

CLASS | NOTES

The top five Wisconsin Legal Innovators of 2014, in the estimation of the State Bar of Wisconsin, met in Madison this past fall. From left: Anne Smith, **Michael J. Gonring, L'82**, **Kelly A. Twigger, L'97**, Beth Ann Richlen, and **Karen E. Christenson, L'78**.

Karen E. Christenson spearheaded the planning for, and was the first presiding judge in, Milwaukee County's Family Drug Treatment Court. She led a team of professionals working with drug treatment counselors, service coordinators, and child welfare professionals to help return children to their parents, if possible.

Michael J. Gonring, with funds donated to Marquette Law School by colleagues **Juliana Ebert, L'81**, and **Frank Daily, L'68**, to honor Gonring's career-long leadership in pro bono service, prompted the Law School, in partnership with the Milwaukee Bar Association, to create a mobile legal clinic, housed in a specially outfitted bus. The clinic sets up shop in different places in Milwaukee County, reaching those who otherwise would not get legal help.

Kelly A. Twigger and attorneys at the company she created, ESI Attorneys, developed an app for the iPad, *eDiscovery Assistant*, to assist clients in keeping up with the rapidly changing area of e-discovery. The app curates resources litigators need at their fingertips—rules, case digests, checklists, templates, and more.

More information about the awards is available at www.wisbar.org. ▶▶



Photo: State Bar of Wisconsin/Andy Manis, photographer



Three Marquette lawyers have been named to the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* 2015 list of "40 Under 40," a roster of upcoming leaders in Milwaukee.



Danielle M. Bergner, L'05, a member of the Milwaukee City Attorney's Office.



Rebeca M. López, L'12, an attorney with the Milwaukee office of Godfrey & Kahn.



Rebecca Hopkins Mitich, L'09, of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, Milwaukee.

Jessica Poliner: On the Move, in More Ways Than One

"Five companies and a bunch of different countries." That's Jessica Poliner's two-phrase summary of what she's done since graduating from Marquette Law School in 2006.

She undersells the arc of her career. This is a woman on the move, and we mean that in three ways.

On the most literal level, she has lived and traveled professionally in a wide range of places—Florida, India, countries in South America, Panama (her current home), and, not to be left out, Milwaukee. "I'm globally mobile," as she puts it.

On a second level, she has moved through a series of jobs. That includes a shift in her career, from traditional legal counsel to portfolio management of all industries in northern Latin America for a multinational equipment manufacturing business.

On a third level, each job has built on the prior one, putting Poliner in situations successively more responsible, more demanding, and more impressive. She has risen rapidly and now is Caterpillar's country manager in Panama, overseeing more than 350 employees and a complex business environment. She also serves as district manager, responsible for distribution of Caterpillar products in Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama. "Two jobs for the price of one," she says. The huge Caterpillar business has only 19 country managers, and Poliner was the first woman and youngest person to be named one of them.

"I've been very fortunate to be in the right place at the right time," Poliner says. The path, in brief, began with work for a law firm in Milwaukee after she completed law school. That led to a position as a lawyer with Metavante, a Milwaukee-based financial services firm, which in turn led to a bigger position in Florida with Fidelity National Information Services (FIS), which bought Metavante.

Eventually Poliner returned to Milwaukee, where she had grown up, and joined a mining equipment manufacturing company, Bucyrus, as an attorney,



which led to her becoming part of Caterpillar after that organization bought Bucyrus. And Poliner has moved rapidly through what she calls three-and-a-half positions for Caterpillar, all involving business in Central and South America. (She speaks Spanish and Portuguese, by the way.)

Poliner has left her role as a lawyer behind and, whatever her future brings, she doesn't expect to return to traditional legal work. But she has no regrets about going to law school. "I work a lot of hours, and I work hard, and I think a lot of that was fine-tuned in law school," she says. "I think that my law degree has given me a lot of credibility in who I am and what I am." It helped develop her work ethic and her sense of how to do a job well—or, as she puts it, "how you think, your attention to detail, how much you read, how much you can withstand."

Poliner hopes to continue to build her career with Caterpillar and imagines that future positions will take her to other parts of the world. She says she has been "fortunate to work with incredible people" who have helped her develop her career to date. Summing up her path, Poliner says she has been "stretching myself in all sorts of different ways." Given her success in less than a decade since graduating from Marquette Law School, that statement itself is no stretch. ■



A Trusted Advisor Willing to Get His Feet Dirty

enrolled in the Law School with the goal of building a career utilizing his business background. His family shares his inclination to business. His wife, Ann, also received a Marquette business degree and worked for a time as a commercial banker. Their two older children, Patrick and Megan, are Marquette business graduates who work in the financial sector, and the two younger ones, Michael and Kevin, are Marquette students majoring in business.

Over the years, Reardon's practice has developed so that about half of it is classic transactional work, including negotiating and documenting sales of businesses. The other half involves "day-to-day needs of middle market business," he said, including licensing, supply agreements, and ownership succession.

Reardon aims as a lawyer to be "someone who develops a deep relationship and understanding of clients' businesses, their strategies, their approach to the marketplace." When it comes to building a relationship with a client, "we like to go out and kick the tires, to get our feet dirty." Sometimes that can become literally true—Reardon's clients include companies in the waste business and in the sand and gravel (or aggregates) business. The boom in recent years in businesses dealing with fracking sand for petroleum extraction has shaped his work.

If you won't find Reardon in a courtroom, you also won't find him in the news. His representation is rarely high profile from a public-attention standpoint. His most memorable engagement, he says, involved a family who owned a lime business for six generations spanning 125 years. The business had 75 stockholders when they decided to sell, and Reardon became deeply involved in soliciting and considering multiple bids for the company, negotiating the terms, and eventually bringing the parties to unanimous agreement on those terms.

And that case that put him in a courtroom? It involved a dispute between a company that provided equipment and chemicals for doing dish washing at restaurants and franchise holders who carried out the service itself. In light of Reardon's affinity and skills, it is no surprise that the business dispute became a successful negotiation. ■

It was 2 a.m., and Tim Reardon was in a federal court in Minneapolis, where a judge had agreed to keep the court open so that a settlement could be approved as soon as agreement was reached.

So what was more unusual—the 2 a.m. court session a few years ago or finding Tim Reardon in court? While the former is obviously unconventional, there have been other 2 a.m. court sessions. But the latter is unique: "It's the only time I've ever been in court," Reardon says.

Reardon goes on to joke, "If I'm ever in court, I've done something wrong." And he has a strong reputation for not doing things wrong. In fact, the term "trusted advisor" would be a good way to describe his role for clients, primarily businesses and families owning businesses, not only in Wisconsin but across the United States and as far away as Hong Kong.

In one sense, Reardon hasn't gone far in life. He grew up in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, and he lives there now. He joined the Milwaukee firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in 1988 when he completed Marquette Law School, and he has stayed there since. But when it comes to building a career in law, Reardon has traveled a path he describes as "a terrific ride." Challenging, rewarding, full of hard work—that's how he describes it.

Reardon got an undergraduate business degree at Marquette. "I really liked business," he says, and he

1979



William J. Katt, a partner in the Milwaukee and Chicago offices of the Wilson Elser law firm, has been named chair of the firm's national

aviation and aerospace practice. A Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, he has focused on the aviation/transportation sector for much of his 35-year career.

1981

Mary Lee Ratzel has recently taken the position of general counsel—chief legal officer for ProHealth Care in Waukesha.

1985

Terese M. Halfmann has joined the Milwaukee office of Hupy & Abraham, where she will be expanding the firm's nursing home abuse practice area. Also a registered nurse, she was previously an associate at Pitman, Kalkhoff, Sicula & Dentice, representing victims of negligent nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

1986

Jo A. Swamp, of the Forest County Potawatomi Community, was honored by the *Milwaukee Business Journal* with an award in the category of Best Assistant General Counsel for 2014.

1987

Philip J. Miller has joined the trusts and estates team in the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek.

1988



Timothy R. Brady has joined the university advancement team of Marquette University as director of regional development—Chicago. He works out of the university's office in Chicago.

1989



Jack A. Enea, of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek's Milwaukee office, has become co-leader of the firm's trusts and estates team. His practice focuses on business and tax law,

estate planning and administration, and real estate transactions and development.

1991

David L. Borowski was elected to the board of directors for the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association. He is serving in the civil division of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, after a four-year rotation in the felony division.

1992

Timothy S. Jacobson, CEO of Visjonaer Consulting & Communications, Boscobel, Wis., has earned an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Achievement for Documentary Programs—Topical." He received the award, as executive producer of the film *Mysteries of the Driftless*, at the November awards ceremony of the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. More information on the documentary can be found at www.untamedscience.com/mysteries-driftless-zone.

1995

Susan C. Minahan is now a member of the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, practicing in the corporate and finance practice group.

1996

Erika S. Baurecht has joined the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, working in the real estate practice group.

1997

Bradley C. Fulton has been named president and managing partner of DeWitt Ross & Stevens. He practices in the firm's office in Madison, Wis.

1998

David Rose is a partner at Wilson Elser in Hartford, Conn., where he led the formation of the firm's Connecticut government relations practice.

1999



Melissa Greipp, associate professor of legal writing at Marquette Law School, is one of the authors of the Legal Writing Institute's *The Moot Court Advisor's*

Handbook: A Guide for Law Students, Faculty, and Practitioners, recently published by Carolina Academic Press. The book is designed to be a resource of advice and best practices for running moot court and other legal skills competitions. ►►

2001

Deric P. DuQuaine, of Milk Source LLC, was honored with the award for Best Corporate Counsel–Private Company for 2014 by the *Milwaukee Business Journal*.

2002



Matthew R. McClean has been named chair of the Litigation Team at Davis & Kuelthau. He has been a member of the firm's Milwaukee office

since 2006. While his practice focuses in the area of construction litigation, McClean also represents clients in litigation over commercial contracts, real property claims, and intellectual property matters.

Patrick D. McNally and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their fifth child and third son, Miles Dennis David, born on July 9, 2014. McNally practices with Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen in Milwaukee.

John T. Reichert has joined the financial services law group of Godfrey & Kahn. He will split his time between the firm's Milwaukee and Waukesha offices.

2003

Kirk L. Deheck was recently elected to the board of directors at Boyle Fredrickson in Milwaukee. His practice focuses on the preparation and prosecution of patent and trademark applications, as well as intellectual property opinions and enforcement.

Kristin R. Muenzen received the John Marshall Award from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) for her work in the litigation of *United States v. 275.81 Acres* in Somerset, Pa. This litigation arose from the government's acquiring the property where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on September 11, 2001, in order that the National Park Service could construct and operate a national memorial. The sole issue at trial was the value of the property: Muenzen and her DOJ trial team successfully secured a verdict of \$1.5 million, significantly less than the landowner's claimed value of \$25 million.

Ryan E. Ruzziconi is general counsel of Flint, Michigan-based Diplomat Pharmacy, one of the nation's largest specialty pharmacies.

2006



Susan K. Allen has been promoted to partner at Stafford Rosenbaum. She practices in the firm's Milwaukee office, where her focus is

products liability defense, general commercial litigation, and vehicle warranty litigation.



Jill M. Carland was named senior counsel in the Phoenix law firm of Bowman & Brooke, where she defends several high-profile automotive manufacturers in

product liability claims, including rollover/roof-crush and crashworthiness.

2007

Lee A. Greenwood has taken the position of legislative attorney with the Best Friends Animal Society, where he advocates on animal welfare issues throughout the country. Best Friends has helped pioneer the "no-kill" movement by implementing programs that encourage adoption and reduce the number of animals entering shelters.

Todd and Sara (Scoles) Krumholz welcomed Joseph (Joey) Brandon Krumholz to their family in Dallas on November 1.



Sarah A. Ponath has relocated her general practice law office from Brookfield to Butler, Wis. Her practice concentrates on small businesses, real

estate, estate planning, and traffic defense.

2008



Aaron J. Graf has joined the Milwaukee office of Mallery & Zimmerman as an associate practicing in the areas of commercial and employment litigation.



Ron Cadwalader has been named a partner at the law firm of Cassidy & Mueller in Peoria, Ill. Ron and his wife, Morgan, L'07, live with their two children in East Peoria, where Morgan is the city clerk. ▶▶

A Better Track: McNeely Turns Road to the Factory into a Ph.D. and Law Degree

I“I thought I would work in the shop.” That was R. L. McNeely’s expectation when he was in high school. For a teen growing up in Flint, Mich., in the early 1960s, especially one who played defensive end on his high school football team, this was a common expectation: going to work in the area’s car factories—“the shop.”

That was only part of the reason for McNeely’s expectation. Few of his high school’s first-string African-American football players were receiving any interest from college recruiters. He was not among the few. McNeely says he wondered at the time why even second-string players who were white were being offered college scholarships. He later found out that the coach wasn’t passing on most of the letters from colleges to black players.

Even that is only part of the reason. Black students, whatever their ability and potential, were offered effectively no counseling and no help aimed at getting them into college, McNeely says. That wasn’t the path they were being put on. They were headed to the shop.

It was, in part, an accident, as McNeely puts it, that he went down a much different road. You had to be 18 to get an auto plant job, and McNeely was only 17 when he graduated from high school. So he decided to try college and got in to Eastern Michigan University.

He liked it and stuck with it. As he progressed, a friend told him what a master’s degree was, and McNeely decided to get one—a master’s in social work, focused on community organization, from the University of Michigan, to be specific. A professor there urged him to go further, and McNeely went on to get a Ph.D. from Brandeis University.

In 1975, he joined the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee as a faculty member in social welfare. McNeely’s research focused on job satisfaction in human services jobs and on work/family issues. As a professor, he testified before Congress. Additionally, a 90-minute NBC documentary was inspired by his research, and he appeared on the CBS national morning news. He also was involved in a wide range of Milwaukee community issues.

Around 1990, he decided that he didn’t want to move into university administration but wanted to branch out. So McNeely enrolled at Marquette Law School, graduating in 1994. He developed a practice concentrating on guardian ad litem work, representing the interests of children involved in legal proceedings. “I used to see myself in a lot of those little kids I was representing,” he says. He balanced his practice and continuing academic work for most of the next couple of decades. Now he is not-quite-entirely retired. As he puts it, “My focus now is on community service.”

One of McNeely’s long-term commitments to the community is in the form of an estate plan to endow a scholarship fund of \$500,000 at Marquette Law School. His purpose is straightforward and important: He wants to do what he can to ensure that the school is able to help African-American males develop themselves into Marquette lawyers.

McNeely says, “Institutional frameworks have combined to produce really adverse outcomes for many people of color,” especially African-American males who have, in his term, “strong egos.”

Yes, he says, there is better counseling for high school students now than in his day. Scholarship offers aren’t being hidden from black athletes. But a lot more needs to be done to help students for whom many people still have the kind of low expectations that nearly limited McNeely a half century ago. McNeely beat those expectations, and he wants to make sure that, in times to come, others have the opportunity to do the same. ■



PROFILE: Daniel Chudnow, L'84



Chudnow Collections Bring “Yesteryear” Alive

Daniel Chudnow is the son of a man who loved collecting things. The result: One of Milwaukee’s undervalued and relatively unknown jewels, the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear.

Daniel’s father, Avrum (Abe) Chudnow, L’37, was a successful lawyer and real estate developer. In 1966, he bought a building at 839 N. 11th Street, on the northern and eastern edges of the Marquette campus, to use as an office. Originally a single-family home built in 1869, the building had been the residence and clinic of a doctor for many years.

Abe Chudnow especially loved items from the era of his childhood. He began collecting them and kept them in the basement of his family’s north shore home until his wife had had enough. So he moved them to the 11th Street building and began shaping them into a private museum.

Daniel, L’84, worked with his father in business and law and shared the 11th Street building. Abe died in 2005, and several years later Daniel, along with his siblings, Lois Infeld, Robert Chudnow, and David Chudnow, decided to turn the building into a public

museum. Daniel, the only one of the siblings who lives in Milwaukee, is president of the board. “It was my father’s dream,” he says. “He wanted to share his collection with the public.” The museum opened in 2012.

It’s a remarkable place, the product of both personal passion and the expertise of museum professionals. Each room is a walk-in exhibit bringing to life a place people visited in the 1920s and ’30s—a grocery store, a pharmacy, a hardware store, a barber shop, even a speakeasy. All of the items are authentic; Daniel estimates that 90 percent of the exhibited pieces are from his father’s collection. A few are from Daniel’s own work of accumulating or supplementing; these include the easy chair that was once the personal favorite of legendary Wisconsin political figure Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette.

Daniel’s own law and business office? He moved it to another historic building, just a few steps away.

The museum’s ice cream parlor carries the name “Wonderland Park.” That’s a name you could apply to the entire museum. For more information, visit www.chudnowmuseum.org. ■

2009

Kelley G. Shirk has joined the firm of Hall & Evans, Denver, Colo.



Peter M. Young has become a shareholder in Habush Habush & Rottier. He continues to practice in the firm's Wausau, Rhinelander, and Stevens Point offices.

2010

Kristin M. Kaminski has joined the Burton Law Firm, in Sacramento, Calif., as an associate in the firm's estate planning practice.



Renuka R. Vishnubhakta has joined Murrar Law Office in Milwaukee, a firm serving the immigration needs of individuals, families, and businesses.

2011



Kevin J. T. Terry has been appointed to the board of directors for the Wisconsin School Attorneys Association for a four-year term. He is an attorney with Ruder Ware in Wausau, Wis., focusing on labor and employment law, municipal law, and school law.

2012

Katharine M. Marlin has been named title operations counsel for Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund in Waukesha, Wis.

Michael Van Someren has joined the Milwaukee office of Davis & Kuelthau as a member of the corporate and real estate practice.

2013

Ryan M. Spanheimer has taken a position at the firm of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis.

Max T. Stephenson has joined Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown in Milwaukee.

2014

Bryant Park has joined Becker, Hickey & Poster, in Milwaukee. The firm's practice includes divorce and family matters, estate planning, probate, and guardianship.



Christopher K. Flowers (left) and **Charles (Andy) A. Gordon** are among the new associates in Godfrey & Kahn's litigation practice group in the Milwaukee office.



John T. (Jack) Murphy and **Katherine M. O'Malley** are new associates in the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASS NOTES may be emailed to christine.wv@marquette.edu.

We are especially interested in accomplishments that do not recur annually. Personal matters such as wedding and birth or adoption announcements are welcome. We update postings of class notes weekly at law.marquette.edu.

