

Mitten Named President-elect of Sports Lawyers Association

From behind the scenes at the Olympics to the front page of national publications seeking sports law expertise, you're likely to find Professor Matthew Mitten wherever the field of law intersects the field of play.

Now comes another honor: Mitten has been named president-elect of the Sports Lawyers Association and will serve a two-year term as president beginning in May 2015.

With more than 1,700 members, the Sports Lawyers Association (SLA) is the leading organization of professionals dedicated to the practice and teaching of sports law in the United States.

"Serving as SLA president will enable me to follow in the footsteps of so many great leaders of the world's preeminent association of sports lawyers,

industry professionals, and lawyers," Mitten said. "The appointment recognizes the contributions that Marquette Law School and its National Sports Law Institute have made to the high-profile and quickly evolving field of sports law."

Mitten has been a member of the Law School faculty and director of the National Sports Law Institute since 1999. A nationally recognized sports law scholar and Olympic sports arbitrator, Mitten served on the Court of Arbitration for Sport to resolve athlete-related disputes at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Founded in 1989, the National Sports Law Institute is the first institute of its kind associated with an American law school and remains the leader in its field. ■



U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez

Labor Secretary Perez Asks Graduates to Help Others

In his address at the Law School's hooding ceremony on May 17, 2014, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez spoke of an "orchestra of opportunity" in which each graduate can find a unique role in helping others.

"You have a remarkable degree today, and you've had a remarkable education here," Perez told graduates. "I implore you to join the orchestra of opportunity because there are opportunity gaps across this country." ■



At the ceremony at The Milwaukee Theatre, 189 Law School graduates received their hoods.



Marquette Law School's Washington D.C. Initiative supported summer internships in the nation's capital for students (left to right) Evan Scott, Alexandra Suprise, Erin Block, Kelly Cavey, Christopher (Chal) Little, and Erika Olson.

“Invaluable”: Law Students Describe Benefits of D.C. Initiative

One of the things Kelly Cavey liked about her summer internship was simply to walk the halls of the building where she worked: the U.S. Department of Justice headquarters in Washington D.C. “It never got old,” said Cavey, a part-time student at Marquette Law School who is on schedule to graduate in May 2015. “Being part of that environment is just spectacular. . . . The world becomes a lot bigger.”

Such an august atmosphere can expand your field of vision. Far more important, Cavey and five other students gained valuable real-life experience in Washington, working with attorneys in pursuits that interest them professionally. Support from Marquette Law School's Washington D.C. Initiative underwrote much of the cost of the internships for the six students.

“I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity,” Cavey said. “The Marquette grant made it possible.” She spent two months in the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility, primarily doing legal research and writing memos for supervising attorneys assigned to handle complaints against employees of the department.

The six Marquette Law students struck a common theme in describing their summers: The experience was of great benefit.

“Invaluable” was the word Alexandra Suprise, 3L, used to describe her work on the staff of the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. She was hired by the office of Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin. Her work included helping prepare for hearings and meetings.

“My experience in D.C. was very eye-opening to a side of the law I had not yet experienced,” said

Evan Scott, 2L, who worked for the Minority Media Telecommunications Council, a nonprofit that advocates for minority and women-owned businesses. “I really was able to get in and get my hands dirty with policy law and understand how corporations deal with regulatory organizations—in my case, the Federal Communications Commission.”

As an aide for Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, Erika Olson, 3L, worked with staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee. She played a significant role in drafting a speech Grassley gave on the Senate floor and helped prepare questions for public hearings.

Christopher (Chal) Little, 3L, said that he gained a lot from his work with lawyers in an office within the Securities and Exchange Commission. He added, “Perhaps the most valuable experiences were broader parts of the internship.” The SEC opens many of its training sessions to all interns, he explained. “I also was able to attend open and closed commission meetings and meet many of the talented attorneys who work for the SEC.”

Erin Block has an undergraduate degree in computer science and an interest in intellectual property law. That led to work assisting attorneys at the Patent and Trademark Office on applications for patents involving technology. She also worked on turning technical language into more understandable terms for people applying pro se for patents.

Drawing on contributions to its Annual Fund, the Law School provided stipends to each of the students to help defray living costs. The school's Career Planning Center also assisted the students in the placement process—and, most generally, in gaining a bigger sense of their own possibilities. ■

Longtime Milwaukee Public Schools Teacher Leaves \$2 Million Estate Gift

Given the fact that Bernadette Steep dedicated her life to teaching, perhaps it's no surprise that a gift from her estate will help others attain an education.

The generosity of her gift was a testament to the way she lived her life.

A Marquette alumna who spent her entire career teaching in Milwaukee Public Schools, Steep bequeathed a \$2 million estate gift to the university for endowed scholarship aid. The gift will be split between the Law School and the College of Education.

Steep, who was 92 when she died on May 4, 2014, in Gurnee, Ill., graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1944 and a master's in education degree in 1967. Steep began teaching elementary school in 1958 and retired in 1987.

Her gift includes funds that she first received from the estate of her sister, Mary Ann, who graduated from

Marquette with a bachelor's degree in 1953 and a law degree in 1990. Mary Ann, who died on December 21, 2007, worked for more than a decade and a half as a private-practice attorney. Before her legal career, she worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield for 30 years, retiring from the company as vice president of its actuarial department.

Bernadette Steep expressed her desire to continue to have an impact in education to honor the memory of her sister, as well as Marquette's community of Catholic, Jesuit priests.

"A planned gift such as this is one of the best ways benefactors can make it possible for young women and men to pursue an education that will transform their lives," said Michael K. VanDerhoef, vice president for university advancement. "This extraordinary gift will impact countless students in education and law in perpetuity." ■

Law School Receives LSAC "Diversity Matters" First-Place Award



Marquette Law School was recognized for its diversity outreach efforts earlier this year, receiving the Law School Admission Council's (LSAC) "Diversity Matters" first-place award for exceptional programming.

The award, in its fifth year, recognizes law school programming that encourages racially and ethnically diverse students to consider law as a career. The award was announced at LSAC's annual meeting and educational conference in May.

Marquette Law School received the award based on factors such as the number of its events, the high attendance level at the events, and exceptional website promotion.

Kent D. Lollis, LSAC's executive director for diversity initiatives, said the Law School's outreach programs were "creative, inventive, and reached the largest number of students from diverse backgrounds."

"The underlying work was a community effort," said Professor Vada Waters Lindsey, associate dean for enrollment. "From the Law School's office of admissions to our office of public service to law faculty and other colleagues at Marquette University and members of the Milwaukee community, we all pull together to help ensure that we are a welcoming and diverse community." ■

Idealism and Tenacity Fuel Growth in Law School's Pro Bono Program

Just like Marquette Law School's pro bono program, Katie Mayer, L'11, combines eagerness to help others with tenacity in doing that. You can see that three ways when it comes to Mayer, who was appointed in August to be assistant director of public service at the Law School.

First, there is her broad professional commitment to assist and promote programs helping low-income people receive legal help. "I love being able to help reach out to people in the community who don't have access to services," Mayer said. "I entered law school with the intention of using my skills as an attorney to serve others."

Second is her personal involvement in Marquette Law School's pro bono programs, starting when she was a student. Mayer took part in the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC), and she continued her involvement during three years of private practice.

And third is a personal commitment to respond to a medical need in her family. Mayer, who grew up in Sussex, outside of Milwaukee, said her mother has Meniere's disease, an inner-ear affliction that causes vertigo and hearing loss. Mayer has committed herself to raising money for the American Hearing Research Foundation to support research into the disease by running half-marathons in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. So far, Mayer has run five, with three more planned, but she has given herself a couple more decades to fulfill her pledge.

As for the long-run success of the Law School's public service program



Angela Schultz, Marquette Law School's assistant dean for public service (left), and Katie Mayer, the new assistant director of public service, say pro bono efforts are booming.

overall, "It's booming—for real," said Angela Schultz, the Law School's assistant dean for public service, to whom Mayer reports. Schultz said that two-thirds of law students take part in pro bono efforts and almost half of the members of each class graduate wearing honor cords recognizing their membership in the Pro Bono Society as a result of the number of hours they have volunteered.

Schultz, who joined the Law School in 2011 after a decade of working in Oregon for a domestic violence intervention program and then practicing elder and disability law in the Milwaukee area, said that she has seen increasing commitment and impact in the Law School's efforts. These include student participation at the various MVLC sites, as well as other law school and community programs such as the Marquette Legal Initiative for

Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC), the Milwaukee Justice Center, the bankruptcy court pro se help desk, and the refugee help desk at the Pan-African Community Association. Many students also take part in the Public Interest Law Society's efforts within the Law School, which support pro bono work.

Schultz said that the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic served its 20,000th client last year and, at locations throughout the Milwaukee area, clinics are being held generally six days a week, including Saturday sessions with the Mobile Legal Clinic, begun last year.

Schultz said that when she has attended national conferences, she has found that Marquette's pro bono efforts were well supported. With the arrival of Mayer, the forecast is for more eagerness to help—and more tenacity in making that a reality. ■