

PROFILE: Patricia McGowan

Prosecutor by training, protector at heart

Pat McGowan had to grow up faster than planned. The life lessons that came along with becoming a parent at 15 contributed to the tenacity she showed pursuing an education and becoming an Assistant District Attorney, and the compassion she shows now clearly arises from her experiences.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, McGowan attended Rufus King High School for the College Bound. She relied on family and friends to babysit her young son (now an adult with a family of his own) while she attended school. Two special people had a significant influence on her life and career.

“Mrs. Lois Williams, our family’s landlord who happened to be a teacher at a local high school, was my encouragement for going on to college. She would come over to pick up the rent check and talk to me about what I could do with my life,” said McGowan. “Even after I became pregnant at a young age, she continued to push and encourage me to do well in school and go on to college. Then, as a freshman in college, I met an attorney, Lindsey Draper, L’75, who was the first black attorney I had met. He became my inspiration for wanting to help others in the legal system.” She attributes the willpower to overcome obstacles to the grace and mercy of God. “He put wonderful people like Mrs. Williams and Lindsey Draper in my life to let me know that I could do anything I set out to do,” McGowan said.

About being a Marquette student, McGowan recalls, “Initially, I started out studying computational mathematics but early on switched to law enforcement for some very personal reasons. I really wanted to help people.” She explained, “I had some extended family who had issues with law enforcement, who instead of taking responsibility for their bad choices blamed their



Marquette law degree: 1989

Employment: Assistant District Attorney, Milwaukee County

When time allows: Reading, bowling, playing Scrabble, traveling with family and friends

Family: Single, one adult son

situations on ‘the system.’ I wanted to see for myself what this ‘system’ was all about.”

Seeing for herself turned into making a lifetime commitment—a commitment to be a protector, as well as a prosecutor.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in 1984, McGowan went to work for the Marquette Public Safety Department and soon decided that she wanted to pursue a law degree.

McGowan started her career at the Milwaukee DA’s office while a law student at Marquette. She worked as an intern in the family division and in the area known as children in need of protection or services (CHIPS). She also spent one semester dealing with felony cases and another with misdemeanor cases. When she graduated in 1989, she wasted no time getting to work. She went to commencement on Sunday, was sworn in on Monday and Tuesday, and started at the DA’s office on Wednesday. “I’ve been here ever since!” she said.

McGowan has worked in many of the divisions of the DA's office. Since May, McGowan is back working in children's court at the Vel Phillips Juvenile Justice Center handling CHIPS cases. "I like doing this," she said. "It really is my first love." Although cases involving children are heartbreaking and often involve overwhelming tragedy, she feels gratified when she can do something for the most innocent. "I feel like I'm helping when I get children placed in homes or with services that are safe and healing for them, and when I help parents find services they need so they can better care for their children," she said.

"Being an Assistant District Attorney carries with it a lot of discretionary decision-making but also a lot of responsibility," McGowan explained. "I learned early on that it is imperative to be fair and firm in dispensing justice and doing what is right." She has dedicated her entire career to this. "Someone has to be sure that justice

happens for both sides." It is vital, McGowan said, to treat everyone with respect and dignity, whether it is a homeless person who just got robbed, a drug addict who committed a crime in order to get a fix, or the professional person sitting on a jury.

She genuinely cares about the people she comes in contact with throughout her days and regularly prays for the families she serves. She is very involved in community organizations, several relating to her heritage and her faith. McGowan is a mentor both formally and informally and has been slowly but surely working toward a master of arts degree in Christian Studies through Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. When she retires from her legal career, she hopes to use that degree to become more involved in ministry with her congregation, Christ the King Baptist Church, perhaps trading in speaking in a courtroom for full-time ministry. ■

PROFILE: Jerome Janzer

Diligence and respect key to success

Ever since grade school, Jerry Janzer wanted to be a lawyer. "I liked the idea of helping people solve their problems and felt very comfortable in an advocacy role," he said. And ever since he can remember, he had great role models to help him achieve his dream: his parents, Ron and Laurie Janzer.

Janzer learned a lot from his dad (who passed away four years ago) and his mom—lessons that have guided him throughout his career. "I developed a strong work ethic at a very young age," explained Janzer. Throughout high school, college, and even law school, he worked 25 or more hours a week at his parents' business, Janzer Religious Articles. "My parents not only told me but showed me how to treat everyone with respect, that everyone matters," Janzer said. That philosophy continues to be a guiding principle for him.

Janzer's discipline for hard work continued through law school. While in law school, Janzer worked as a law clerk at Defense Research Institute, a position he was selected for by Professor John J. Kircher. His work at Defense Research Institute yielded him a full scholarship for his third year of study at the Law School. Janzer was particularly influenced by Professor Kircher, "You had to be prepared in Jack's class; he was demanding but fair," Janzer explained.

Janzer joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. immediately after graduating from law school and has been at the firm since. His practice focuses primarily on real estate development and financing, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and succession planning.

In 2006, he was named CEO of Reinhart, overseeing the firm of

Marquette law degree: 1982

Employment: Chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. He is also co-chair of the firm's real estate practice and a member of the business law practice.

Family: He and his wife, Joanne, have three children ages 14, 13, and 10.



approximately 205 lawyers and 400 employees, with four offices in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Janzer is also very involved in the Law School, serving on the advisory board and formerly on the alumni board. Grateful for his education and the scholarships he received while a student, he funds an academic scholarship for students and also contributed generously to the Eckstein Hall building fund. He continues to be committed to the Law School and its mission.

“I’ve seen an incredible transformation in the Law School that started with the late Dean Howard Eisenberg’s outreach to alumni and has continued and grown under Dean Joseph Kearney’s leadership,” Janzer said.

Janzer serves a variety of community organizations,

including the Board of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and the Greater Milwaukee Committee. Particularly close to his heart are his work as Chair of the Milwaukee Chapter of CEOs Against Cancer, and his work with the American Lung Association, Children’s Hospital, and other organizations that are instrumental in the fight against cancer. Cancer is a cause that has special meaning to Janzer, whose son, Jarrett, now 13, is a bilateral lung cancer survivor.

“I have learned that if I work hard and I am the best I can be in everything I undertake, the rest will take care of itself,” he said. A demanding premise, but one Janzer obviously lives by, whether it is for his work, his family, or his community. ■

PROFILE: Christine Woleske

An indirect path to a direct goal

Not many people apply to law school with a goal to work in a hospital. Chris Woleske did. Armed with a Marquette Law School degree, determination, and talent, she has arrived at her desired destination, but by a route other than initially planned.

Woleske earned a bachelor’s degree in health care administration in 1986, with a specific intent to work in hospital administration. She planned to eventually study for her master’s but took some time after getting her undergraduate degree to help her husband with a business he had recently established in Marinette, Wisconsin. “After four years of working with him, and also having a son, we agreed it was time for me to pursue my education and career,” she said. “My husband encouraged me to con-

sider law school instead of a master’s in business administration or public health. We knew it wasn’t the most direct route to health care administration, but a law degree would provide me with options in the event that plan changed.”

So the Woleskes made it happen. They rented an apartment in Milwaukee, where Chris and their nearly four-year-old son lived during the week, returning to Marinette most weekends. After her second year of law school, Woleske began clerking at a firm in Green Bay. She joined the firm—Liebmann, Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry (LCOJ)—upon graduation, practicing general business law and health law for four years.

In 1998, she joined her current employer, Bellin Health. “While working at LCOJ, Bellin Health had been a client, so when it needed someone to start its compliance program, this presented a great opportunity for me to do what I had always wanted to do,” she said. She joined Bellin as a compliance officer and general counsel.



Marquette law degree: 1994

Employment: Executive vice president and general counsel, Bellin Health

Family: She and her husband, Joe, have two children, Matt (23), and Elle (14). They have been married for 25 years.

“Bellin Health has provided me with a great opportunity to take on additional responsibilities and learn about health care operations,” Woleske said. Five years ago, she took on the challenge of leading the project to build and open a critical access hospital in Oconto, providing advice and participating in putting the plan into action.

So what is a lawyer doing in a top-level position in a health care facility? “Having a law degree provides a base level of credibility,” she said. “I deal with issues that vary from drafting employment contracts to advising the organization on the interpretation of a regulation or accreditation standard, to developing a plan for an acquisition.” Additionally, as executive vice president, she is involved with strategic planning, human resource management, leadership development, and financial management. “Having an attorney on a leadership team enhances the diversity of thought processes on the team,” she said.

Woleske stays connected with the Law School in several ways. She has served on committees for and attended most of her class reunion events and has helped host Green Bay-area Marquette Law School get-togethers. She is also committed to serving several community organizations in the Green Bay area.

She is grateful for her law school education and how it helped her to realize her goal. She said, “The investment we made in my law school education was one of the best we ever made. If I had a chance to do it all over again, I wouldn’t change a thing!” ■

The right place at the right time



Marquette law degree: 1983

Employment: Co-manager of Milwaukee office of Habush Habush & Rottier, S.C., manager of its Sheboygan office, and member of the firm’s executive committee.

Family: He and his wife, Liz, have been married for 29 years and have four children ages 20 to 27.

The view from Larry Fehring’s 23rd-floor corner office at Habush Habush & Rottier in Milwaukee’s US Bank building is reflective of his life. He is at the top of the world—he excels at his job, is blessed with a healthy family, and has a sense of gratitude that keeps him positive and focused.

The son of a brewer worker and a homemaker who highly valued education, Fehring attended St. Lawrence Seminary High School in Mt. Calvary, Wis., and initially considered joining the Capuchin-Franciscan order. “I had signed up to go to Nicaragua the summer after high school and then realized that lifestyle was not for me,” he said. “I cancelled those plans and enrolled at Marquette as an undergraduate.” He majored in economics, political science, and English, and also studied abroad for a year in Ireland. He always kept in the back of his mind the option of going to law school.

When the time for that came, Fehring was about to commit to moving to Chicago when he was notified of his acceptance to Marquette Law School. “I’ve been grateful ever since,” he said.

During law school, Fehring clerked at what is now known as Kasdorf, Lewis & Swietlik, and upon graduation, he accepted a position in the firm’s insurance defense litigation area. One of his cases involved defending a case being handled by a lawyer at the Habush firm during the summer of 1985. Later that year, the Habush firm was looking to grow. “An attorney I was working with at Habush thought enough of my lawyer skills to ask me to join the firm as a personal injury attorney for the plaintiff. It was a golden opportunity,” said Fehring. “I am so very pleased I am here, in great part because of how Bob Habush runs this firm. He has been a wonderful mentor and is a generous man.”

Fehring’s job representing injured parties is challenging but rewarding. The most important thing he has learned during his professional life is “to be honest . . . in all things.” That principle applies to his personal life, as well—a life that includes volunteering with the St. Benedict the Moor food program in downtown Milwaukee, serving as a trustee of his parish, and, when time allows, running and kayaking.

In recent years, Fehring said, Marquette Law School has reached out to alumni of his generation. He has responded—so much so that he is now president of the Law School Alumni Association. “I appreciate the sense of community that is fostered and the respect toward the alumni,” Fehring said. ■

Going to bat behind the scenes



Photo courtesy of Atlanta Braves/Pouya Dia

It sounds like every young boy's dream: going to the ballpark nearly every day of the week. For Greg Heller, it's not just a dream . . . it's a dream job. "I get to have my life's work be something I absolutely love doing—meld my love of the game with my training as a sports lawyer," he said.

Heller's office, just down the hall from baseball great Hank Aaron's, overlooks left center field at Turner Field baseball stadium, built for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and named after then-owner Ted Turner. "I get to work and watch baseball at the same time," he quipped. Most often, there's quite a bit more of the former than the latter.

Heller has been focused on the business end of sports throughout his career, having earned a sports marketing degree from Indiana University. He also served an internship with the Peoria Chiefs, a minor-league affiliate of the Chicago Cubs.

Growing up in Peoria, Ill., Heller was an athlete as well as an avid sports fan. As a young man, he had a job with the Chiefs, pulling the tarp on and off the field and selling tickets. "I love the game, and everything to do with it, but decided I wanted to continue on in the business end of sports at a more advanced level, so I decided to go to law school," he said. He applied to several law schools and ultimately chose Marquette because of its sports law program. While a student, he had many opportunities to immerse himself in the field. "I worked

Marquette law degree: 1996

Employment: Senior vice president and general counsel for the Atlanta Braves

Family: He and his wife, Krista, have four children, Maddie (12), Charlie (10), John (7), and Elizabeth (5).

as a research assistant in the Sports Law Institute, had an internship with the Milwaukee Brewers, wrote for the *Sports Law Journal*, and authored a law review article on the NCAA enforcement process," he said. During his final year of law school, he sent out more than 300 inquiry letters trying to find a job in sports law. "I landed a job as an associate attorney with a firm in Atlanta that concentrated mainly on corporate mergers and acquisitions and a little bit of sports law," Heller recounted. Still in search of the dream job, he then moved to a smaller firm back in Chicago, where he concentrated on sports and entertainment law matters for several years. "Then, in 2000, I got an email from Paul Anderson [associate director of the National Sports Law Institute and adjunct professor of law at Marquette Law School] that Turner Broadcasting was seeking counsel."

Experience, connections, and desire came together to allow Heller's dream to come true. He was hired in a dual role, as team counsel and senior counsel for Turner Sports and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. In 2007, when the Braves were sold by Turner, he came to the Braves full time as general counsel and senior vice president. "There are only 30 jobs like this in the country," he said, "and I am humbled and truly blessed to hold one of them."

Heller's responsibilities are wide and varied, including stadium and business operations, and sales and marketing matters.

His job means he attends a good portion of the Braves' 81 home games, quite often with his family. But he still makes time to stay true to the Jesuit mission of service to his community by coaching youth basketball at his children's school. With gratitude, he regularly participates in National Sports Law Institute events at Marquette and serves on the Sports Law alumni board. He is a true team player. ■

PROFILE: Robin Rosche

Life in the fast lane

Robin Rosche's journey to her position as assistant chief counsel with Department of Homeland Security in Chicago has been fascinating and more than a bit circuitous.

After graduating early from high school in Milwaukee, Rosche joined the Air Force security police and spent four years in Germany. While in the service, she worked on obtaining her associate degree in police science and then joined the City of Milwaukee Police Department, where she spent 10 years, the first three doing undercover on the vice squad and working 12 to 16 hours a day. It was during that time that she learned to identify priorities and manage them. "Peoples' lives were at stake, so I had to be prepared at all times," she said.

While an officer, Rosche decided to finish her bachelor's degree and took classes at UW-Milwaukee. Over the next decade, she chipped away part time at a degree. As she was finishing up her undergraduate degree, she started studying for her LSAT. "I am very committed to Milwaukee, own a home here, and have a lot of good contacts in the law enforcement field because of my time as a police officer," she explained. She decided to stay in town and attend Marquette Law School through the part-time program, while also working as a detective. "Marquette has an extraordinary program," Rosche said. "The part-time program was training in and of itself. I learned how to juggle priorities and be flexible. I took classes that really shaped my career and motivated me to keep learning."

She left the police department for a job as a paralegal in the Milwaukee District Attorney's office, continuing to go to law school part time. Through creative scheduling, a vigorous plan, summer school, and a lot of long days, Rosche graduated from law school in 2000 and was hired as a prosecutor in the Milwaukee DA's office.

Over the next few years, she became fascinated with global environment issues and international law. In 2004, she took a leave from the DA's office to earn a master's degree in international law from the University of London in England. "I turned 40 that year and figured it was now or never," she said.

With an impressive resume of education and experience, Rosche was offered her current position with the

Department of Homeland Security, working in immigration and customs enforcement. "I represent the federal government in immigration proceedings with people who are involved in removal proceedings. It is a very complex area of law," she said. "We are dealing with people's lives, so it is imperative that the right decisions are being made and that the law, which is constantly changing, is understood and interpreted correctly."

She lives in Milwaukee, but her office is in Chicago, which for some would prove to be a logistical nightmare. Rosche, however, makes it work by commuting on the train or staying over in Chicago a few times during the week.

She works hard and plays hard. Rosche competes (and has placed) at a national level as a bodybuilder and fitness competitor, training every day that she is able. And just when you think her life is as remarkable and exciting as it can get . . . ask her about her Harley. ■



Marquette law degree: 2000

Employment: Assistant Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Family: She and her husband, Donald Doro, have been married for 10 years.