

Reaching for Olympic-Size Dreams

Aurusa Kabani was graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, wanted to go to law school, and loved sports. So she decided to visit Marquette Law School because of its sports law program.

During the visit, Professor Paul Anderson, director of the National Sports Law Institute at Marquette Law School, asked Kabani what her dream job would be. She gave a specific answer: Working as an arbitrator at the Olympics. She is a Muslim woman, and currently no Muslim women and only a few Muslim men do that work, she said.

Kabani ultimately chose to attend Marquette and was impressed at an orientation event several months after that first conversation when Anderson remembered the details. "Let's make your dream come true," he said.

Kabani is completing law school this spring. Is she making progress toward her goal? It sure looks like it.

The biggest highlight so far: A lawyer who works in sports law in China got in touch with Marquette Professor Matt Mitten, executive director of the National Sports Law Institute, to ask if he could recommend a student to work as an intern in Beijing in the summer of 2018. It was short notice, but Kabani, who loves to travel, was in Beijing within a few days and spent 5½ weeks working in the JunZeJun Law Offices.

Was it interesting? "Absolutely," Kabani said. For much of her time in Beijing, she assisted

Chinese soccer players who needed their contracts renegotiated with their league. (She worked in English, with an associate who was fluent in English and Chinese.) But Kabani's efforts went beyond the individual clients: She also took part in training 300 sports agents on ethics codes for international sports events. And she attended a conference between Chinese and American sports leaders who were making arrangements for future events.

"It was just a phenomenal experience," Kabani said. She has continued to provide some long-distance help to the Beijing firm since her return to Milwaukee.

Kabani said she benefited as well from two other internships, both through Marquette University Law School: one in the athletics compliance office at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, located south of Milwaukee in Kenosha, and the other with the enforcement division of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in Indianapolis. She has spent a lot of time in Eckstein Hall as well, serving as managing editor of the *Marquette Sports Law Review*.

In all of this, she continues working on plans toward her goal. One specific aim: To work for FIFA, the world soccer organization, during the World Cup in 2022 in Qatar.

Was selecting Marquette a good decision? "Hands down," Kabani said. "I've always felt everyone here was helping me reach my dreams."



"I'VE ALWAYS FELT EVERYONE HERE WAS HELPING ME REACH MY DREAMS."

Aurusa Kabani

FIND THE VIDEO
ON YOUTUBE:
SEARCH *KATIE
GOULD AIRPORT*

Missed a Plane? It's Time to Dance

As **Kaitlyn (Katie) Gould** sees it, she had a choice between getting upset and using some unexpected free time in a fun way. Thanks to slow traffic and long lines at security, she missed a flight from Atlanta to Milwaukee this past January, returning from her winter break at home in Georgia to start her second semester at Marquette Law School. The next flight wasn't for 4½ hours.

Time to dance. It was an impulse, Gould says. She was listening to music, and the 1980 song by Daryl Hall and John Oates, "You Make My Dreams (Come True)," came on. The second part of the impulse: to record her airport dancing on her phone, turn it into a video with the music, and post it on Twitter . . . which she did, just before boarding.

"When I got off the plane, the video had something like a thousand 'hits,'" Gould said. She drove home and went to bed. By the next morning, "it had 5 million views, and that was pretty insane."

But the video, with a variety of scenes in Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport as background and, in some scenes, Gould's cat, Bowie, as a co-star, is just fun to watch. Within a few weeks, the video had passed 9 million views. Hall and Oates themselves posted that they liked it, as did two of Gould's favorite movie stars, Judd Apatow and Seth Rogen.

Gould is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. She loves sports, wanted to go to law school, and chose Marquette for its sports law program—and because she had visited Milwaukee and loved it right away.

She is by nature someone who chooses to look at things positively. How about law school? She loves what she is learning in her classes. And the stressful parts of school life? "If anything, I'm letting it improve who I am."

Which may well put her on the path to making her dreams come true, like the song says.



Katie Gould

Sports Law and Dispute Resolution— An Overlap

Here is something that the cases of Matt Harrington and Alex Hyatt have in common: They both help illustrate what it means to practice sports law in a world where representing clients well and settling disputes are often crucial to the outcome of games or competitions. And the stories of these two lesser-known athletes provide lessons for students at Marquette Law School about strategies for navigating issues that are big parts of the sports law field.

At a lunch this past semester for sports law students, Paul Anderson, director of the National Sports Law Institute at Marquette Law School, told students that, while some people think of sports law and alternative dispute resolution—the latter being another prominent program at the Law School—as two different interests, they actually fit together. That is true to the point that students wanting to receive a sports law certificate upon graduation are required to take an alternative dispute resolution course.

Anderson brought together Professor Andrea Schneider, who directs the Law School's nationally recognized dispute resolution program, and Professor Matthew Mitten, executive director of the National Sports Law Institute and an experienced arbitrator, to offer students insights into both of their specialties.

Schneider said that success for lawyers involved in negotiations on behalf of players or teams requires many of the skills basic to representing people in general: setting reasonable goals, communicating well with clients as well as those on the other side of the matter, and carefully choosing strategies that avoid big mistakes.

She described the case of Harrington, who, in the early 2000s, was a highly regarded baseball prospect. At one point, in fact, he was the seventh pick in the annual Major League Baseball draft. But his agent insisted that the player was worth more than the team that picked him was offering, and Harrington refused to sign. He was drafted again in four other

years, even when his performance in independent leagues was not stellar. But each time, his agent sought more compensation than teams were willing to offer. Harrington never did sign a contract and, according to a 2009 story from ESPN, worked at a tire shop.

Schneider said that the agents who represented Harrington chose strategies that were “appalling.” Bringing other cases into the conversation, she offered some general advice in negotiations: “Don’t trash talk or brag unless you’re sure of what you’re saying. . . . If you’re going to blow up the negotiations, make sure there’s an alternative in the wings.” And behave well: “Your really bad or unethical negotiation behavior will get around in a second” in your legal community.

Mitten described a 2014 case in which a competitor in a major women’s judo event was given a half hour past the stated deadline to meet the maximum-weight standard to qualify to compete. She made it and went on to win, qualifying for national competition. Alex Hyatt, the woman who had taken second place, filed a grievance over the extra time, and Mitten was brought in as the arbitrator. He ruled in favor of Hyatt, who then went to the national competition.

Mitten told the students that almost any dispute between a player and team or league can go to arbitration. He said that almost all arbitrators are experienced in labor law, and he suggested to those students interested in getting into sports arbitration that gaining general arbitration experience is important.

Anderson told the students that there is a lot of overlap between sports law and alternative dispute resolution. “We’re trying to encourage people to do both,” he said. “You can benefit from doing both.”



Professor Andrea Schneider



Professor Matthew Mitten

Public Service Program Gains Recognition as “Difference Maker”

On January 23, 2019, **Michael R. Lovell**, president of Marquette University, presented a Difference Maker Award to **Angela Schultz**, assistant dean for public service at Marquette University Law School, for her work in the Milwaukee Justice Center, a collaboration among the Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts, Milwaukee Bar Association, and Marquette Law School. The Milwaukee Justice Center addresses unmet legal needs of low-income individuals through court-based programs and legal resources.



Pictured (from left): Mary Ferwerda, executive director of the Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC); John Barrett, Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts; Michael R. Lovell; Angela Schultz; Josh Gimbel, attorney and MJC volunteer; Ernesto Romero, attorney and MJC volunteer; Katie Mertz, Law School director of pro bono and public service; Robert Maniak, 1L and MJC volunteer; Mark Vannucci, MJC clinic supervisor; Kyla Motz, MJC legal director; Maggie Frawley, 2L and MJC volunteer; Matthew Sowden, 3L and MJC volunteer; Nancy Cattani, MJC legal assistant; Jack Ceschin, AmeriCorps Public Ally at the Mobile Legal Clinic; and DMari Gizsel Belmontes, MJC information specialist.

Overheard in Eckstein Hall

Here are a few thoughts, in 25 words or less, from the wide range of in-depth lectures, conferences, and “On the Issues with Mike Gousha” programs in recent months in the Lubar Center at Marquette Law School.

“I use real estate as a tool for social change.”

–Julie Kaufmann, president, Fix Development, describing her involvement in development projects in low-income neighborhoods, October 17, 2018

“I want people to understand that they’re not alone, and I want people to listen to us.”

–Amarii Collins, a student at Milwaukee Rufus King International Baccalaureate School, speaking to a conference on youth mental health, March 22, 2019

“To give people the information they need to govern themselves in a democracy.”

–Angie Drobic Holan, the editor of *PolitiFact*, describing the goal of the national journalistic effort to assess the truth of public statements, October 23, 2018

“For me, there’s no more powerful medium than cinema. . . . It’s this weird communion with your brain in the dark.”

–Jonathan Jackson, CEO and artistic director for Milwaukee Film, October 9, 2018

“When everything is an emergency, nothing is an emergency.”

–Anna Clark, author of *The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy*, on how that Michigan city’s array of problems let complaints about water quality go unheeded, January 23, 2019

“Clearly, we don’t have unanimity on any issue.”

–Governor Tony Evers, intentionally understating the deep partisan divisions in Wisconsin politics, February 19, 2019

“What have you been lulled into?”

–Broadcast journalist Soledad O’Brien, describing her response when people say some news reports make them uncomfortable, February 26, 2019

“Give me five years.”

–Keith Posley, superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, when asked how long it will take to realize his goal of MPS’s reading and math scores exceeding Wisconsin averages, September 26, 2018

“We lock up too many people for too long.”

–Former Governor Tommy Thompson, describing his regret about a surge of prison building while he was governor in the 1990s, September 5, 2018

OVERHEARD IN ECKSTEIN HALL