

ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE

DAWN VERNOOY

ASSOCIATE

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“Whether serving as a professor, a tenant advocate, or as an education law attorney, my first priority is the education, stability, and well-being of children.”



Dawn Vernooy spent over a decade as a tenured English professor at a state university in Pennsylvania, teaching Nineteenth-Century British literature and serving in her faculty union’s leadership. Even before teaching at a public school, she grew up in Arizona and New Mexico, attending schools in the Deer Valley Unified School District and Albuquerque Public School system.

Prior to Walsh Gallegos, Dawn clerked for Chief Justice Nakamura at the New Mexico Supreme Court and for the New Mexico Court of Appeals. She began her law practice as a housing-preservation staff attorney at New Mexico Legal Aid and chaired the local chapter of the National Organization of Legal Service Workers. Whether at New Mexico Legal Aid or here at Walsh Gallegos, Dawn has dedicated her life to the education, stability, and well-being of children.

Dawn earned her law degree from University of New Mexico School of Law. There, Dawn represented families in kinship guardianship proceedings as a student attorney in the Child and Family Justice Clinic. She was also the recipient of the Seth Montgomery Fellowship for exceptional law students working on poverty-related issues at the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. Dawn also attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and New Mexico State University. At UNL she earned a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts degrees in English, and at NMSU she earned a Bachelor of Arts, also in English.

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico School of Law (2019)
Order of the Coif
Award for Excellence in Family Advocacy
W.E. Boudrant Law Merit Scholarship
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (M.A. 1997, Ph.D., 2003)
Presidential Fellowship
New Mexico State University (B.A., 1996)
Rhodes Scholarship, State Finalist for New Mexico

MEMBERSHIP

New Mexico State Bar

PRACTICE AREAS

Employment
Facilities & Business
Litigation
Students

LICENSING & COURT ADMISSIONS

Licensed in the State of New Mexico
United States District Court of New