

Honoring Alumni Known for Helping Others

Creating opportunities for themselves and others. Pursuing worthy goals and satisfying careers. Helping students and people in need. Building on the examples of their parents. Those characterizations help describe the four Marquette lawyers who are receiving alumni recognition honors from Marquette Law School this year in virtual ceremonies. They are:

James T. Murray, Jr., L'74 *Lifetime Achievement Award*



Jim Murray has always loved working as a litigator. The native of Racine, Wis., is a shareholder at von Briesen & Roper in Milwaukee and has tried more than 150 cases to verdict. His father was a Marquette lawyer, and his mother had an undergraduate degree from Marquette. Murray has mentored law students who

interned at his firm and hired many upon graduation, and he has been extensively active in Law School alumni efforts, including a term as president of the Law Alumni Association Board.

Deborah McKeithan-Gebhardt, L'87 *Alumna of the Year Award*



A lot about Deb McKeithan-Gebhardt's professional work can be learned from her description of the qualities that she says she aims to model for her six daughters: "Excellence, faith, leadership, service, along with one other important skill: courage." McKeithan-Gebhardt is president and CEO of Tamarack Petroleum Co.,

based in Milwaukee. She describes her father, the late Daniel "Jack" McKeithan, Jr., a well-known figure in business and public service, as the most influential person in her life.

Sarah Padove, L'12 *Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumna of the Year Award*



In high school, Sarah Padove knew that she wanted a career in baseball. And she has achieved that. She played softball as an undergraduate at Indiana University and chose Marquette Law School because of its sports law program. She is now senior coordinator of baseball and softball development for Major League Baseball,

based in New York City. Her work focuses on nationwide initiatives to get kids involved in playing ball—and involved in helping their communities.

Raphael F. Ramos, L'08 *Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award*



As director of Legal Action of Wisconsin's Eviction Defense Project, Raphael F. Ramos does all he can to see that people in "moments of utter desperation and turmoil" have good representation in legal proceedings. He also is involved with the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics. The ethic of

serving others was ingrained in him by his parents, who moved from the Philippines to the United States when Ramos was two years old. "The values I have are truly because of them," Ramos said.

Congratulations to each of these exemplars of Marquette University's mission.

Edwards and Williams Honored with Portraits in Eckstein Hall

The contributions by Professors Carolyn M. Edwards and Phoebe Weaver Williams to Marquette Law School would deserve great honor without using the word *pioneers*. Each of them, now an emerita faculty member, has had a long career at the Law School, educating, mentoring, and inspiring students. But they also *have* been pioneers. Edwards, who joined the Law School in 1974, became the first woman to receive faculty tenure at the Law School. Williams, L'81, who joined the faculty in 1985, was the first full-time Black professor at the Law School.

Edwards and Williams were honored this year with the hanging of their portraits in Eckstein Hall. A ceremony to unveil the artwork formally was held in April. At the ceremony, Dean Joseph D. Kearney quoted another emeritus faculty member, Michael

K. McChrystal, L'75, who suggested and underwrote the honor, noting some of the challenges that these two faculty members had faced and saying of them: “Their knowledge, perseverance, and incomparable dignity won over some, then many, then pretty much everyone. I saw this firsthand as a colleague, and secondhand through my own children, as Marquette law students and now as lawyers themselves, who single out these outstanding teachers from their law school days. . . . *They are Marquette* for thousands of alums and members of the community.” ■



Professor Carolyn M. Edwards



Professor Phoebe Weaver Williams

Leaders on Both Sides of Police Accountability Issues Agree on Need to Work Together

Milwaukee's interim police chief, Jeffrey Norman, L'02, summed up a conference on March 10, 2021, focused on the important and controversial issue of police accountability, in a few words: “We have a lot of work to do.”

The good news is that leaders from different positions related to the subject expressed agreement on setting out to do that work. The subject has been a high priority since the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis in May 2020, which was followed by many protest events around the nation, including in Milwaukee and its next-door neighbor, Wauwatosa.

The program, “Policing and Accountability—A Community Conversation,” was hosted jointly by Marquette Law School's Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education and by the Marquette Forum, a university-wide program to focus attention across an academic year on a major matter.

“Ideologically, we want to live in a city where we all feel safe, where we feel heard, where we feel protected,” said Amanda Avalos, a new member of Milwaukee's Fire and Police Commission. “And people's ideas of how we get there are different.”

Norman said that police have to be accountable, in order to have legitimacy in the community. “Our acts and deeds have to line up,” he said. “We can't just use it as a word of the day.”

Milwaukee County Sheriff Earnell Lucas said that the results of law enforcement practices show disparity by race, gender,

and socioeconomic status. But he said that he was committed to changing that for the better. “It begins with each one of us, the chief [Norman] and myself, being active listeners to what it is that the people of this community are desiring,” Lucas said.

Nate Hamilton, chair of the Community Collaborative Commission, said, “I'm completely committed” to sitting at the table and working with law enforcement leaders to create community-oriented policing policies. Hamilton's brother, Dontre Hamilton, was shot and killed by a Milwaukee police officer in 2014.

In a second session, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, and attorney Kimberley Motley, L'03, who has represented several families of men killed by police, discussed how such shootings were officially investigated in Wisconsin.

The conference was led by Mike Gousha, distinguished fellow in law and public policy, and Steve Biskupic, L'87, a former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and an adjunct professor at the Law School, now in private practice. William Welburn, Marquette University's vice president for inclusive excellence, helped introduce the event. ■

The two-hour conference may be viewed at law.marquette.edu/current-students/policing-and-accountability-community-conversation.

OVERHEARD FROM ECKSTEIN HALL

PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS FROM THE (VIRTUAL) LUBAR CENTER

Marquette Law School's Lubar Center is many things, but it is two in particular: a grand room in Eckstein Hall and a shorthand for the Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education. The room itself has not been available to host any community programs during this COVID-19 year, but the center's service as a crossroads for convening and for discussing important issues with significant people has not faltered. In the virtual Lubar Center, available at law.marquette.edu, the beat goes on. Here are glimpses from some recent "On the Issues with Mike Gousha" programs and other sessions.

Justice in the Time of COVID

January 22, 2021

During a discussion with legal system leaders on the pandemic's impact, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Triggiano said that there was "a grand opportunity" coming out of the COVID period to look at how things are done. "We're committed to coming back in a different way that makes it better," she said. "We need to get up, but we also have to be careful in how we do it and do it right."

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said that if the impact of the pandemic leads to greater efforts to deal with housing insecurity and improve public health services in Milwaukee, "we would actually see the need for criminal justice intervention recede greatly."

Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge Derek Mosley, L'95, was asked if the court system will be better for what everyone has learned in this period. "No doubt about it," he said.

Amy Lindner, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

December 3, 2020

Between finishing college and starting law school, Amy Lindner spent a year working at an auto repair shop in Waukesha. One lesson she learned was that every job deserves dignity and respect. A second lesson: In dealing with customers, she saw that "the way we treat each other just makes such an impact." And a third: When she told customers

what was done for their cars, why it was needed, and why it cost what they were being charged, she found that "just being clear and kind to people is something we all can do in all of our jobs."

What Is Being Learned in K-12 Education in This Difficult Year?

March 2, 2021

Robin Lake, director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education at the University of Washington (Bothell), said that between higher-income and lower-income students nationwide, "achievement gaps or opportunity gaps are becoming chasms." She added, "What's killed me since the beginning of the pandemic is the lack of urgency and the lack of creative solutions that we're hearing about."

Abim Kolawole, vice president for customer service integration at Northwestern Mutual

February 17, 2021

Abim Kolawole talked about feeling comfortable as a Black person in the community. "The moment I step out of the four walls of my home or my company—and these are true experiences—you realize you are just as susceptible, just as vulnerable" as any other Black man, despite corporate titles and a good income. He recounted how he once was standing outside a downtown restaurant, waiting for a valet to bring his car, when a white customer walked up and handed him the keys to that customer's car, assuming Kolawole was a valet.

Forward 48 | January 13, 2021

Mike Hostad and Ian Abston created Forward 48, a leadership development program for young professionals, and also teamed together to lead the successful effort to light up the Daniel Hoan Memorial Bridge, spanning the Milwaukee harbor. Hostad said, "There's so much passion and good in the next generation of leaders coming into Milwaukee." Abston said the hope is that efforts such as theirs will make Milwaukee "more sticky" for young professionals who might consider moving elsewhere.

Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation | March 18, 2021

"Young people want to come to an inclusive environment. They want to come to a diverse environment. . . . Every moment we are not inclusive, we are turning somebody away."

Reggie Moore, then-director of the Milwaukee Health Department's Office of Violence Prevention

February 26, 2021

Asked if people had become numb to violence in the city and to seeking action to reduce it, Reggie Moore said, "That is not something that we can allow or even tolerate. We need to expect from our leaders and each other that we are doing everything possible to prioritize the preservation of life in our city. . . . It's a collective accountability." ■

The Making of Chicago's World-Class Lakefront

More than 20 years of work by Kearney and Merrill produce a colorful, in-depth history.

Out of social conflict comes a great community asset. Out of legal tangles spanning decades come important precedents. And out of more than 20 years of research and writing comes a book that breaks ground in describing an important chapter in both American urban development and legal history.

The subject is the Chicago lakefront, the book is *Lakefront: Public Trust and Private Rights in Chicago*, and the authors are Dean Joseph D. Kearney of Marquette Law School and Thomas W. Merrill, Charles Evans Hughes Professor at Columbia Law School. The strong ties the book has to Marquette Law School extend beyond the many years of work by Kearney, much of it in summers, to include the work of numerous law students who assisted in the research.

"This book seeks to explain how Chicago came to have such a beautiful, well-tended, and publicly accessible lakefront—the city's most treasured asset," Kearney and Merrill say in the introduction.

It is not a simple story. "The history of the lakefront has been one of almost continual social conflict," they write. The cast of characters includes railroad magnates, business leaders, politicians, scalawags, haves, have-nots, Supreme Court justices, and many others, almost none of whom set out to create a great lakefront. But, in the end, they did.

The book documents how, through many disputes and lawsuits, the law was important in reaching such an outcome. The decades of contention over lakefront property included landmark decisions establishing the American public trust doctrine, which holds that some public resources are off-limits to private development.

Kearney and Merrill were both living in Chicago in the 1990s when the idea of writing this book was launched. Both moved to academic positions in other cities, as they note in the acknowledgments. "We found ourselves nevertheless—or, perhaps, all the more—unable to resist the challenge of untangling the history of the Chicago lakefront, which is at once a large puzzle and a kind of miracle," they relate.

"Because the majority of the social conflicts over the lakefront have been waged by rival elites, the forums in which these disputes have unfolded have been legal ones," Kearney and Merrill write. "[T]he

lakefront has been the subject of virtually nonstop litigation from the 1850s to the present." The two, with the help of research assistants and librarians and others at several repositories of primary documents and legal records, piece together a history that has not been told previously in such detail or comprehensive fashion.

The many legal cases involving the lakefront broke ground in determining who owned the land under the water along the shore, as well as the balance between private and public rights to lakefront land. The legal history includes "the slow but inexorable development of new institutions to regulate the lakefront." One irony of the history: In some instances, private rights did more than public remedies to create the lakefront that exists today.

"[O]ur book can be seen as an examination of the importance of law and, in particular, legal property rights in the long-term development of an important resource like the lakefront," Kearney and Merrill write. "If the outcome in Chicago was largely fortuitous, part of our motivation in writing this book has been to suggest how a more deliberate mix of policies might produce similar results elsewhere."

The newly released book was published by Cornell University Press. It has drawn praise from experts in Chicago history and from law and history professors at universities including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Notre Dame, and Northwestern. ■

