

CLASS | NOTES

1971



Martin J. Greenberg received the 2017 Leonard L. Loeb Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin. The award recognizes a

senior lawyer who has improved the legal system and has shown leadership in advancing the quality of justice for all.

1978



Julie and Mark Darnieder received the Friends of the Hispanic Community Award from the United Community Center. The award recognizes “individuals who have made immeasurable contributions to the development and well-being of the community.” Their work has included extensive service to Dominican High School and Marquette University Law School.

Stephen C. Lepley has been named assistant director of Pepperdine University School of Law’s Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution.

1982



Michael J. Gonring is the new executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee. He previously was a partner and

national pro bono coordinator at Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee.

1983



Paul T. Dacier has a new position as general counsel for Indigo, a Boston agriculture-technology startup. He was among business leaders

recently quoted in a *New York Times* article on noncompete clauses.

1984

Thomas E. Reddin is a shareholder in the labor and employment practice of the national firm Polsinelli, in Dallas, Texas.



Michael T. Jones has been appointed by Gov. Scott Walker to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He is of counsel at Michael

Best & Friedrich in Milwaukee, focusing on corporate governance.

1987



Philip J. Miller has been named a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Miller is a partner in Husch Blackwell’s

financial services and capital markets group and its private-wealth practice. He is based in the firm’s office in Waukesha County, Wis.

1990

Theodore D. Kafkas is the author of a new book: *Economic Crisis & Solutions: Unemployment Bubble, Technology, Federal Reserve and Government*. Information about his book can be found at <https://www.createpace.com/6987316>.

1991

Timothy S. Jacobson has joined Fitzpatrick, Skemp & Associates, in La Crosse, Wis., practicing environmental, business, and personal injury litigation. He also serves as assistant wing legal officer of the Wisconsin Wing of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary (Civil Air Patrol).

1994

Michael C. Holy has opened a new firm, Holy & Schultz, concentrating in health care, general litigation, and employment law. The firm is based in Naperville, Ill. ▶▶

JEFF NORMAN, L'02

Joining Forces

As a kid playing in his Milwaukee neighborhood, Jeffrey Norman recalled, “We played cops and robbers. I always wanted to be the cop.”

That’s easy to believe as you look at him on the other side of a table in the basement cafeteria of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. Norman is wearing the uniform of a Milwaukee Police Department captain. He joined the department as a patrol officer in 1996 and has risen to detective to lieutenant to captain. He previously served as a criminal investigator and patrol commander; his current duties put him in an administrative role, not out on the street.

Norman graduated in 1992 from Milwaukee’s North Division High School and from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he majored in criminal justice, in 1996. The police department was his next stop.

Soon, he was working as a patrol officer on the south side of Milwaukee, which is largely white and Hispanic. “That opened my eyes to a bigger Milwaukee,” said Norman, who grew up in predominantly African-American neighborhoods on the north side.

“A crossroads moment,” as he called it, when another officer did not follow proper procedure involving a prisoner, led Norman to act on his longtime interest in becoming a lawyer. He enrolled



in Marquette Law School as a part-time student, continuing to work as an officer full time. He completed law school in four and a half years.

A law firm or a job in a corporate office didn’t appeal to Norman. But the Milwaukee County district attorney’s office did. He became a prosecutor and speaks highly of the experience. But after a year, he decided that he could serve the community better as a law enforcement officer and returned to the police department. He’s been there since.

Has his law degree been useful? “Absolutely,” Norman said. On duty, in particular, he said, it has

made him a better supervisor and a better police officer more generally, partly because he understands legal aspects of many of the issues police face—probable cause, searches, even how to write up reports effectively.

“Balance.” Norman said the word with emphasis as he talked about what he likes to do on his own time. Police officers see a lot of bad things. He tries to offset that when he’s off duty. “You have to be proactive in seeing the world as positive.” He engages in volunteer work, including Marquette Law School alumni activities such as service on the diversity committee in recruiting students.

And beyond that? “I love a good cigar. . . . I like good company and good conversation.” This interview was held after he returned from a trip on his Harley to Cincinnati for a jazz festival. Norman’s wife, Sharniecia, is a doctor. They have two children, a son, Kyle, 11, and a daughter, Sydney, 8.

Norman does practice law on a limited basis, mostly matters for clients he knows personally. Now 43, he will be eligible in several years to retire from the police department. Then? He’s not sure. But expect him to stay involved in broader issues in some fashion. He said, “I strive to do things that contribute to the community.” ■

1995

Bethany M. Rodenhuis is senior vice president—transformation at Northwestern Mutual. She has held leadership positions with the company since law school, most recently heading the company’s distribution strategy and planning.

1998

Kimberly R. Walker has been named chief operations officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

Jason G. Wied has been elected to the board of the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame, a nonprofit corporation independent of the Green Bay Packers that guides the hall as an historical national sports venue and educational resource.

1999



Jason J. Pfeil has accepted the position of staff attorney supervisor at the newly opened trial office of the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy in Princeton, Ky.

2001



Michael M. Smith has joined Church Mutual Insurance Company, Merrill, Wis., as vice president, secretary, and general counsel.

Mark J. Andres has joined the Brookfield office of Davis & Kuelthau as a shareholder in its corporate and trusts and estates practices.

Congratulations to the Marquette lawyers recognized as 2017 “Leaders in the Law” by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*:

Craig Christensen, L’85
Habush Habush & Rottier

Jeff DeMeuse, L’86
Corneille Law Group

Jerome Janzer, L’82
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Bradley Kalscheur, L’95
Michael Best & Friedrich

Raymond Manista, L’90
Northwestern Mutual

Erin Strohhahn, L’06
Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown

Jeffrey Zarzynski, L’81
Schiro & Zarzynski



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. ▶▶

2003

Kristin R. Muenzen recently joined the general counsel's office at Princeton University. Muenzen previously was an attorney for the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Kirk L. Deheck was elected vice president of the board of directors of Boyle Fredrickson, an intellectual property law firm in Milwaukee.

Congratulations to the Marquette lawyers chosen by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* as "Women in the Law" awardees for 2017:

Susan Allen, L'06
Stafford Rosenbaum

Laura Crivello, L'93
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

Terese Halfmann, L'85
Hupy & Abraham

Erin Karshen, L'03
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

Tanner Kilander, L'02
Kilander Legal Services

Laurie Petersen, L'86
Lindner & Marsack

Susan Tyndall, L'85
Habush Habush & Rottier



Joshua P. Grube has become a shareholder in Brennan Steil, in Janesville, Wis., where his practice involves criminal law, labor law, and civil litigation.



David D. Cherner has joined Moss & Barnett, in Minneapolis, as a member of the firm's creditors' remedies and bankruptcy team.

2004

Jason R. Oldenburg has left the partnership at The Previant Law Firm to start his own law firm, Injury and Disability Law Office of Wisconsin. He continues to practice in the areas of worker's compensation, personal injury, and Social Security Disability.

2005

Beth Conradson Cleary has been appointed executive director of the City of Milwaukee Deferred Compensation Plan.

Annie L. Owens has assumed the post of counsel to the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Hon. Dianne Feinstein of California.

2006



Jeffrey R. Ruidl has become vice president of acquisitions at Hammes Partners, Milwaukee, a private equity platform that invests on behalf of institutional investors, with an exclusive focus on the real estate market in U.S. health care.

2007



John W. Halpin has become a partner in the Milwaukee firm Laffey, Leitner & Goode.

2008

Melissa (Lauritch) Papaleo has become assistant general counsel for the DC Lottery in Washington, D.C.

Dirk A. Vanover has published a book, *Comics Startup 101: Key Legal and Business Issues for Comic Book Creators*.



Mauri Whitacre-Hinterlong is part of the energy team at the Dallas firm of Gray Reed & McGraw. ▶▶

JULIE FLESSAS, L'88

Once a Nurse, Always a Nurse—but Also a Lawyer

Julie Flessas dreamed of following in the footsteps of her favorite aunts by becoming a nurse. And she did, working as a registered nurse in nursing homes and, later, in intensive care units. “Working with the sickest of the sick demanded an enhanced knowledge of nursing practice,” she said. “I loved working in critical care. It demanded a type of thinking that went beyond any single moment. One witnesses human resiliency, as well as unimaginable pain, suffering, disability, and death.” Her observations would eventually be of great use in a career in personal injury litigation.

“Of course, there are also times when, for many reasons, one witnesses patient care that is not optimal,” Flessas said. On one occasion, she spoke to a superior about an incident she had seen and was rebuked. Go to law school if you want to be lawyer, she was told.

After hearing about lawyers who were looking for help in reviewing cases involving medical matters, Flessas began her transition to legal work. One law firm offered her a part-time job, which supplemented her nursing income. “My background fit perfectly with reviewing medical records and helping with personal injury trial prep,” she recalled.

She was encouraged by Gerald Turner, one of the lawyers she helped, to enroll in law school, with the goal of working with him full time upon graduation. That second prod to go to law school was effective, and she then joined Turner’s law firm.

The energetic commitment that she brought to critical-care nursing transferred perfectly to the courtroom. “Litigation takes a lot of time, preparation, and a very thick skin,” Flessas said. “When I started, it was predominantly a male world. It was interesting.” She meant that as an understatement.

Within a year of becoming a lawyer, she was contacted to serve as co-counsel in a case where a faulty connector allowed transposition of an oxygen and carbon dioxide hose during surgery, a hazard she had been trained to avoid. The family received the largest wrongful death settlement in Ohio for a single male.

In 2003, she expanded her practice, representing more than 225 people who had used a then-popular diet drug known as fen-phen and later struggled with



varying degrees of heart-valve damage that research would eventually find to be a side effect of the drug. Nationwide, the drug manufacturer ultimately paid billions of dollars in damages. “Those were busy years for me as a wife, mom, nurse, and lawyer,” said Flessas.

With retirements and a revamping of the firm, Flessas Law Firm emerged. The firm represents clients injured from accidents, malpractice, pharmaceuticals, and medical products. Flessas said she has learned the ABCs of running a firm: Acumen in law. Business sense. Courage.

Flessas has a strong sense of justice and helping others. She works with abused women and high-risk youth. She has retained her nursing license, both because it is valuable in her legal work and because she continues to help several elderly individuals in need of nursing care and medication guidance.

Flessas is grateful for the opportunities her law degree has afforded her. She emphasizes the profusion of knowledge a law degree provides. She said that merging nursing and law helped her find her place. She saw that the passion she had caring for others in nursing was easily transferable to law. She said, “It is and has been a very interesting and rewarding journey.” ■



In a ceremony that included remarks by Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell (pictured below), the Law School presented its annual alumni awards this past April. The recipients are pictured above (left to right):

Alumna of the Year Award
Maxine A. White, L'85

Lifetime Achievement Award
Thomas M. Olejniczak, L'74

Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award
Katherine McChrystal, L'10

Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumna of the Year Award
Susan K. Allen, L'06



President Michael R. Lovell

Only a flavor of the citations accompanying the awards can be conveyed here. White has served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for 25 years and currently is chief judge. Her commitment and breadth of service to the legal profession and the larger community are prodigious. Olejniczak is a partner in Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry and a sought-out lawyer in Green Bay; his nominators emphasized his “tireless integrity, advocacy, and energy” to “so many of this region’s charitable and civic organizations.” McChrystal, with Gagne McChrystal De Lorenzo and Burghardt, has used her family-law expertise in the development of the Milwaukee Justice Center and served the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in numerous capacities. And Allen’s involvement in Marquette’s National Sports Law Institute began even when she was an undergraduate and has continued since law school graduation in numerous ways, with service as an alumna coach of Marquette’s sports-law moot court teams being simply an example.

On **Thursday, April 26, 2018**, the Law School will present this academic year’s alumni awards. The ceremony celebrates the mission of Marquette University—Excellence, Faith, Leadership, and Service—and the general ideal of the Marquette lawyer. It is a premier and important event. We hope that you will join us at it.

Thomas E. Howard, of Peoria, Ill., has been reappointed to serve on the Illinois State Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Judicial Evaluations Outside of Cook County and is a member of the association’s section on commercial banking, collections, and bankruptcy.



James B. Barton has been promoted to partner at Hansen Reynolds, Milwaukee, where he concentrates on complex commercial disputes in state and federal courts.

2009



Dale M. Johnson II has been named a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, in Kansas City, Mo. He represents clients in complex product liability, personal injury, premises liability, and class action matters.

2010



Nathan S. Fronk has been promoted to shareholder in the Milwaukee office of von Briesen & Roper. He focuses his practice on transactional matters, with an emphasis on representing businesses and financial institutions in complex commercial lending transactions.



Meghan C. O'Connor has been named a shareholder in von Briesen & Roper's Milwaukee office, where she chairs

the health information privacy and security section.



Russell J. Karnes has been appointed as a member of the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) Board of

Directors. MYLA is an organization for attorneys who are not yet 38 years old or who have been practicing law for not more than five years.

2011



Andrew F. Spillane recently joined Godfrey & Kahn's banking and financial institutions team.



Edward R. Tybor, III, has joined the real estate group NewLAWu.s., a national law firm designed to reduce client

costs. He and his wife, Amy, welcomed a son, Edward R. Tybor, IV, in October 2016.

2012

Scott W. Brunner has joined Husch Blackwell's financial services and capital markets group in Milwaukee. His practice will continue to focus on mergers and acquisitions, real estate, and securities.



Joseph P. Trevino has been promoted to partner at SmithAmundsen's Milwaukee office, where he is a member of the

construction, product liability, and professional liability practice groups.

2013



Patrick C. Greeley has joined the law firm of Kendricks, Bordeau, Adamini, Greenlee & Keefe in Marquette, Mich., where he

maintains a general practice with an emphasis on civil litigation.



Max T. Stephenson, who practices at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, is president-elect of the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association.



Ryan J. Truesdale practices with Hupy and Abraham in Milwaukee. He is a member of the nursing home abuse and neglect group.

2014



Kristen D. Hardy, compliance counsel for Rockwell Automation, has been chosen as the youngest

recipient of the *2017 National Summit of Black Women Lawyers Emerging Leader Award*. The award is given to outstanding young lawyers graduating in 2010 or later (aged 36 or younger), whose accomplishments and contributions within their legal careers and in promoting diversity within the legal profession demonstrate a high level of leadership.

Employment data for recent classes, including 2015–2017, are available at law.marquette.edu/career-planning/welcome.