

BRETT V. RIES

880 P St. NW, Apt. 510, Washington, DC 20001 | brettvries@gmail.com | (605) 881-9123

EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2023

GPA: 3.70

Honors: Duke Law Journal, *Senior Online Editor* (2022-2023) and *Staff Editor* (2021-2022)

Moot Court, *Board Member*

James S. Bidlake Memorial Award (Superior Achievement in Legal Analysis, Research, & Writing)

Legal Analysis, Research, & Writing, *Teaching Assistant* (by nomination, 2021-2023)

Dean's Advisory Council (by nomination, 2021-2022 academic year)

Activities: OutLaw, *Director of Advocacy* (2021-2022)

Publications: *Not Up For Deliberation: Expanding the Peña-Rodriguez Protection To Cover Jury Bias Against LGBTQ+*

Individuals, 72 DUKE L.J. 1567 (2023) (Runner-Up, 2022 ACS Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition)

Looking Backward to Move Forward: Ending the "History and Tradition" of Gun Violence Against the LGBTQ+ Community, 73 DUKE L.J. ONLINE 119 (2023) (Finalist, 2023 ACS Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition)

Don't Be A Drag: How Drag Bans Can Violate the First Amendment, 33 TULANE J.L. & SEXUALITY 1 (2025) (Winner, 2023 LGBTQ+ Bar Association's Michael Greenberg Writing Competition)

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice & Political Science and minor in Theatre, *summa cum laude*, May 2020

GPA: 4.00

Thesis: *The Relationship Between LGBTQ+ Representation on the Political and Theatrical Stages*

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society; Philip T. Roche Service to Others Award

EXPERIENCE

Williams & Connolly LLP, Washington, D.C.

Associate, May 2022 – August 2022; October 2023 – Present

- Drafted appellate briefs, including merits and amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Secured asylum for a family from Afghanistan.
- Developed and managed case strategy in cases involving false advertising, SEC independence, and privacy issues.

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, New York, NY

Legal Intern (*Criminal Division*), June 2021 – July 2021

- Aided Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the Public Corruption and Narcotics Divisions.
- Conducted research on trial evidentiary issues and wrote memoranda to supervisors.
- Drafted government sentencing submissions and observed multiple sentencing proceedings.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Washington, DC

Intern, May 2019 – July 2019

- Assisted in research and drafting of a bipartisan resolution honoring the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall.
- Initiated and created a Capitol Tour Guide and created a coding guide to improve constituent response efficiency.
- Drafted constituent response letters on topics such as bail, education, and drug sentencing reform.

Brett Ries for South Dakota District 5, Watertown, SD

Candidate, *SD House of Representatives*, January 2018 – November 2018

- Ran a grassroots campaign as the youngest candidate in 2018 for South Dakota State Legislature while a full-time college student and received highest number of votes for a Democrat in District 5 since 2010.
- Led an executive team of youth aged 18 to 24 and taught youth volunteers how to canvass.
- Featured in CNN article, radio interviews, and motivational talks at high schools.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Trained theatrical performer. Raised on a farm and first-generation college student. During pandemic: organized local LGBTQ+ march and worked with Mayor on LGBTQ+ issues. Appeared on HBO show *We're Here*. Delivered a TEDx Talk.