

PROFILE: Kristine Cleary

## The skills and determination to climb

**D** Perseverance, dedication, and the ability to adapt to unexpected situations—Kristine Cleary, L'83, called on those qualities to climb the Grand Teton mountain in Wyoming several years ago. And she has called on those same qualities often in a career as a business owner, lawyer, community volunteer, and parent of three (with her husband Peter L. Coffey, L'84).

Cleary graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a double major in environmental biology and political science. “I decided to go to Marquette Law School after talking with a number of women who had gone to various law schools,” she said. “One of the women was from my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and expressed that she felt embraced at Marquette Law School and that the student/teacher ratio was excellent.”

While a law student, Cleary had an opportunity to clerk with Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Donald W. Steinmetz. The experience left her with a lasting lesson: “I felt very intimidated meeting him for the first time,” she recalled. “I remember sitting across from him in his chambers and noticing he was wearing what looked like a Mickey Mouse watch, complete with moving arms! I had to ask him about it, and he said that it kept him from taking himself too seriously.”

After graduating from the Law School in 1983, Cleary worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council in New York for a year. She then moved back to the Midwest and worked as a law clerk for Judge Russell Eisenberg, a federal bankruptcy judge in Milwaukee.



In 1987, she was recruited by Michael Best & Friedrich, where she was a partner in the practice area of bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and lending financial institutions. “I assumed I would be at Michael Best & Friedrich the rest of my career,” she said.

But in 1997, a turn of events occurred for which no amount of training could prepare her. “My father died unexpectedly, and I took a leave of absence from the law firm to attend to our family business in La Crosse. I then determined that my time and energy would be best spent in working for our family business, Cleary Management, a property management corporation.” Although the business office is located in La Crosse, Cleary usually works out of her home office in the Milwaukee area.

Cleary appreciates being a self-employed business owner and is gratified to be working with the business that her father (who was also a lawyer) started. “As an owner of a business, I deal with responsibilities that range widely from reviewing surveys, drafting and renegotiating leases, finalizing business transactions, overseeing administrative matters and investments, to even [doing] some janitorial work,” she said. She appreciates the diversity of the job as well as the flexibility, especially with regard to raising a family.

Cleary's Marquette law degree has been vital in her success. "Understanding the law behind real estate purchase and development is vastly beneficial. It is essential for any business person to understand the law and its ramifications," she said. She agrees with what her father once said: "A legal education opens doors for you that other educational backgrounds do not."

In her gratitude, she is also very generous. In addition to giving of her time by serving on the Law School Advisory Board, Cleary and a friend who is a partner at Michael Best & Friedrich have a specific avenue for financial support. "We started a scholarship at Marquette Law School for nontraditional women who return to law school. We are always pleasantly surprised when our scholarship report arrives and we see that others have given gifts to the Law School Scholarship for Women Fund," she related. Additionally, she gives of her talent to numerous community, legal, and performing arts boards, and is now serving as the elected chairman of the board for State Bank Financial in La Crosse.

Cleary looks forward to continuing her work with the family business. She knows that, much like her mountain trek, it can be a difficult climb, but it's one worth the effort.

## 1960

**William J. Mulligan**, of Davis & Kuelthau, Milwaukee office, has been named in the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*. He practices in commercial litigation and environmental law.

## 1961

**Rosemary R. Elbert** received the Lifetime Achievement Award as an honoree for Women in the Law, sponsored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. She was the first woman lawyer in the Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel's office and in 2004 became the first permanent executive director of Wisconsin Judicare, Inc., in Wausau, Wis. Her career has spanned private practice, government work, and now work for indigent clients, where she concentrates in domestic violence cases.

## 1966

**William R. Drew** was recently presented with the Les Aspin Center for Government Founders Award. He has been a member of the Les Aspin Center Board of Visitors since it was founded in 1995.

## 1968

**William A. Jennaro** of Cook & Franke of Milwaukee, has been named "Best Mediator" in the *Wisconsin Law Journal's* "Best of" poll. Award recipients were chosen by voting among lawyers and judges from around the state.

## 1971

**Mary L. Staudenmaier**, chairman of the board of the Stephenson National Bank & Trust in Marinette, Wis., has been named to a three-year term on the board of trustees of Mount Mary College. She is a 1960 alumna of Mount Mary and was previously honored by the College's Alumnae Association with the Madonna Medal for Professional Excellence, the highest award bestowed by the association. She is also a current member of the Law School Advisory Board.



## 1974

**Mark F. Vetter** has been named in the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*. He practices labor and employment law at the Waukesha, Wis., firm of Buelow Vetter Buikema Olsen & Vliet.

**James A. Wilke**, a shareholder in intellectual property practice at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee, has been elected to the Engineers and Scientists of Milwaukee Board of Directors. He is the first patent attorney to serve on the board. Wilke is teaching a course, "Intellectual Property for Engineers," at Marquette University College of Engineering.

## 1976

**Thomas L. Frenn**, shareholder with Petrie & Stocking in Milwaukee, was named a "Leader in the Law" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. Frenn is a past chair and longtime member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Business Law Section and served as the inaugural chair of its Nonprofit Organizations Committee.

## 1977

**Michael P. Sand** has retired after a 31-year career in law. He is now pursuing his favorite avocation, real estate, as a buyer broker with Sotheby's International Realty in Bozeman, Mont. Sand is a past president of the Montana Trial Lawyers Association and is on the staff at Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College.

## 1978

**Roy E. Wagner**, shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, was reelected to serve his second term as the chairperson of the Construction and Public Contract Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin. He previously received the 2008 Charles Dunn Author Award during the Annual State Bar Convention, presented by Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson. Wagner and coauthor Terry Peppard were selected to receive the award by the State Bar Communications Committee for their article, "Mediating Complex Construction Claims."

## 1980

**John P. Macy** received a 2009 "Leader in the Law" award from the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. He is a shareholder in the firm of Arenz, Molter, Macy & Riffle, Waukesha, Wis. Macy represents scores of cities, villages, towns, and districts throughout southeastern Wisconsin. He is a frequent instructor for municipal law seminars sponsored by the League of



## SAVE THE DATE

Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall, the Law School's new home, will be dedicated on Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, and the Wisconsin Association of Assessing Officers.

**Daniel G. Vliet** has been named to the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*. He practices labor and employment law at the Waukesha, Wis., firm of Buelow Vetter Buikema Olsen & Vliet. The American Bar Association has appointed him as the Membership Development Committee Employer Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section.

### 1981

**Barbara J. Janaszek** was recently named a "Super Lawyer" by *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* magazine. She is with the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek and focuses her practice on business litigation.

**José A. Olivieri** received the Fran Swigart Board Leadership Award from the Volunteer Center of Milwaukee. He is only the second recipient of this award named in honor of one of Milwaukee's most respected volunteer leaders. Olivieri's current and past board service has benefited the United Community Center, Lutheran Social Services, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Milwaukee Community Service Corp., and the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, among others. He has also served on various community-based commissions and councils. In his law practice at Michael Best & Friedrich, he counsels management in labor and employment law matters.

**John O. (Jack) Skagerberg** has joined the national accounting and financial services firm of Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates (TCBA), Washington, D.C., as a senior executive. TCBA is one of only eight firms approved nationwide as a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Resolution Asset Contractor. TCBA assists the FDIC with bank liquidation services. At TCBA, Skagerberg leads bank takeovers and liquidations, working alongside the FDIC and other TCBA professionals.

### 1982

**Robert H. Buikema** has been named in the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*. He practices labor and employment law at the Waukesha, Wis., firm of Buelow Vetter Buikema Olsen & Vliet.

**Donald W. Layden, Jr.**, has joined the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady LLP as a partner with the Corporate Services Group. He will focus his practice on corporate law, with an emphasis on clients in the technology and business services areas. He serves as chair of the Law School Advisory Board.

**Ulice Payne, Jr.**, former president of the Milwaukee Brewers, was unanimously elected to serve a two-year term as board chairman of the YMCA of the USA, beginning in February 2010. Payne joined the board in 2005. The board establishes policy and strategic direction for the YMCA of the USA, which is the national resource office for the nation's 2,686 YMCAs. Payne heads daily operations for the consulting firm, Addison-Clifton, LLC, an advisor on global trade compliance. An active community and

business leader, he also serves on the board of trustees for Marquette University.

### 1984

**Brian G. Carroll** is a new shareholder at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. His areas of practice are in business law and health care.



He has served as general corporate counsel to several corporations and health care organizations. He practiced for more than 25 years in Waukesha County. Carroll is a past

president of the Waukesha County Bar Association and currently serves on the board of directors of ISB Community Bank, the Waukesha County Action Network, the Waukesha County Community Foundation, and the Waukesha Memorial Hospital Foundation.

**Jean W. DiMotto**, Milwaukee County Circuit Judge, was honored with the Excellence in Volunteering Award from Nia Imani Family, Inc., a residential agency helping single mothers with addictions to learn healthy living, parenting, and job skills.

**Stephanie S. Rothstein** was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle as judge for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. She began serving in March 2009 and has been subsequently elected to a six-year term. She served for 25 years in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office. She and husband, **Gregory**, L'84, live in Whitefish Bay, Wis. with their children, Jacqueline, Grace, and Leah.

### 1987

**Brian R. Smigelski** has become a partner at DeWitt Ross & Stevens in Brookfield,



Wis. He has joined the Litigation, Construction, and Labor and Employment Relations Groups. His practice is focused on the area of commercial litigation in state and federal

trial and appellate courts, as well as in arbitration proceedings. He has served as both the Litigation Section chairperson and as a committee chairperson for the Milwaukee Bar Association, as well as chairperson of the



State Bar's Lawyer Referral and Information Services Committee.

## 1988

**Jerome G. Grzeca**, founding and managing partner at Grzeca Law Group, an immigration law firm, was recently selected as a recipient of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) President's Commendation for Outstanding Leadership.

**Ann M. Rieger**, the first female president of Davis & Kuelthau, was recently named as a Women in the Law honoree by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. She and her husband, Tom, have three daughters and live in Brookfield, Wis.

## 1991

**Shawn M. Govern** has joined DeWitt Ross & Stevens as a partner in the Brookfield office, with the Litigation, Business, and Real Estate Groups. He focuses his practice primarily on representing businesses (family-owned, as well as large companies), banks, real estate developers, franchisees, and corporate clients.

## 1993



**Steven R. Glaser** has joined The Schroeder Group of Waukesha as a shareholder. He has over 15 years of experience in assisting businesses to solve their legal problems and

providing practical and efficient business solutions.

**Leah J. Poulos Mueller** was inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame on September 24, 2009. She garnered more than 65 Olympic, world, and international speedskating medals and titles during an illustrious career that spanned 12 competitive years and three Olympic teams. During her international career, she not only broke world records on the ice but also helped establish programs that benefit United States Olympic athletes today. She is currently a practicing attorney in Waukesha, Wis.

## 1994

**Michael H. Doyle**, a certified financial planner, has been promoted to director of development at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Before joining Loras in 2007 as senior development officer, he worked in financial planning with careers at Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Ernst & Young, and Richardson Financial Group.

**Kimberly K. Stoll** was elected a corporate officer, vice president of marketing, by Badger Meter, Inc., Milwaukee, through its board of directors. She most recently served as director of utility marketing at Badger Meter.

## 1995

**Scott B. Franklin** and wife, Amber, are the proud parents of twin girls, Melanie Jordan and Laci Jillian, born December 12, 2008. The family makes its home in Mequon, Wis. He is a third-generation certified public accountant and a second-generation attorney. He is with Kohler and Franklin, CPA, Milwaukee.

## 1997

**Chad W. Kopljen** has been awarded a direct commission in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as a judge advocate general corps officer. He is serving as an assistant staff judge advocate in the 64th Troop Command.

## 1998

**Daniel J. Finerty** has joined the Labor and Employment Practice Group in the Milwaukee office of Godfrey & Kahn. He will continue to practice labor and employment law with a focus on employment litigation and restrictive covenant litigation. In addition, he regularly advises clients on how labor and employment-related legislative developments may affect their business.

**Willem J. Noorlander** has been named shareholder in the litigation department of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee.

## 1999

**Michael D. Cicchini** coauthored a book, *But They Didn't Read Me My Rights!: Myths, Oddities, and Lies About Our Legal System*, which is being published by Prometheus Books. Cicchini wrote the book with Amy B. Kusher, lecturer in English at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Cicchini's practice, based in Kenosha, focuses on criminal law.

**James P. Denis III** has been named shareholder in the Litigation Department of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee.

**Gregory E. Erchull** has joined Chernov, Stern & Krings, Milwaukee, as a shareholder. He focuses his practice on commercial and residential real estate transactions, including lease issues and zoning concerns.

**Daniel S. Galligan** of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, Milwaukee, was recently named one of Wisconsin's Rising Stars by *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* magazine. His area of practice is business/corporate law.

**Jeffrey P. Greipp** has been appointed as chief legal counsel for the recently established National Prosecutors' Resource Center in Washington, D.C., where he provides training and technical assistance to prosecutors throughout the country and serves as a liaison to Congress and state legislatures.

**Brent D. Nistler** recently opened a second office in Brookfield, Wis. Before founding Nistler Law Office, he served as a Milwaukee County assistant district attorney and was also employed as a litigator at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. Nistler has been named a Rising Star by *Law and Politics* magazine.

**Mary T. Wagner**, a criminal prosecutor, in Sheboygan County, Wis., has written and received a number of awards for *Running with Stiletos: Living a Balanced Life in Dangerous Shoes*, a collection of essays on making life meaningful. A second book, *Heck on Heels: Still Balancing on Shoes, Love, and Chocolate!* was published in November 2009.



**Jascha Beck Walter** became a partner in the Brookfield office of DeWitt Ross & Stevens. He practices in the areas of business, information technology, and intellectual property. The national

publication *Law & Politics* has recognized him as a Rising Star.

## Sailing an impressive course

Frank L. Steeves admits that he applied to law school so he could put off the time when he had to get a real job. Maybe he's making up for lost time with his real job now—senior vice president, secretary, and chief legal officer of Emerson, a St. Louis-based Fortune 100 company employing 140,000 people and operating in 150 countries.

Obviously, Steeves found more in law school than a place to avoid reality. For one thing, he found a way to have a significant impact, first in Milwaukee for many years and now on a global stage.

Steeves's family moved to Milwaukee from Vermont when Frank was in high school and his father was named dean of the School of Education at Marquette University. It was a given, then, that the younger Steeves would attend Marquette for his undergraduate studies. He graduated with a degree in political science in 1976 and applied to law school.

"I figured that going to law school would give me a three-year reprieve," he quipped. "I had no knowledge of the legal profession whatsoever. My family had never dealt with lawyers, and no one in my family had been a lawyer. We had never even known a lawyer!"

Steeves was particularly influenced by two professors—Jack Kircher and the late Charles W. Mentkowski—but for very different reasons.

"To survive in Jack's course, I had to know the material. To know the material, I had to understand contracts and statutes. That took time," Steeves explained. "Jack was careful and organized in his teaching methods. This taught me that the most complex of areas can be learned if approached logically. It also opened up the insurance law world to me, which I found I liked quite a bit."

As for Mentkowski, Steeves said, "While I respected Chuck Mentkowski when I was a student, I loved him

in the years after I graduated. As with Jack Kircher, he was a great teacher, but he also had a rarely understood but always-present support for his students, unmatched by anyone I have met since. He was patient with me, always looked for opportunities for me, and, most important, always believed in me. Nothing is a better motivator than having someone whom you respect believe in your abilities."

Steeves graduated from Marquette Law School in 1979. He began his legal career as a staff attorney in the juvenile division of the State Public Defender's Office in Milwaukee. "I met with families, worked with wonderfully dedicated lawyers, saw countless instances of unsolvable tragedy, and, hope that, on occasion, I have made a difference in a young person's life," he said. "I am not sure which job, the one I have now or the one I had then, was or is more satisfying. I view both as equally important and with much to offer."

He subsequently became an insurance lawyer. In 21 years at the firm that became Crivello, Carlson, Mentkowski & Steeves, he became one of Milwaukee's highest-profile risk-management and insurance-defense lawyers. Steeves resigned from the firm in 2001 to join von Briesen & Roper, and became vice chairman of that firm in 2004. During his years at von Briesen & Roper, he developed a strong client base of insurance companies and manufacturers.

Emerson had been a client early in his career, and his role with the international company gradually expanded from handling Wisconsin cases to one with responsibilities across more than 1,200 locations where Emerson has operations. "This gave me exposure to Emerson's board, and I became friends with some of its members, including its then-chairman, Chuck Knight, the chairman of its audit committee, August A. Busch III, and Randall

“Practicing law can be the best job in the world. It allows you to use your intellect to make a direct impact on clients and the community.”

Stephenson, chairman of AT&T,” Steeves said. “When my predecessor retired, I was asked if I was interested in applying. At first, I said ‘no’; a year later I said ‘yes.’”

Steeves accepted his current position in March 2007. He now deals with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the New York Stock Exchange, trade regulators, intellectual property experts, U.S. and foreign government cabinet-level ministers, and members of the foreign judiciary—particularly in Russia (Emerson has 30 sites in Russia) and in China (Emerson has more than 40,000 employees in China). Emerson is a global leader in bringing technology and engineering together to serve customers through its network power, process management, industrial automation, climate technologies, and appliance and tools businesses.

“Every single day I use all the tools I learned in my almost 30 years of practice in Milwaukee,” Steeves said. “Among these are to fight a rush to judgment; the importance of separating fact from guesswork; the recognition of talent in students, young lawyers, support staff, investigators, and engineers; and, most important, to respect all others no matter their background, position, history, and no matter what opinions others may have shared.”

Steeves has two adult children and lives in St. Louis. When he lived in Milwaukee, his hobbies were reading, carpentry, and boating. “In St. Louis,” he said, “we have books and wood, but not water in the same way, so I



Steeves is pictured during construction of the *SV Denis Sullivan*, the schooner whose home is at Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin in Milwaukee, a project that he was instrumental in establishing.

replaced the boat with an aircraft, and I now fly myself back to Wisconsin when possible.” He also makes time to continue his work with the Discovery World Museum on Milwaukee’s lakefront (an initiative he helped establish, initially as the Lake Schooner project). In St. Louis, he was appointed to serve on the executive committee of the Missouri Historical Museum and was appointed by the Missouri governor to represent Missouri in the Chicago-St. Louis high-speed rail initiative.

“Practicing law can be the best job in the world,” he said. “It allows you to use your intellect to make a direct impact on clients and the community.” Obviously, Steeves’s personal philosophy includes taking his work seriously. But it goes well beyond that. He said, “Also have as much fun as possible in everything you do, and never, ever, allow yourself to be reduced to the role of cynic—life is way too short to be wasted in that way.”

## 2000

**Amy M. Ciepluch** has made partner in the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady. Her practice concentrates in the areas of employee benefits and executive compensation, where she provides ongoing counseling on all benefit plan types, both for profit and not-for-profit entities.

**Sara Dastgheib-Vinarov** is a partner in the Chicago office of Quarles & Brady. She focuses her practice on intellectual property. She works with clients to procure and manage worldwide patent portfolios in a variety of life science areas.

**BrookEllen Teuber**, prosecutor at the Jefferson County District Attorney's office, was named an honoree for Women in the Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. For the past decade, she has tried domestic violence, rape, and murder cases.

## 2001

**Nicole S. Elver** has joined the Louisville, Ky., law firm of Middleton Reutlinger. She practices in the firm's litigation section,



concentrating in the areas of commercial litigation and insurance defense litigation. She was an attorney in the Division of Enforcement of the Securities and Exchange

Commission in Washington, D.C., for more than seven years.

**Jim Sullivan**, who represents Wisconsin's 5th District in the State Senate, has been reappointed to a second term as a commissioner of the Midwestern Higher



Education Compact. His term will run to 2011. The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) is one of four statutory compacts created for the purpose of advancing higher

education through cooperation and resource sharing across 12 states.

## 2002

**Grant T. Huebner**, Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, has been named one of the *Wisconsin Law Journal's* "Up and Coming Lawyers."

## 2010 Alumni Awards winners honored



With several hundred family members and friends looking on, four distinguished alumni of Marquette University Law School received recognition for their accomplishments April 22 at the Marquette Alumni Memorial Union. Pictured left to right: Ulice Payne Jr., L'82, who received the Alumnus of the Year Award; Catherine A. Ritterbusch, L'00, who received the Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award; Michael T. Sneathern, L'02, who received the Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumnus of the Year Award; Donald A. Levy, L'60, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award; Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., president of Marquette; and Richard M. McDermott, L'94, president of the Law School Alumni Association.



**Paula Davis-Laack** has launched a new company focused on helping lawyers and professionals live full-time lives. The business is called The Marie Elizabeth Company and has a website: marieelizabethcompany.com.

**Geoffrey A. Lacy** has been named to the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*. He practices immigration law and labor and employment law in the Green Bay office of Davis & Kuelthau.

## 2003

**William E. Fischer**, with Kohner, Mann & Kailas, Milwaukee, has been named by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* as an "Up and Coming Lawyer."

**Ryan E. Ruzziconi** of Swartz Creek, Mich., has been appointed general counsel of Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy.

**Jessica M. Zeratsky** is a member of the Banking, Bankruptcy, Business Restructuring and Real Estate Practice Group at von Briesen & Roper in Milwaukee. She focuses her practice on commercial and bankruptcy litigation, business restructuring, loan documentation, workouts, and general debtor and creditor law. Zeratsky and her husband, **Matthew Zeratsky**, L'06, reside in Menomonee Falls, Wis.

**Cindy L. Fryda (Zubrod)** has been recognized as a Rising Star in *Wisconsin Super Lawyers*. She also participated in and graduated from Leadership Waukesha, a nine-month program sponsored by the Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce. She is with The Schroeder Group of Waukesha, Wis.

## 2004

**Jane E. Appleby** has been elected for a three-year term to the Milwaukee Bar Association's Judicial Committee, which evaluates candidates for judicial appointments. Her



practice at Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee focuses on general civil and commercial litigation. She has experience in legal ethics and disability benefits and is an appointed member of the State Bar of

Wisconsin's Standing Ethics Committee.

**Thomas J. Krumenacher**, patent attorney with the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady, has been named chairman of the Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce



Board of Directors. He also chairs the board's executive committee. Krumenacher is also a board member of the Milwaukee School of Engineering Alumni Association Board of

Directors and chairman of the City of Pewaukee Board of Review.

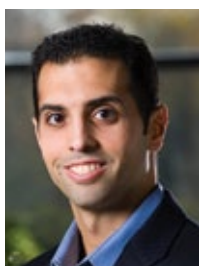
**Daphne C. Roy**, Milwaukee, has joined U.S. Bancorp Fund Services as a 1940 Act attorney.

**John J. Schulze, Jr.**, served on the steering committee for the 2009 Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Conference in Milwaukee. The conference, in its seventh year, brought together over 400 Wisconsin entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors to network and participate in events.

**Deborah G. Spanic**, Johnson Controls, Milwaukee, was named a Rising Star by *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* magazine. She focuses her practice on information technology/outsourcing.

## 2005

**Dino Antonopoulos** has joined The Schroeder Group, of Waukesha, Wis. He



brings experience in the areas of commercial and civil litigation, corporate and business law, and employment and real estate matters.

Antonopoulos is on the board of

directors for the Brookfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, Brookfield, Wis.

**Elizabeth A. Conradson Cleary**, Milwaukee City Attorney's Office, has been named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.

**Lindsey R. King** has been elected to the board of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Wisconsin. She is an associate in the Milwaukee firm of Petrie & Stocking,

where she practices primarily in litigation with a focus on labor and employment law.

**Rudolph J. Kuss**, Law Offices of Daniel W. Stevens, Milwaukee, has been named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.

**Katherine M. Longley** has been named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. She is with the Milwaukee office of Foley & Lardner.

**Jeremy R. McKenzie**, Davis & Kuelthau, Milwaukee, has been named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.

**Theodore J. Perlick-Molinari** has been named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. He is with Birdsall Law Offices in Milwaukee.

## 2006

**Steven C. McGaver** has been elected to the board of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Wisconsin. He is an associate with the Milwaukee law firm of Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, where he focuses his litigation-oriented practice on criminal, civil, municipal, and licensing matters.

**Chad E. Novak** is with Old Republic National Title Insurance Company in Minneapolis, Minn. He and **Sarah Fassbender**, also class of 2006, were married in St. Paul, Minn., on October 3, 2009.

**Mathew D. Pauley** is living in Chicago, Ill., where he has a post-doctoral fellowship in the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine.

**Jaime L. Sitton** has joined the St. Louis, Mo., firm of Sandberg Phoenix & von



Gontard as an associate. She concentrates her practice in the area of health law—medical malpractice. She is licensed to practice in Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin.



## PROFILE: Terry Fox

## Gaining from family roots and

## 2007

**Mark S. Kapocius** has been named director of Human Resources and Special Services for the School District of Whitefish Bay. He makes his home in Greendale, Wis., where he was elected municipal judge in 2008.

## 2008

**Nathan G. Erickson** has joined von Briesen & Roper as a member of the Business Practice Group, where he focuses on general corporate law, securities, and the purchase, sale, and leasing of commercial real estate. He resides in Glendale with his wife, **Stephanie Erickson**, L'05.

**Sally A. Ihlenfeld** is a member of the Health Care Practice Group at von Briesen & Roper in Milwaukee. She focuses her practice on general health law, including medical staff, risk management, and patient care matters. She resides in St. Francis, Wis.

**Jeffrey A. Morris** is an associate in the Environmental and Real Estate Practice in the Waukesha, Wis., office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. Previously, he served Reinhart as a consultant. He is also a licensed professional engineer.

**Michael F. Tuchalski** has joined Nistler Law Office, in Milwaukee and Brookfield, Wis., as an associate.

## 2009

**Patrick J. Bodden** has joined the firm of Ruder Ware in Wausau, Wis., where he will advise business owners and individuals in all aspects of business and personal planning.

**Jay S. Einerson** has joined Michael Best & Friedrich in Milwaukee as an associate with the Intellectual Property Practice Group. Before joining the firm, Einerson was an electronics and software engineer and an engineering manager for Fortune 100 companies, small technology companies, and start-ups.

Terry Fox, L'84, is a third-generation lawyer. His father and his grandfather are both attorneys, but that's not all. Terry is the youngest of seven children, and five of them are lawyers (his sister Rosemary is a 1980 grad of Marquette Law School), as are many cousins and other relatives. It was not, however, a given that he would follow in their footsteps.

Originally from Chilton, Wisconsin, Fox attended UW-Milwaukee, where he earned degrees in history and political science. After graduating in 1977, he returned to his hometown to serve two two-year elected terms as the Register of Deeds, while considering whether to follow the family tradition of a legal career.

When he decided the answer was “yes,” he was off to Marquette Law School. There, Fox enjoyed the academic rigor and the camaraderie of law school. After graduating, Fox joined a small firm in his hometown, where he practiced for three years. “It was an established firm in the community where my father and grandfather practiced, so it was an easy transition and a comfortable place to be,” he explained.

After considering a move to Dallas, Fox decided in 1987 to join the firm of Dewane, Dewane & Kummer in Manitowoc. Then in 2000, after 13 years of practicing together and enjoying tremendous growth, a few of the partners separated and formed Kummer, Lambert & Fox, the firm he is with today. “We are a general-practice firm. I do primarily business transactional law, succession, and estate planning,” Fox said. “The ability to truly help someone solve a problem, especially in a small town where I know and respect the people we serve, is very gratifying.” The flip side of that is when he has to tell people things they don't want to hear. “It's tough sometimes and frustrating when we are limited by what we can do to help people out of their difficult legal situations,” he said. As difficult as it is sometimes, Fox related, the most important principle by which he lives is to speak the truth. “You have to live by what you say,” he said. “In our profession, it is sometimes challenging, but essential.”

At a point in his career when many people start to think of retirement, something wonderfully unexpected happened for Fox. In a convergence of talent, foresight, and friendship, he and three friends from Manitowoc recognized the nation's challenge with developing a renewable energy source and saw an opportunity. The answer was blowing in the wind.

In 2003, Tower Tech Systems, Inc., was formed. “We started to manufacture support structures for wind turbines. Through

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## blowing winds



Terry Fox is pictured with portions of the wind turbine towers that are manufactured in Manitowoc.

a serendipitous combination of work and luck, we attracted an investor; acquired a gear manufacturing business in Cicero, Illinois, and Pittsburgh, and a fabrication business in Manitowoc; and added a maintenance division located in South Dakota and later a transportation division in Clintonville, Wisconsin, to actually transport the wind towers,” explained Fox. Three years later, their company went public, it is now traded on NASDAQ as Broadwind Energy, Inc. (BWEN).

“We divided up the legal, real estate, accounting, engineering, and administrative responsibilities based on what we were all best at,” explained Fox. “I never thought anything like this would have been probable or possible.” He is no longer an officer in the company but does sit on its board.

Fox and his wife, Paula Engler, have two young sons ages 12 and 10 who keep them busy. Their free time is spent watching the boys play baseball four nights

a week in the summer, golfing with them, traveling, and hunting. “I don’t ever anticipate a sedentary life,” said Fox.

As he contemplates winding down his legal practice, Fox looks forward to spending more time on charitable endeavors in his community. He is involved with the Green Bay Diocese and is on the board of the endowment trust for a sheltered workshop that employs developmentally disabled adults who provide contract work for manufacturers.

He also plans on getting more involved with activities at the Law School, whose transformation he

admires. “The new programs that are being offered are fascinating, especially the program being developed in water law. Marquette will be one of the few schools in the country that has the staff and the ability to foster that specialty. What a credit to the Law School and something to be very proud of,” Fox said.

He is equally impressed with the emerging new facility. “Eckstein Hall is going to be a model for other schools across the country,” he said. “Dean Kearney’s vision, which has been driving this effort, is reflected not only in the physical aspects of the building but also in the dedication to the quality of the education provided to the students, programs for the entire community, including continuing legal education for attorneys and other professionals.”

A visionary in his own right, Terry Fox knows a good thing when he sees it.

**Jessica A. Franklin** has joined the Godfrey & Kahn Milwaukee office as an associate in the environmental practice group.

**Jonathan W. Fritz** has joined the Labor and Employment Practice of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee.



**Olivia M. Kelley** has joined DeWitt Ross & Stevens as an associate in its Litigation, Business, and Tax Groups in the Brookfield, Wis., office.

**Christopher M. King** is an associate at Michael Best & Friedrich in Milwaukee with the Intellectual Property Practice Group.

**Kevin P. Rizzuto** has joined the Intellectual Property Practice Group of Michael Best & Friedrich, Milwaukee, as an associate. Before joining the firm, Kevin worked as a patent examiner for the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

**Christopher G. Smessaert** is an associate in the litigation group of Godfrey & Kahn in Appleton.

**Joshuah R. Torres** has joined Godfrey & Kahn in Milwaukee, as an associate with the Financial Institutions Group.

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## PROFILE: Ann M. Rieger

# Second-generation success

It's a pattern that has run through generations of immigrants of many different ethnicities: For the newcomers, hard, physical work was the way to get established in America. But for their children, education was the way to make it. The path for Ann M. (Roccapalumba) Rieger, L'88, follows that course. But there was a sad twist to Rieger's story that could have knocked her off the road to success.

Rieger was born in Milwaukee to Italian immigrants who came from Porticello, a small fishing village in Sicily. "My father was a house painter, a grocer, jukebox repair man, and probably a lot more that I don't even know about," Rieger recalled. "In short, whatever it took to make a living."

But her father died when she was two years old. While some would say that she then was raised by a single mother, Rieger said that was not really the case. "I was raised in a typical Italian household on the east side of Milwaukee, which meant a very large extended family," she said. She lived with her mother and grandparents in the lower unit of a duplex, and her aunt, uncle, and





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## story based on hard work and strong values

cousins lived in the upper unit. When the upstairs relatives moved out, her mother's cousins, who also had immigrated, moved in. She likens her childhood to the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, "but without the lamb on a spit in the front yard."

Rieger's mother, who never remarried, had to support herself and her daughter. "My mother worked in factories, first as a seamstress and then in basic production work," Rieger said. Neither of her parents had the opportunity to go to college, but it was a dream they had for their daughter. The value of an education was stressed to her—education was something that could never be taken away.

The family moved to Brookfield for her high school years, and she took the first step toward fulfilling her parents' dream by enrolling in Marquette University. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1985. She said she enjoyed her undergraduate experience so much that she did not think about enrolling anywhere else when she decided to go to law school.

Her law school years had significant and lasting impact. "The core values that were instilled in me at Marquette—doing my best and always doing what is right—follow me silently wherever I go," Rieger said. "While every institution of higher learning teaches any number of technical skills, Marquette provided an ethical education that permeates everything I do. I did not fully appreciate that until I had been working in the real world for a number of years."

Rieger also has lighthearted memories of law school such as this one: "My maiden name is Roccapalumba. While it is pronounced quite phonetically, it is intimidating by its length. During my first semester in law school, it often appeared that some of my law school professors would look at the name and proceed to call the name of the classmate to my left or right, but not me, when asking a question of the class. Ultimately, I waited three months to have a law school professor even attempt to state my last name—Roccapalumba. I do recall that Professor Blinka pronounced it perfectly!"

Upon earning her law degree in 1988, she began her career at Cook & Franke and became a shareholder in 1996. She moved her practice to Davis & Kuelthau in 2000. "Since the very beginning of my move to Davis & Kuelthau, I became involved in the backroom functions of running a law firm. This included service on a number of the firm's committees, including recruiting and finance," she said.

For many years, Rieger recruited law students from Marquette for participation in summer clerkship programs. "I was always fascinated to hear the stories about what changed and what remained the same in the many years since I graduated from law school. We have had many Marquette students clerk with Davis & Kuelthau who have gone on to become practicing attorneys with the firm."

Rieger became the head of the corporate team in 2006, a member of the firm's board of directors in 2007, and president of the firm in 2008. While firm administration is a significant part of her position, she continues to work directly with clients on a regular basis. Her practice is focused on corporate law, nonprofit law, estate planning, and succession planning for closely held business owners.

She and her husband, Thomas A. Rieger, Arts '85, have been married for more than 21 years and have three daughters. They share a passion for Marquette basketball and, in their leisure time, also follow a number of professional Wisconsin sport teams, as well their daughters' school teams.

She recently served on the planning committee for her law school class reunion. She is also involved in community and parish activities. However, much of Rieger's community service is dedicated to educational efforts such as Economics Wisconsin (which teaches economics in classrooms) and the Youth Leadership Academy, a charter school located within the North Side branch of the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee. After all, she is grateful for how her own family instilled in her the value of education. Now she aims to pass on the message.

## Serving Wisconsin from the bench

“Who would have predicted that a girl who grew up sweeping floors in her parents’ hardware store would become a Supreme Court justice?” That is how Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler, L’89, summarizes the path of her life. In 2007, she became the 80th justice (and the sixth female) elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Ziegler grew up just outside of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was raised, along with three siblings, by hard-working parents. According to Thomas Edison, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work,” but Ziegler’s parents were not “most people.” She learned the value of hard work by their example. She earned business administration and psychology degrees from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Upon the advice of a college guidance counselor, she reconsidered her plan to earn an MBA and decided to seek a law degree instead.

She had never been to Milwaukee but took quickly to Marquette Law School and the city when she visited. “I felt an immediate connection when I first came to Marquette,” she said. “Not only did I believe that I would obtain a solid legal education, but I was excited to be part of the Milwaukee community. It turned out to be a perfect fit, for which I am eternally grateful.”

Ziegler initially intended to use her law degree in a business setting. That changed between her first and second year of law school when she worked as a clerk for personal injury attorneys at Samster, Aiken & Mawicke. “The manner in which those

attorneys used their legal talents to help people truly inspired me to practice law,” she said. Still, she wanted to be involved in the business aspect of the law because of her background with her family business and her business degree.

At the beginning of her second year of law school, she began clerking with O’Neil, Cannon & Hollman, where she gained valuable experience in business law. She was offered an associate position with the firm and, upon graduation, practiced in the area of corporate and business litigation, as well as the areas of real estate transactions, tax, personal injury, product liability, and family law. In 1992, she became a special prosecutor with the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s office, handling thousands of criminal matters. Several years later, she was hired as an assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, followed by another term of service with the Milwaukee District Attorney’s office on a joint federal-state project.

Ziegler was appointed by then-Governor Tommy G. Thompson to the Washington County Circuit Court in 1997 and became the first female judge in that county. She was elected in 1998 and reelected in 2004. “I loved sitting on the circuit court bench. It allowed me to help people through very difficult situations. Most people who come to court are very intimidated by the experience and at a difficult point in their lives. As a judge, I could really help them move forward. I have always strived to treat all people with dignity and respect and ensure that they receive equal treatment and justice under the law.”

“[O]ne can be humane and still serve as a zealous advocate or a good judge. I believe that it is critically important to be a decent human being and engage in random acts of kindness.”



In the decade she was on the circuit court bench, Ziegler was assigned more than 32,000 cases of all kinds—civil, criminal, family, juvenile, probate, and more. “That provided a solid base of knowledge in virtually every area of the law and, combined with my other judicial activities, was helpful to me when I decided to run for the Supreme Court,” she said.

A Supreme Court seat opened when Justice Jon Wilcox announced he would retire at the end of his term in 2007. “At that point, I had been on the bench for 10 years and thought that, as a justice, I could make a valuable contribution to the court and the citizens of this state,” Ziegler said. “I could impart the perspective of a trial court judge. I thought I’d let the voters decide.”

And they did. She received 58.6 percent of the vote over Madison attorney Linda Clifford in the contentious general election.

“I’ve been working hard ever since to make the people of the whole state proud that they elected me,” Ziegler said.

Ziegler said she enjoys her work a great deal and is very aware that the work of the court affects the people of this state in a fundamental and personal way. “I care very much about the future of our state, what it will be like for my children, other people’s children, and the people who live here,” she said. “I am doing my very best to get it right.”

Ziegler believes that her experience as a trial court judge, coupled with her Marquette Law School education, prepared her well for the high court. “I would recommend pursuing a Marquette University law degree to anyone who is interested in a legal education,” she said.

She is married to J. J. Ziegler, and they and their three children live in West Bend, Wisconsin. Ziegler and her family enjoy outdoor family activities and are dedicated to conservation. She and her husband are supportive of numerous charitable organizations in the community and their parish. She also serves on the

Marquette University Law School Advisory Board and the Marquette University Centennial Celebration of Women Honorary Committee. She is a fellow of the American Bar Association and a member of the American Law Institute. She has hired three law clerks from Marquette and has had several Marquette interns since she became a justice.

Ziegler said, “The single most important thing I have learned is that one can be humane and still serve as a zealous advocate or a good judge. I believe that it is critically important to be a decent human being and engage in random acts of kindness. It is contagious. . . . Lawyers have the unique opportunity to make the world a better place. We need to take that responsibility very seriously.”