



Tracey Klein: Leading Through the Art of Governance

What do you get when you cross a lawyer whose specialties include corporate governance with an arts lover?

You get Tracey Klein, chair of the governance committee of Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre, chair of the governance committee of the Milwaukee Film Festival, and former board member for the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield, Wis.

Add to that: cabinet member of United Way of Greater Milwaukee, former member of the board of the Elmbrook Swim Club, past president of TEMPO Milwaukee (a professional women's organization), former board member of the American Red Cross-Milwaukee Chapter, current member of the Wisconsin First Lady Advisory Council, American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest Volunteer of the Year for 2012 (along with her husband, Rick). The list goes on.

But stick to the arts for the moment: Klein says she loves musicals, she loves film—she loves being in touch with “the creative sides of the world.” You're not going to find her on stage, but she is committed to using her own talent and abilities to help arts organizations operate effectively.

It is a skill that comes from her day job. Corporate governance is one aspect of Klein's practice at the Milwaukee firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, where she is co-chair of the health care practice, chair of the hospital and health care systems group, and co-chair of the government relations group. In other words, she has developed a successful career specializing in clients in the health industry.

“It's been a tremendous specialty to be involved in,” Klein says. What's good about it? She gives two answers: Almost all of the clients are nonprofits, “mission-driven clients who are trying to do the right thing.” And she finds a lot of variety in the issues she works on—employee matters, transactions (including multimillion-dollar construction projects), contracts, and issues around patient treatment.

It's also the kind of specialty that has allowed her to live what she calls a balanced life—mother of two children (both in their 20s now), committed community volunteer, and someone with enthusiasm for many interests.

Klein's career and life could have taken a much different direction. She grew up in Delafield, Wis.,

and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in political science and a passion for politics. She worked as an aide to two Republican members of the Wisconsin Assembly and, for a year after college, as a staffer for the Wisconsin Republican Party. She wanted to pursue a career in politics and decided that a law degree would help.

That led Klein to Marquette Law School, where her involvements included an internship with the late Judge John Coffey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Coffey advised her to be a lawyer first and a politician later. She graduated from the Law School in 1984 and took his advice. Klein is glad she did. She still has strong involvement as a political volunteer, but her legal career is bringing her satisfaction.

Klein says she is fortunate to have clients who want to hear not only advice on legal aspects of an issue, but counsel on what is the right thing to do. For example, she alludes to a situation at a hospital in another state where one doctor had a mixed track record in performing a particular procedure. She explains that she was able to help leaders of the hospital keep the interests of the patients at the top of their priorities in deciding how to deal with the situation.

“There are some moments when I think, ‘I’m going to make a difference here,’” Klein says. The evidence is considerable that that is an understatement. ■

1967

Wayne Brogelman has been elected to the board of directors of Historic Fraser, Inc., in Fraser, Colo., which hopes to acquire part of a ranch regularly visited by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and to open it as the Eisenhower Western White House and Heritage Center.

1970

Brian T. O’Connor received the Arbitrator of the Year Award from the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois at the group’s annual meeting. Since being certified in 2011 as a Better Business Bureau Auto Line Arbitrator, he has arbitrated more than a dozen Auto Line cases, in addition to other consumer matters.

1972



Terrence P. Cahill received the M Club Hy Popuch Memorial Service Award from the Marquette University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in an April ceremony at the Al McGuire Center.

Michael F. Hupy recently celebrated more than 40 years of providing legal services when his firm, Hupy & Abraham, opened offices in Iowa (Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and the Quad Cities). Hupy’s philanthropic interests include tuition support at St. Marcus School in Milwaukee.

1976

Mark S. Young has been appointed president of After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, a nonprofit organization providing free support to Milwaukee women affected by breast cancer and to their families. Young is a shareholder in the Milwaukee office of Habush Habush & Rottier, focusing on personal injury cases.

1981



Kay Nord Hunt was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Citation from Gustavus Adolphus College by Barry O’Neil, a fellow Adolphus alum and colleague at the Minneapolis law firm

Lommen Abdo. Hunt is only the 11th person in the area of law to receive the award in its 58-year history.

1983

Paul T. Dacier has been elected president of the Boston Bar Association for the year beginning in September.



Francis D. Schmitz has retired from the U.S. Department of Justice after 29 years. During most of that time, he served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Milwaukee; he also served for five years in

the department’s National Security Division in Washington, D.C. He has entered the private practice of law in Waukesha, Wis.

1984



Philip R. O’Brien was recently appointed to the Professionals Committee of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEFP). This

team of 16 professionals across the United States consists of accountants, actuaries, consultants, and attorneys representing the industries and crafts of the IFEFP’s professional members. O’Brien is a shareholder in the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren and a member of the Taft-Hartley group in the firm’s employee benefits practice. ▶▶

1986

Kathryn A. Keppel was recently recognized for her "Outstanding Community Service" by Centro Legal, an organization that provides affordable legal services to low-income individuals in Milwaukee. She is a partner with Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown in Milwaukee.

1987



Captain Robert Blazewick, U.S. Navy, has been appointed as circuit trial judge for the Navy-Marine Corps Southern Circuit in Jacksonville, Fla. He graduated from the

56th Military Judges' Course on May 3 in Charlottesville, Va., and transferred to his new service from his position as a professor of international law at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany.

Barb O'Brien is vice-president/president-elect of the Marquette Law Alumni Association Board for the 2013–2014 academic year.

1988

Timothy Reardon has been elected president of the Marquette Law Alumni Association Board for the 2013–2014 academic year.

Paul A. Milakovich has been elected chairman of the board of the Cream City Foundation in Milwaukee. He is associate vice president for University Advancement at Marquette University.

1990

Kelly Centofanti recently completed her term as president of the Marquette Law Alumni Association Board.

Jeffrey A. Pitman, Pitman, Kyle, Sicula & Dentice, has been admitted to the New Mexico Bar.

1991



Ruth A. Pivar has joined the Chicago office of Quarles & Brady. She is of counsel to the firm's trusts and estates practice group, where she advises clients in the areas of transfer tax, charitable

giving, dependent parent/child planning, insurance, and retirement planning.

1993

Kimberly Kolch and her husband, Juan José Cantarero, welcomed a son, Carlos David, on January 24.

1994

Christine E. Woleske, executive vice president of Bellin Health, was featured in "20 Women to Know," a story in the August edition of *You Magazine*, published by the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. She has been with Bellin since 1998, first as a compliance officer and then as vice president and general counsel before her current role.

1995

Ivanyla (Vanny) Vargas has been appointed as the director of labor relations for Orange and Rockland Utilities, an affiliate of Con Edison, Inc., serving New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

1998

Stephen J. Beaver is the new senior vice president and general counsel of Aspect Software, Inc., in Phoenix, Ariz.

2001



Michael Maxwell was appointed by Governor Scott Walker and unanimously confirmed by the Wisconsin Senate to serve on the State Public Defender Board.

Robert R. Gagan, Calewatts, Duffy & Gagan, in Green Bay, is the new president-elect of the State Bar of Wisconsin.



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Dan Abelson: A Plot Line of Public Service



Tell a compelling story. Dan Abelson has always wanted to do that.

He thought his passion would lead him into filmmaking, and he enrolled in a college—Emerson College in Boston—that was famed for its arts programs. He worked on some films, but as a career, the film industry looked unattractive. He decided to channel the storytelling impulse in different directions.

The result: He's building chapters in a compelling story of public service in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, where he grew up.

The plot turned first to computer programming. While at Emerson, Abelson learned some computer programming, and after graduating in 1997, got a full-time job in the Milwaukee area. "The work was boring as all get out," he recalls. Not such a compelling story. He could see that it was not a long-term job for him.

He considered getting a master's in business administration, but he regarded that as involving more math than he preferred. A law degree—that would be a better turn in the plot, he decided. "You can do a lot of things with a law degree," he says.

And a career in law could fit his core interest. "Whether you are making a film, writing a brief, or trying a case," he says, "you are telling a compelling story."

The plot took Abelson to Marquette Law School. It had him marrying his girlfriend, Alissa, in 2002. She has both undergraduate and master's degrees in psychology from Marquette. Dan graduated from the Law School in 2003 and accepted a clerkship with the Minnesota Supreme Court, which meant he could return to the Twin Cities. "This is where I really wanted to be," he says.

After clerking for two Supreme Court justices (including Alan Page, a member of the Pro Football

Hall of Fame), Abelson joined a midsized private firm, where the stories mostly involved construction matters. The next turn in the plot: Taking a position with the Minnesota attorney general's office for some five-plus years, working on civil cases, where (in an amusing twist) people thought he liked math and involved him in cases such as a large consumer protection suit over annuity products for senior citizens. Abelson also specialized in cases of accidents involving snowplows. "Let's just say that, in Minnesota, you won't win in the physical sense and you won't win in the legal sense, if you get in an accident with a snowplow," he says.

In 2011, the story took a turn he is finding rewarding: Abelson became associate general counsel at the Metropolitan Council, the regional government agency that operates the transit and wastewater systems in the Twin Cities and sets policy on matters including transportation, regional growth, affordable housing, and parks.

The compelling stories he tells now involve a range of issues, including environmental protection and transit, that Abelson sees as part of a tale of sound public policy.

Dan and Alissa have a son, Zach, 6, and a daughter, Georgia, 4. Zach in particular has brought out their storytelling passion. He was born a month and a half premature at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Things turned out well, and the Abelsons have become supporters of the hospital and have told others of their experiences.

Does Abelson still do anything with movies? "Not much these days," he admits. "I rarely even watch movies because you don't have time with the kids. But I do enjoy photography." Which, of course, is one more way to tell compelling stories. ■

Carol I-Ping Tsao: Learning as Pleasure



If you want a good sense of the term “lifelong learner,” think of Carol I-Ping Tsao. You could have asked her at any stage of her life, including now, what she was learning, and she would have an ambitious answer.

Tsao has a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University and a medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. She completed her internship in internal medicine at Loyola University in Chicago and came to Milwaukee to do a residency in psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. While building a successful career in psychiatry, she “decided it was time to learn something new.”

That something was the law. While still practicing full-time as a physician, she enrolled in the part-time program at Marquette Law School. “I loved being a student at Marquette Law School,” she says. After six years, she graduated in 2005.

A tenured full professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Tsao has never practiced law in a conventional sense but says that the educational experience has been valuable to her.

Tsao has two major professional roles now. She is an attending psychiatrist at the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Milwaukee, a teaching hospital affiliated with Medical College of Wisconsin. And she directs the medical student psychiatric education program at the school.

At the VA hospital, Tsao supervises the care of hospitalized patients on the locked inpatient psychiatry unit, the unlocked inpatient psychiatry unit, and the consultation liaison service. She also performs electroconvulsive therapy, a procedure she says is useful in dealing with some who have major depression, bipolar disorder, and catatonic syndrome.

Where does her law degree fit into her medical work? Tsao notes that it has opened doors to certain opportunities that might not have otherwise presented themselves, including teaching bioethics, membership on the Medical College of Wisconsin’s institutional review board, and the occasion to assist attorneys representing the VA in tort claims involving psychiatrists. But mostly she values her legal education for broader reasons.

“My legal education helps me be a better physician,” Tsao says. It provides “a different lens” to help her solve problems. “One can borrow the best of one profession and import it for use in the other.” Compared to medical education, she observes, “legal education emphasizes verbal skills.” Learning to write briefs in law school improved her analytic and writing abilities. In addition, she says, legal education emphasizes how to distinguish and differentiate while medical education emphasizes how to bring disparate things together. Both are useful in solving problems.

So was law school worthwhile? “Absolutely,” she says. “I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Though she maintains a close relationship with Marquette Law School, Tsao is involved in other community activities and learning experiences. She is an ordained deacon and elder in the Presbyterian Church and is currently serving on the governing board of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in downtown Milwaukee. She and her partner, a child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, have an eight-year-old daughter. Together, the family studies tae kwon do at JK Lee Black Belt Academy, Fox Point, during the week and boats during weekends. Tsao and her daughter are both taking piano lessons at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Of tae kwon do, boating, and piano, she says, “It’s for pure pleasure.” For that matter, she adds that “in many ways, so was law school”—the pleasure of learning and conquering new realms. ■

Mollie Newcomb has joined the legal department at Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation in Brookfield, Wis.

2003

Kirk L. Deheck has been elected shareholder at Boyle Fredrickson in Milwaukee. He focuses his practice on the preparation and prosecution of patent and trademark applications.



Amalia L. Todryk, a partner in Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee office, has been designated chair of the estate & trust section of the Milwaukee Bar Association.

John Schulze has been appointed as chief legal counsel for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

2005

Anthony Cotton and his wife, Laurel, announced the birth of their first child, Dominic Anthony, on May 8.

Jessica Johnson and **Nathan Michalski** welcomed their son, Wesley William Michalski, on June 14.

2006

Anthony J. Anzelmo has joined Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in Milwaukee as a member of the litigation practice group. His experience includes personal injury, product liability, construction defect, and professional liability defense.

Steven C. McGaver, of Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, was elected secretary of the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association.

Joseph LaDien has joined Davis & Kuelthau's Milwaukee office, focusing his practice on corporate and commercial real estate.

2007



Steven M. DeVougas, of Hinshaw & Culbertson, has been named to Lawyers of Color's inaugural "Hot List," which includes 100

early- to mid-career minority attorneys under 40 from the Midwest region.

2008

Thomas E. Howard has been appointed to the standing committee on mental health law of the Illinois State Bar Association during 2013–2014. He is in the Peoria, Ill., office of Howard & Howard, a full-service firm with a national and international practice providing legal services to businesses and business owners.

2010



Alyssa D. Dowse has joined the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady as an associate in the firm's labor and employment law practice group. She previously was with von Briesen & Roper.



Jennifer M. Jackson has joined Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee office as an associate in the corporate practice services group. Previously she practiced at

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker.

2011

Emily I. Lonergan, Milwaukee, was recognized by the State Bar of Wisconsin for her "Exemplary Performance as a Mock Trial Coach" with the Professional Learning Institute High School's mock trial team. She is an attorney at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, practicing in both civil and criminal litigation.



Amanda Pirt, of Hupy & Abraham, has been appointed vice-chair of the tort, trial and insurance practice committee of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.



Kristin M. Kaminski recently was admitted by bar examination to the practice of law in California. She joined the Nevada bar in 2011 and has since practiced

in trust and estate administration with Anderson, Dorn & Rader, in Reno, Nev.

2012

Eric V. C. Jansson has joined Jansson Munger McKinley & Shape in Racine, Wis., as an associate. Before law school, he was a journalist covering business and related political affairs in central and eastern Europe.



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