**Vesneski, W.** (2009) Street-level bureaucracy and family group decision making in the USA. *Child and Family Social Work*, 14, 1-5.

Kemp, S., Marcenko, M., Hoagwood, K., & **Vesneski, W.** (2009). Engaging parents in child welfare services: bridging family needs and child welfare mandates. *Child Welfare, 88*, 101-126.

### **Books and Chapters**

Pecora, P., Whittaker, J., Barth, R., Borja, S. and **W. Vesneski** (2018). *The Child Welfare Challenge*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Routledge. New York: Routledge.

Kemp, S., **Vesneski, W.** & E. Scanlon (2015). Practice with communities. In M. Mattaini. *Foundations of social work practice: A graduate text*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

**Vesneski, W.** (2014). Termination of parental rights. In J. Albanese (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Lindhorst, T., J. Edleson, & **W. Vesneski**, (2012). Judicial reasoning in Hague cases involving domestic violence. In T. Lindhorst & J. Edleson. *Battered Women, Their Children, and International Law*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

**Vesneski, W.**, Lindhorst, T. & J. Edleson (2010). Judicial opinion study. In J. Edleson & T. Lindhorst. *Multiple Perspectives on Battered Mothers and their Children Fleeing to the United States for Safety: A Study of Hague Convention Cases*. Final Report to the National Institute of Justice. NIJ #2006-WG-BX-0006.

Kemp, S., Marcenko, M., **Vesneski, W.** & K. Hoagwood (2008). Engaging birth parents in child welfare services: promising practices and policy opportunities. In C. Cannali, T. Vecchiato, & J. K. Whittaker (Eds.). *Assessing the "Evidence-Base" of Intervention for Vulnerable Children and their Families* (331-334). Padua, Italy: Fondazione Emmanuela Zaccan.

Kemp, S., Marcenko, M., **Vesneski, W.** & K. Hoagwood. (2007). Engaging parents in child welfare services: Challenges, promising practices and policy opportunities. Chapter prepared for the *Casey Foster Care Clinical Research and Development Project*.

**Vesneski, W.** & Kemp, S. (2000). Family group conferencing in Washington State. In G. Burford & J. Hudson (Eds.). *Family Group Conferences: Perspectives on Policy, Practice, and Research* (312-323). New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

### **Reports**

**Vesneski, W.** & P. Pecora (2018). Innovations in using guardianship to preserve families: A national scan of policy and practice. *Policy & Practice*, June 2018.

**Vesneski, W.**, Masters, T. & G. Mehrotra (2015). *Intersectionality and attorneys of color: Membership of the Washington State Bar Association*.

**Vesneski, W.**, Graves, R., & A. Johnson-Binkley. (2014). *Disrupting poverty: Coming together to build financial security for individuals and communities*.

**Vesneski, W.** & S. Meyer (2014). *Pacific Northwest nonprofit survey*. MJ Murdock Charitable Trust.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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*European Association of Schools of Social Work* (2019). Workshop Co-Presenter. Teaching Social Justice and Social Work History. Madrid, Spain.

*European Conference for Social Work Research (2018)*. Workshop Co-Presenter. Teaching Social Work History as Critical Pedagogy. Edinburgh, Scotland.

*Child Welfare League of America, National Conference (2017)*. Co-Presenter. Subsidized Guardianship. Washington, DC.

*American Association of Public Welfare Attorneys, National Conference (2015)*. Presenter. Adoption and guardianship assistance. Seattle, WA.

*West Coast Poverty Center, Poverty Summit (2015)*. Panelist. Measuring progress in poverty. Seattle, WA.

*Scholars Strategy Northwest, Discussion and Reception (2015)*. Panelist. Children of incarcerated parents (Chris Wildeman, Presenter). Seattle, WA.

*Society for Social Work & Research (2013)*. Key factors in court decisions to terminate parental rights. Washington, DC.

*West Coast Law and Society Retreat (2011)*. Defining neglect in actions to terminate parental rights. Los Angeles, CA.

*National Institute of Justice Research Mini-Conference (2010)*. U.S. judicial implementation of the Hague Convention. Seattle, WA.

*Society for Social Work & Research. (2010)*. Fleeing domestic violence and crossing international boundaries: Implications for child custody. San Francisco, CA.

*Society for Social Work & Research (2010)*. Battered mothers fleeing across international borders: Examining Hague Convention cases involving domestic violence. San Francisco, CA.

*EUSARF Conference (2008)*. Engaging birth parents in child welfare services: Promising practices and policy opportunities. Padua, Italy.

*Sociology Deviance Seminar, University of Washington (2008)*. Punishing mothers: The new penology and child welfare. Seattle, WA.

*Best Practices for Mental Health and Child Welfare Consensus Conference (2007)*. Engaging parents in child welfare services: Challenges, promising practices and policy opportunities.

*Building on Family Strengths Conference (2007)*. Engaging birth parents in child welfare and child mental health services. Presented at the, Portland, OR.

## **SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**

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### **The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Seattle, WA**

Director of Evaluation, Research and Planning (2007 – 2014; Consultant 2014-2015)

Developed and managed all of the Foundation's internal evaluation systems. Key tasks included developing logic models and theories of change for giving programs, designing evaluations of key initiatives, preparing reports, and supervising contractors. Also responsible for leading key initiatives of interest to the Allen family, including an expansion of grantmaking in tribal communities and developing grants to support organizations serving immigrant and refugee populations. Other tasks: completing due diligence on grant proposals (including financial reviews), conducting site visits, reviewing progress reports and approving grant payments.

**National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, Seattle, WA**

Evaluation Consultant (2000 – 2008); Child Welfare Program Evaluation Specialist (1998 – 2000)

As a consultant, provided strategic assistance on planning and applied research projects, including a national analysis of judges' attitudes toward CASA advocacy and a study linking local CASA data with data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW). Also served as chair of the Association's evaluation task force, a peer reviewer for program accreditation, and a grant reviewer for federal pass-through funds. While an employee, served as project manager for a multi-year, \$1 million initiative funded by the Packard Foundation. The initiative included design of a national database for use by 300 local CASA agencies as well as development and delivery of a program evaluation curriculum for these agencies.

**Training Resources for the Environmental Community (TREC), Santa Fe, NM**

Senior Consultant (2002 – 2007)

Member of a team of consultants helping environmental advocacy nonprofits expand and strengthen their outreach to local constituencies in order to build greater support for wildlands and species protection. Responsibilities included qualitative and quantitative data collection through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, report writing, and retreat facilitation. Primary clients: Greater Yellowstone Coalition (Bozeman, MT), Trustees for Alaska (Anchorage, AK), Idaho Conservation League (Boise, ID), WildEarth Guardians (Santa Fe, NM), and Nevada Conservation League (Reno, NV).

**Case Foundation (PowerUp), Washington, DC**

Lead Program Evaluator (2001 – 2002)

Managed a three-person team assessing the impact of a national Computer Learning Center initiative in affordable housing sites. Developed and disseminated a survey of staff at more than 100 centers, conducted focus groups with youth in five states, and completed interviews with key stakeholders. Evaluation is included in the Harvard Family Research Project's database of out-of-school time outcomes evaluations.

**LEGAL PRACTICE**

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**Office of Assigned Counsel, Olympia, WA**

Juvenile Court Indigent Defense Counsel, Olympia, WA (1991 – 1998)

Served as lead counsel in child welfare and juvenile criminal cases with an active caseload of 60. Duties included pre-trial appearances, preparing motions and pleadings, serving as counsel during bench and jury trials, and providing appellate representation. Acted as a liaison and advocate for clients in negotiations with state child welfare social workers, probation officers, prosecuting attorneys, attorneys-general, mental health professionals, and Guardians *ad litem*. Practice included Washington State Appellate and Supreme Courts.

**SERVICE**

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- *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, reviewer
- *Children and Youth Services Review*, reviewer
- *Social Services Review*, reviewer
- Member, Board of Directors, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA (2015-2017)
- Member, Board Program Committee, Building Changes, Seattle, WA (2012-2015)

**Licensed to practice law, Washington State, Bar Number #21687**

**Licensed foster care provider, Washington State**