

CLASS NOTES



David C. Sarnacki



William T. Purdue



Leslie Van Buskirk



Stephen D. Zubiago



Patrick E. Kelly



Chris E. Woleske

62 Robert E. Meldman published a new book, *Saving Taxpayers from the Clutches of the IRS*.

71 David L. Jorling is a member of the board of the foundation that operates the Oregon Rail Heritage Center in Portland.

83 Jerome A. Konkel and his firm, Samster Konkel & Safran, joined the Groth Law Firm in Milwaukee.

84 Thomas E. Reddin joined the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright US as a partner in Dallas, Texas. He specializes in representing employers in employment litigation and labor matters.

85 David C. Sarnacki published a book, *A Visual Refresher Course on Courtroom Persuasion*.

86 William T. Purdue recently returned to Morrison Mahoney, a Boston-based law firm, as a partner.

89 Micabil Diaz-Martinez was named an assistant district attorney in the district attorney's office in Trempealeau County, Wis.

Leslie Van Buskirk was elected to the board of the North American Securities Administrators Association. She is the administrator of the Division of Securities for the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.

90 James M. Carlin, a Republican state senator in Iowa, announced his candidacy for the state's 2022 U.S. Senate race.

91 Luke A. Palese joined the North American legal team at Molson Coors Beverage Co. as senior counsel, procurement.

Stephen D. Zubiago was named CEO and managing partner of Nixon Peabody, based in Boston. Zubiago joined the global firm in 1999 and has led its corporate, global finance, and health care practice groups for the past 10 years.

93 Patrick E. Kelly was elected by the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors as the new Supreme Knight. He served as Deputy Supreme Knight for four years.

Todd M. Podell, of Fort Worth, Texas, was promoted to senior vice president and chief procurement officer at Discover Financial Services.

94 Chris E. Woleske was named a Marquette University trustee. She is president and chief executive officer of Bellin Health Systems, based in Green Bay, Wis.

R. L. McNeely (1946–2020) Took an Unlikely Path to a Life of Scholarship and Community Leadership

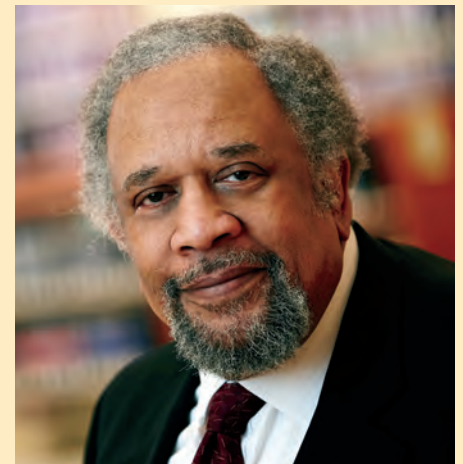
The expectation for an athletic Black teenage male in Flint, Mich., in the 1960s was to go to work in the area's auto factories. The late R. L. McNeely, L'94, took a different path and became known for his academic work and community service in Milwaukee.

McNeely did play one season of football at Eastern Michigan University, but his real interests were education itself and helping others. His bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan led to a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University. In 1975, he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), teaching social work.

In 1990, he decided to tackle another educational challenge and enrolled as a part-time student at Marquette Law School. After completing law school, McNeely added legal work, concentrating on guardian ad litem cases, to his many involvements. His community work after his retirement from UWM included leading roles in the Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP and advocacy for the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center, a pre-release facility on Milwaukee's north side.

One of the commitments that meant a great deal to McNeely: He set up an estate plan to endow a \$500,000 scholarship fund at Marquette Law School. He particularly hoped to set an example encouraging young Black men to pursue careers in the law.

McNeely died at age 74 in December 2020. Survivors include his long-time partner, Georgette Williams. ■



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Paul W. Connell



Tricia L. Walker



Eric G. Pearson



Katherine A. Charipar



Adam R. Finkel



LaKeisha D. Haase

95 Sherry M. Terrell-Webb was named general counsel for the Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, Wis.

98 Paul W. Connell joined Cozen O'Connor as a member of its state attorneys general group, working out of the firm's offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C. Connell served as deputy attorney general and senior counsel to Wisconsin Attorney General Brad D. Schimel from 2015 to 2019.

Kimberly R. Walker was named special deputy city attorney for the City of Milwaukee.

02 Elaine M. De Franco Olson was named the first-ever chief privacy officer of Cargill in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Jeffrey B. Norman was named acting City of Milwaukee police chief. Norman was an assistant chief before the retirement of the previous acting chief, Michael Brunson.

03 Sherry D. Coley has been selected as the office managing partner for Davis|Kuelthau's offices in Appleton and Green Bay, Wis. She is a commercial and intellectual property litigation attorney.

05 Shannon M. Bragg was named senior director, assistant general counsel strategic sourcing, at DaVita, Inc., in Denver, Colo.

Greg R. Rabidoux and his wife, Mara Lencina, along with Enrique Vila Torres, authored a book, *The Stolen Babies of Spain*, which also has become an award-winning documentary.

06 Lori N. Goodwin won election to a judicial seat in Jefferson County, Kentucky. She serves in family court.

Michael J. Redding started a new position as senior corporate counsel at AMN Healthcare, in San Diego, Calif.

Tricia L. Walker was appointed by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers to serve as a judge of the Fond du Lac County Circuit Court.

07 Eric G. Pearson was promoted to partner at Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee. His practice concentrates in commercial and securities litigation, focusing on accounting, professional-responsibility, and tax-related matters. Pearson is also a certified public accountant.

Megan A. Ryther was promoted to partner at Ice Miller, in Indianapolis, Ind., where she practices in the firm's business group and collegiate sports and NCAA compliance group.

08 Katherine A. Charipar was elected a shareholder of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis. She is a member of the trusts and estates group.

10 Jessica A. Ballenger has been appointed as an administrative law judge with the State of Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals.

Rachel M. Blise was named a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Blise was previously senior counsel at Foley & Lardner.

Adam R. Finkel has joined Husch Blackwell as a senior associate in the Milwaukee office.

Stephen J. Howitz opened Nostalgia Music and More in downtown Waukesha, Wis., buying and selling video games, records, and more. He also continues his legal practice.

11 Laura A. Bautista and **Alejandro Bautista** coauthored an article, "Lawyer Couple Juggles Relationship, Family and Advancing Careers," published in *The Legal Intelligencer* on Law.com.

LaKeisha D. Haase was appointed by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers to be a judge of the Winnebago County Circuit Court. She is the first Black person to serve as a judge in the county.

Sumeeta A. Krishnaney joined von Briesen & Roper as a member of the trusts and estates section in the firm's Milwaukee office.

Oladotun O. Obadina was promoted to partner in the Minneapolis office of the global law firm Jones Day.

Megan (Hummel) Thongkham was named a partner at Lipson Neilson, a law firm with offices in Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, and Michigan. She works in the Las Vegas office.

12 Noelle A. Granitz was elected a partner of Quarles & Brady. She is a member of the firm's real estate and land use practice group in Milwaukee.

Alyssa A. Johnson was elected partner with Hinshaw & Culbertson. She works in the firm's Milwaukee office.

Cassandra L. Jones was elected as partner at Walker Wilcox Matousek, in Chicago. The firm focuses on insurance coverage and defense.

Garrett A. Soberalski was promoted to shareholder at Meissner Tierney Fisher & Nichols, in Milwaukee.



Oladotun O. Obadina



Ryan M. Spanheimer



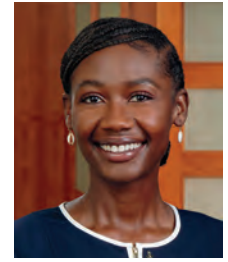
Max T. Stephenson



Sergio M. Quiñones



Elizabeth Elving



Chinonso I. Osuji

13 Wyatt D. Dittburner joined Doering Fleet Management, based in Brookfield, Wis.

Ryan M. Spanheimer was elected a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in the firm's Minneapolis office. He is a member of its patents group.

Max T. Stephenson has been promoted to partner at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown in Milwaukee.

Ariane C. Strombom was named general counsel and compliance officer at String and Key, in Milwaukee.

15 Ashley D. Sinclair joined Kirkland & Ellis as a corporate associate in the firm's Chicago office.

David J. Tamburrino was named to coach the U.S. national speed skating team at the 2021 World Single Distance Speed Skating Championships in Heerenveen, Netherlands.

Cameron G. Weitzner joined the criminal defense team at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown in Milwaukee.

16 Tyler M. Helsel joined Schober Schober & Mitchell, in the Milwaukee area.

Carl W. Knepel was named assistant state public defender in the trial division in Manitowoc County, Wis.

Kate A. Trudell joined Johnson Financial Group as vice president, wealth fiduciary advisor, in Racine, Wis.

17 Hannah E. Dockendorff has become an attorney in the Milwaukee office of Hupy & Abraham.

18 Alex T. Kay joined Kay & Kay Law Firm, Brookfield, Wis., as a third-generation attorney in the Kay family.

David A. Richie joined von Briesen & Roper as an Eau Claire-based lawyer working out of the firm's Madison office. He is a member of the government law group.

19 Alexandra J. Gregorski joined Quarles & Brady in its Milwaukee office. She is a business law attorney.

Sergio M. Quiñones has joined the legal staff of Fiserv Inc. in Brookfield, Wis.

William Ruffing was named a COVID-19 eviction defense attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, in Chicago.

20 Elizabeth Elving joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the Milwaukee office as an associate in the firm's litigation practice.

Shelby E. Hahn joined Instagram in Washington, D.C., as a politics, government, and civic engagement associate manager.

Kelly L. Krause joined von Briesen & Roper, Milwaukee, as an associate in the firm's business practice group.

Marnae N. Mawdsley has become associate director, Office of Committees on Infractions, at the National Collegiate Athletic Association, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Chinonso I. Osuji joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Milwaukee as an associate practicing real estate law.

Employment data for recent classes are available at law.marquette.edu/career-planning/welcome.



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