

“True education, education really worthy of the name, is an organized effort to help people use their hearts, heads, and hands to contribute to the well-being of all of human society. Genuine education helps individuals develop their talents so they may become agents who act with others to make God’s liberating and transforming love operative in the world.”

— Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., then Superior General of the Society of Jesus (Speech at Xavier University, October 3, 2006)

## Marquette University Law School

# Public Service Report

**M**arquette University states as an essential part of its mission “the development of leadership expressed in service to others.” At Marquette Law School, evidence of this leadership abounds.

In Milwaukee and across Wisconsin—indeed, from Appalachia to Eritrea—our students, faculty, and graduates are serving the common good in ways that exceed measure. In this section, we offer a glimpse of the many opportunities for service in which Marquette lawyers, present and future, engage.

The recent gains are impressive. For example, more than 40 percent of our students now qualify for membership in the Law School’s Pro Bono Society by performing 50 hours or more of voluntary legal service by graduation. We expect that this percentage will continue to rise: thanks to the generosity of the Gene & Ruth Posner Family Foundation, Marquette Law School has added for at least the next several years a full-time Pro Bono Coordinator (Adrienne J. Olson, L’03), who will work with Daniel A. Idzikowski, L’90, Assistant Dean for Public Service.

There are as well numerous nonlegal volunteer activities in which Marquette law students engage, whether individually or as a part of student-organization initiatives. One example is the recent donation, as part of a larger national effort, of almost 2,000 pounds of law textbooks to African law schools; this effort was led at Marquette by the student Association for Women in Law and Professor Lisa Mazzie Hatlen.

While almost every aspect of our public service initiatives has grown within the past year, we are more excited about the future. Even within the next year, the Law School will offer several new pro bono opportunities for law students, including projects addressing the needs of military service members and legal issues that affect health outcomes. The Law School is laying the groundwork for an expanded public policy role as well, reaching out to nonprofit, government, and community leaders in an accelerated effort to connect the Law School’s resources with the community.

As we build the new Marquette Law School, we seek to be faithful to our Jesuit mission and the special ways that the Law School can serve that mission, offering law students not only the ability to serve today but an introduction to the broad opportunities that a legal education provides for service throughout their careers. In short, as the brief articles in this section reflect, we are seeking to develop Marquette lawyers who will follow the University’s injunction to “Be the Difference.”

## A Different Kind of Spring Break

During the past two years, more than 30 Marquette Law School students have participated in the National Lawyers Guild's Alternative Spring Break program, traveling to New Orleans and providing pro bono assistance to the struggling communities of the Gulf Region. The trip has been organized by Marquette law students (some now alumni), including Tonya Turchik, Natalia Minkel-Dumit, Randy Sitzberger, Camille Monahan, Terry Mambu-Rasch, and Anne Jaspers.

In 2008, the law students joined forces with the Student Hurricane Network, a national association dedicated to assisting with the legal questions facing New Orleans residents after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"This trip was a positive opportunity to experience out-of-the-box pro bono legal work," says Turchik, now a 3L. "Our work added greatly to the investigative research capacity of lawyers in the Gulf Region."

The 15 students on the most recent trip were split into three work teams, each with a different project focus. One of the teams worked closely with the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) to monitor the conditions of FEMA trailer parks. Another assisted the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center with a canvassing project, surveying residents to report on the amount and type of relief that they had been provided through the Road Home Project. The final group of students worked as legal interns at New Orleans Legal Assistance, where they helped contact clients and researched current legal issues facing Gulf Region communities.

The students found lodging in the Episcopalian Diocese parish house during the trip and often cooked dinner and



The wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita left not only destroyed property but also myriad legal issues for residents of New Orleans.



Students and others from the Marquette Law School community on a recent trip to New Orleans.

explored the city together. Reflection is an integral part of the Alternative Spring Break experience, so each night the students were encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings about the work they were doing.

“It was important to us that we explore the city and give back to it by eating at local restaurants and experiencing its rich culture,” says Turchik. “We took a cemetery tour, watched the St. Patrick’s Day parade, and made time to interact with and learn about the people whom we were helping.”

During a similar trip in 2007, Marquette law students worked at Common Ground, a grassroots organization established in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Common Ground includes medical clinics, rebuilding teams, and a legal clinic where, during their trip, the law students put their legal training to work. Professor Janine P. Geske, L’75, Louis J. Andrew, L’66, and Sue Andrew, Sp’66, accompanied the students.

Student organizers are currently planning future such trips.

“More than any other aspect of my law school career, this program has shown me the importance of service and giving back to the disadvantaged,” says Turchik. “I hope that it continues for years to come.”

## Marquette Student Receives Public Interest Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin

Anne Jaspers, a 2008 Marquette University Law School graduate from Westmont, Ill., knew that she wanted to help people ever since watching her parents open their home to foster children while she was growing up. After college, while working alongside attorneys at Dane County’s Department of Human Services and at a homeless shelter in Cincinnati, she began to envision herself in a legal role.

“I wanted to be able to join the work that they were doing, to combine social work and the law,” says Jaspers. “Lawyers have a lot more power.” Jaspers was attracted to Marquette Law School because of its urban setting and public-service opportunities.

While she graduated with academic honors, Jaspers’s experiences extended far outside the classroom. She and a number of Marquette law classmates spent a spring break volunteering in New Orleans (see story on opposite page and above). Jaspers served two years as a student coordinator for the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, helped found the student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, was a two-time Public Interest Law Fellow, served as copresident of the Public Interest Law Society, and worked with the Street Law Program, providing education in the law to Milwaukee high school students.

In light of these undertakings, the Public Interest Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin recognized Jaspers with its Outstanding Public Interest Law Student Award this past May. Jaspers continues her service in the public interest as a lawyer for the Office of the State Public Defender in Oshkosh, Wis.



## Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Renovates and Expands

Through a series of collaborative efforts, the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC), regarded as one of the Law School's flagship public service programs, expanded its resources and broadened its reach into the community this past year.

Marquette Law School and the Capuchin House of Peace, at 17th and Walnut Streets, completely renovated the space occupied by the MVLC's north-side office. The project created private interview rooms, affording participants appropriate confidentiality, as well as space for an office, research area, and conference room.

Quite apart from this renovation, the Law School, in partnership with Quarles & Brady, LLP, expanded the MVLC to a second site, on Milwaukee's near south side, in order to serve the Latino community. Quarles & Brady agreed to provide the volunteer lawyers to staff this location (working with volunteer Marquette law students) and to provide financial support, including for Spanish-language interpreters.



Michael J. Gonring, L'82, a partner and national pro bono coordinator at Quarles & Brady, notes, "Marquette has been a terrific partner, and our lawyers are excited about volunteering their legal services in this new venue." Katie Maloney Perhach, L'00, is the Quarles partner who leads the south-side operation of the MVLC.

With support from the Marquette law library, both locations enhanced their legal research and computer capacity, while administrative services took a leap forward as the Law School hired Lori Zahorodny as the first MVLC program assistant.

Finally, MVLC lawyers and law students alike benefited from a new brown-bag Continuing Legal Education series at the Law School sponsored by Legal Action of Wisconsin. The series provides free 90-minute sessions each month on a legal topic that will help MVLC volunteers in their counseling of clients.

As a result of all of these enhancements, more than 800 clients were assisted by MVLC volunteers this past year (on Tuesday afternoons on the north side and Wednesdays on the south side), with a wide range of legal issues and a high level of satisfaction.

The Law School regards the MVLC as a joint undertaking with the legal community. "The MVLC is a highly successful model of limited legal-service delivery and a valuable training experience for our law students," says Dean Joseph D. Kearney. "We could not provide this opportunity without the volunteer efforts of lawyers from the community—many but not all of whom are Marquette lawyers—or without the financial support of Quarles & Brady for the south-side location and of our alumni through their contributions to the Law School's Annual Fund."

You can learn more about the MVLC and read its latest annual report by visiting [www.marquettelegalclinic.org](http://www.marquettelegalclinic.org).

Katie Maloney Perhach, L'00, leads the MVLC/Quarles & Brady clinic on the south side of Milwaukee.



Attorney Karin H. Werner, adjunct professor of law, is director of the Milwaukee Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC), a grant-funded project led by the Law School.

## Law School Receives Grants, Leads “M-LINC” Program to Assist Nonprofits

**M**arquette University Law School has received grants from the Helen Bader Foundation and the Pro Bono Initiative Fund of the State Bar of Wisconsin to establish the Milwaukee Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC), a new program designed to serve the legal needs of nonprofit corporations in Wisconsin.

During the past decade, the number of public charities in Wisconsin grew by nearly 65 percent. To support this growth, area leaders established several nonprofit-support organizations. But one significant area of need remained: the provision of legal services tailored to nonprofits. Nonprofit leaders expressed an interest in legal information and, in many instances, a need for pro bono legal assistance.

To fill this need, M-LINC, which has secured funding for three years, will facilitate pro bono legal services for eligible nonprofit corporations, host educational programs on pertinent nonprofit legal issues, and coordinate a clinical program each semester. The program will capitalize on the expertise of students and faculty at not only the Law School but also Marquette University’s College of Business Administration,

College of Professional Studies, and J. William and Mary Diederich College of Communication.

“We are thrilled to help advance the independent sector through this expansive coalition of partners at Marquette University,” says Daniel A. Idzikowski, the Law School’s Assistant Dean for Public Service, who led the successful effort to secure the lead grant from the Helen Bader Foundation. “M-LINC will provide transactional attorneys an opportunity for pro bono work in their areas of expertise and involve law students in a multidisciplinary approach to public service.”

Led by M-LINC Director, attorney Karin H. Werner, and a robust advisory council, law students help administer the pro bono legal services program in a variety of ways, including assisting volunteer attorneys with research on pro bono cases and participating in the nonprofit clinic. Nonprofits may inquire about pro bono legal services via e-mail to [mlinc@marquette.edu](mailto:mlinc@marquette.edu) or by calling M-LINC at (414) 288-6331 or toll free at (888) 530-5462. Visit M-LINC’s website at [www.m-linc.org](http://www.m-linc.org) to volunteer, request assistance, or learn more about the program.

## Making Peace with Milwaukee Public Schools: Marquette Law School's "Dispute Resolution College for Kids"

Working with the Milwaukee Public School's Violence Prevention Project, attorney Natalie C. Fleury, Marquette Law School's Program Coordinator for Dispute Resolution, has developed an interactive training program for peer mediators in select elementary schools. Over the past two years, this "Dispute Resolution College for Kids" has instructed more than 175 Milwaukee Public School (MPS) students in communication skills, mediation, basic negotiation, creative problem solving, and restorative justice.

The program debuted at Marquette in 2007, facilitated by then law students Kristi Hanson, Amy Burkhart, and David Angeluzzi, from the Class of 2007, and Teresa Mambu, of the Class of 2008. In training sessions with experienced peer mediators from five MPS schools, students learned basic negotiation principles, strategies of interest-based negotiation, and ways of formulating alternatives where agreement is not possible. The program also explored why simple problems can suddenly get out of control.

**"Students learned basic negotiation principles, strategies of interest-based negotiation, and ways of formulating alternatives where agreement is not possible."**

Last spring, the focus turned to providing a context for mediation outside of school, adding creative problem-solving tools for the peer mediators. Fleury presented examples of mediation in the "real world."

"You could tell that many of the students didn't realize all the different places mediation is used in the wider world," comments Fleury. "By highlighting areas that interest the students, such as entertainment and sports, we could make their understanding of mediation more meaningful." Students built upon



Attorney Natalie C. Fleury is adjunct professor of law and the Law School's program coordinator for dispute resolution.

their communication and mediation skills through active-listening exercises and other activities, followed by a discussion of steps the students can take to develop creative options for conflict resolution.

Based on the success of the program over the past two years, the Dispute Resolution College for Kids is set to expand. In collaboration with the Milwaukee Public Schools, Marquette's Center for Peacemaking, and the Marquette College of Education, Fleury is the lead investigator in a Brighter Futures grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families this January. The Brighter Futures initiative will offer conflict-resolution and peer-mediation training to additional inner-city schools and, for the first time, reinforce that training in neighborhood centers that serve these students through after-school programs.

Fleury is enthusiastic about the expansion. "When you give students the tools to communicate more effectively and solve conflicts more productively," she remarks, "the whole community benefits."

## Eisenberg Legacy Continues Through Loan Repayment Assistance Program

When the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg established Marquette Law School's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) in the spring of 2001, he hoped that this allocation of "dean's discretionary funds" (i.e., fundraised dollars) would encourage more graduates to undertake legal careers in public service. The Law School subsequently renamed the fund the "Howard and Phyllis Eisenberg Loan Repayment Assistance Program," in memory of Dean Eisenberg and in honor of his wife, Phyllis.

Some 20 Law School graduates now benefit from the fund. They include Lisa-Marie Line, L'05, an attorney with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund (Appalred) in southeastern Kentucky. An interview with Appalred enkindled Line's desire to serve this impoverished region of the country.

Line handles a wide range of cases for Appalred clients, all of whom qualify for free legal services under stringent federal poverty guidelines. "The best aspect of being part of Appalred is that you are encouraged to practice in all areas of law, because our clients' needs are so diverse," she comments. Line was recently selected to work on foreclosure defense issues under a national grant from the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance. "Appalred is a great place to work," says Line. "I believe that I am making a difference in my clients' lives."

Andrea M. Knudson, L'06, also benefits from the Eisenberg LRAP. Knudson is an Assistant Judge Advocate with the 1st Fighter Wing, stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. "Being a lawyer in the military was something I have always wanted to do," remarks Knudson. "Working for the federal government, especially as a military lawyer, has a lot of perks, but high income is not one of them. The Law School's LRAP helped make my dream of being a Judge Advocate in the Air Force possible."

Knudson recently returned from her first deployment to Baghdad, in support of a large joint operation in Iraq that oversees all detainee operations and control. Knudson worked in the Magistrate's Cell. Her duties there included reviewing detainees' files to determine whether to prosecute a detainee in an Iraqi court, release the detainee from custody, or keep the detainee in U.S. internment camps on account of posing a threat to the safety and stability of Iraq. "I found it a very rewarding experience to be able to make a direct contribution to help Iraq become a more stable country and also help ensure the safety of U.S. troops," comments Knudson.

Dean Joseph D. Kearney has worked with alumni to expand the resources available to the Eisenberg LRAP. "The legacy of Dean Eisenberg is important to the future of Marquette University Law School," comments Kearney. "Dean Eisenberg worked tirelessly to inculcate in students a sense of the important public interest that lawyers serve. The Howard and Phyllis Eisenberg LRAP is a way of helping some of today's students to secure the means of supporting their own work in public service."



Lisa-Marie Line



Andrea M. Knudson

## Former Peggy Browning Fellow Advocates for Caribbean Women on PILS Fellowship

For third-year law student Camille Monahan, the pursuit of public service at Marquette Law School has exceeded her expectations and expanded her horizons. Monahan has used her time outside the classroom to gain remarkable experience in the area of labor law—and to make an impact abroad.

In the summer after her first year of law school, Monahan became the first Marquette student to win a nationally competitive Peggy Browning Fellowship, which she used in order to work with the United Auto Workers on pension-reform issues with Ford and General Motors.

By spring 2008, Monahan earned a Marquette Public Interest Law Society (PILS) Fellowship, underwritten entirely by donations, and secured a placement addressing labor issues in Barbados, where she

was attached to the Barbados Employers' Confederation (BEC), a registered union for employers.

While Monahan expected to attend union negotiation meetings and conduct legal research, she quickly became involved in a higher-profile experience.

"In Barbados, the workers' union has nearly unfettered power, which it exercises by calling national strikes," Monahan explains. "There are no laws governing labor relations. The union is free to call a strike at any time, and the only limit on the union's power is whether or not the workers at large agree to participate in the strike action."

"While I was in Barbados, a labor dispute arose between an exclusive hotel and the workers' union," she continues. "In this case, the union called a strike that the community of workers did not support. The union called off the strike, but the hotel believed that the workers had violated their duty of loyalty and could not be reemployed. The issue generated substantial media coverage, and both sides wanted a resolution."

Monahan suggested that the parties utilize a form of alternative dispute resolution, but this had never been tried in Barbados in this context. She was then asked to help represent the BEC and facilitate



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negotiations with the union, the Ministry of Labour, and the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association to craft a procedure that the government could use to mediate this dispute. Using experience gained through

Marquette Law School's Alternative Dispute Resolution program, she drafted an early-neutral-evaluation structure, a modified version of which was accepted by all of the parties.

Monahan also compiled the first census of women in leadership positions in publicly traded companies in Barbados. To present this research, the BEC held a half-day event. Two ministers from government, several members of parliament, and 30 of the country's highest-ranking women attended the event and roundtable that followed. The conference led the news for days, Monahan granted several interviews, and the modernization of gender roles continues to be a hot topic in the national press, with multiple articles appearing in the *Barbados Business Authority*.

Not every student enjoys this kind of spotlight on the international stage, but Monahan's experience reflects how Marquette law students creatively use fellowships both to enhance their legal education and to be of service.

### Other 2008 PILS Fellows

Alicia M. Augsburger – *Wisconsin Department of Revenue*

Scott M. Butler – *ACLU-Wisconsin Foundation*

Jesse R. Dill – *Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Andrew J. Golden – *Centro Legal*

Sara A. Kneevers – *Catholic Charities Immigration Project*

Bethany C. Kroes – *ACLU-Wisconsin Foundation*

Brianne E. Lannon – *Office of the Illinois Appellate Defender*

Gretchen E. Leeher – *North Carolina Coastal Land Trust*

Scott S. Luzi – *Community Advocates, Inc.*

Theresa M. Movroydis – *Tierra de Hombres*

James L. Robinson – *AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin*

Michael R. Worhach – *Wayne County Prosecutor's Office*

Allison N. Ziegler – *Wisconsin Department of Justice, Criminal Appeals*

## Public Service Conference:

# “Leaping the Gaps for Children with Special Needs” Draws Nearly 350 Participants

The 2008 Marquette Law School Public Service Conference, “Leaping the Gaps for Children with Special Needs,” explored how to improve the future for children with special needs through legal advocacy, public policy, and collaboration.

The conference reflected Marquette’s mission. “As a Jesuit law school, Marquette encourages lawyers and law students alike to look for opportunities to exercise a preferential option for the underprivileged,” explains Daniel A. Idzikowski, Assistant Dean for Public Service. “This conference reflected that commitment, as we brought together both those who nurture and serve children with special needs and those who must provide the infrastructure to help these children succeed.”

The conference featured an interactive case study, with participation from the Marquette University Players (a student theater group) and representatives of some 20 agencies, highlighting the difficulties that children with special needs can face while navigating between different systems of care. Afternoon breakout sessions addressed the need for high-quality advocacy, collaboration, and information-sharing among health-care, social-service, education, and justice systems. The sessions also explored how to best implement the protections afforded children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Ann Yurcek, mother of 11 children and award-winning author of *Tiny Titan*, delivered the conference’s keynote address. When her sixth child, Becca, was born with a rare genetic disorder, Yurcek’s family tumbled into poverty, as Becca struggled to survive. Yurcek discussed her family’s journey out of poverty and its dedication to exceptional children, including the subsequent adoption of five siblings. Yurcek pointed out how systems intended to serve children often worked against one another and how persistent advocacy could make a critical difference.

Hosted at Marquette’s Alumni Memorial Union, the conference drew nearly 350 participants, including attorneys, educators, health and social-service professionals, and parents of children with special needs. Numerous participants expressed the hope that there would be further opportunities for collaboration among parents and representatives of the various professions, agencies, and disciplines involved.

The conference’s steering committee has continued to meet. A new website sponsored by Marquette, [www.leapingthegaps.org](http://www.leapingthegaps.org), provides advocacy resources and materials from the conference, including video of the interactive case study. A course in Special Education Law has been introduced into the Law School curriculum, and Paul M. Secunda, a faculty member

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who joined the Law School this past fall after teaching at the University of Mississippi School of Law, expects to pursue an opportunity for students to be involved in special-education hearings, one of the recommendations stemming from the conference. Other collaborations have resulted outside of the Law School itself.

“Our hope is that this conference continues to generate new ideas and collaborations among those involved in the lives of children with special needs,” says Idzikowski. “As we look toward our future public-service conferences, we believe we have a great model to follow.”

## Safe Streets: Reducing Crime in Milwaukee Neighborhoods

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* recently called the Safe Streets program one of the “best ideas of 2008.” Under the direction of Professor Janine P. Geske, Marquette Law School’s Restorative Justice Initiative is leading a key component of this crime-reduction strategy in Milwaukee. This antigang and anticrime strategy on the north and south sides of the city is beginning to show positive results.

Safe Streets is a citywide partnership led by the offices of the mayor, the district attorney, the U.S. attorney, the chief of police, and numerous other law-enforcement, community, faith, and business partners; it is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Since the program’s inception, two community coordinators, serving at the heart of the project as Law School employees under the Restorative Justice Initiative, have met with more than 150 neighborhood groups, community-based organizations, faith and business leaders, public officials, school employees, residents, offenders, and crime victims to secure partnerships for the project.

The community coordinators, Ron Johnson and Paulina (Jasso) de Haan, take a variety of approaches to their work. Part of their effort is to help those involved in lower-level criminal activity obtain employment or



In November 2008, more than 300 people attended the Safe Streets conference, hosted by Marquette University Law School, to address the successes and challenges of the program so far.

services to help them turn their lives in a more positive direction. They have also held a total of 37 restorative-justice “community circles” with more than 400 participants in 20 different locations. In these circles, offenders hear directly from citizens about the impact of their behavior. Out of the 91 offenders who have attended restorative justice circles, there is thus far an 88 percent nonrecidivism rate. As part of the Safe Streets program, those who continue to offend despite the opportunities offered are arrested and prosecuted.

## Two Alumni Receive Pro Bono Awards

Michele A. Peters, L’02, and Matthew W. O’Neill, L’91, received the 2008 Outstanding Pro Bono Participation Awards from Legal Action of Wisconsin’s Volunteer Lawyers Program last spring.

Over the past five years, Peters has provided pro bono representation to 11 Legal Action clients, primarily in unemployment insurance cases. In addition, she has helped the Volunteer Lawyers Program train dozens of volunteer lawyers in the area of unemployment insurance.

Peters is an associate with Hawks Quindel Ehlke & Perry in Milwaukee, where she represents employees in labor and employment matters. She relates that she drew inspiration for her service from the models of pro bono representation provided during her time as a Marquette law student, particularly by the late Dean Howard B.

Eisenberg and by Legal Action attorney Jeff Myer at the Law School’s unemployment appeals clinic.

O’Neill is a partner at Friebert, Finerty & St. John, also in Milwaukee. Over the past 10 years, O’Neill has handled a wide range of pro bono matters, including criminal, landlord/tenant, consumer fraud, and family cases.

For the past three years, O’Neill has been involved in significant pro bono litigation against a storage company that converted all of his clients’ stored belongings. A jury recently returned a verdict awarding the clients the full amount of the actual damages that they requested, plus \$100,000 in punitive damages. O’Neill remarks that, when the verdict came back, it was one of the best moments in his practice.