

A Reflection on a Law Faculty

The character of a school is found in its faculty, where it is not uncommon for individuals to spend an entire career—a lifetime, almost. The latter may be a bit uncommon, but Professor Jim Ghiardi stands as an example at Marquette Law School: As we remembered in the previous issue of this magazine, Professor Ghiardi's faculty service covered some 70 years, until his death this past January. We faculty are primarily responsible for guiding our students as they form themselves into Marquette lawyers. This work captures—and captivates—many of us until we retire from Marquette Law School.



Matt Parlow and Joseph Kearney

To be sure, there is the occasional earlier departure. This past spring we said farewell to two of our younger colleagues: Matt Parlow and Janie Kim, both professors of law, who now find themselves at Chapman University in Orange County, Calif., where Matt is dean of the law school and Janie serves on the faculty. We shall have to come up with a new brag, now that we can no longer tout our having recruited this husband-and-wife team away from law teaching positions in their native southern California in 2008. Yet, while they spent just eight years of their careers with us, they did great things for us at Marquette, both on the faculty and administratively (in particular, Matt's service as associate dean for academic affairs). In fact, there can be no doubt that they enriched us and our students in ways that will last. We even permitted them to take their children—native Wisconsinites—with them, provided that they all visit us on occasion.

Michael Waxman, though retired, will be no visitor when he comes to Eckstein Hall: He has elected to remain one of us, taking on the rank of emeritus professor. Michael was a pioneer on the Marquette Law School faculty: He does not mind my saying that the Law School had not hired Jewish boys from Yonkers before 1980. But that is not the extent of it—or even most of it. Whether it was his experience as a lawyer on the East Coast, his

Fulbright Program grants to teach and research in Japan, or his election to the American Law Institute, Michael enriched and expanded the law faculty for the past 36 years. I always think emeritus status to be a great gift *from* the retiring faculty member: It is a statement that someone thinks well enough of Marquette University Law School as a community that he or she favors a continuing association. So it is with Professor Waxman and several other colleagues in recent years: Professors Carolyn Edwards, Jack Kircher, and Phoebe Williams.

During their years of active faculty service, all of these individuals did more than enrich the minds and lives of their colleagues on the faculty or even Marquette law students (again, their primary work). They also enriched the Milwaukee community more generally, serving in important roles in governmental, religious, and civic organizations. At the same time, there are limits to their local loyalties. My own affinity for Milwaukee is well known, from past magazines and columns (and in more-substantive ways, I hope), but it is equally public that, on the sports front, my affinity remains with the teams of my youth: in particular, the Chicago White Sox (this has been a tough year for us White Sox fans). Others are even more demonstrative: Matt Parlow, for example, routinely represented Los Angeles sports teams in his sartorial choices in Milwaukee.

So, just as our forebears tolerated—no, welcomed—our joining Marquette Law School from other places, we follow their example. If Howard Eisenberg, as passionate a fan of the Chicago Cubs as I ever knew, could appoint me to the faculty, surely I had it within me to name Professor Chad Oldfather as Matt's successor as associate dean for academic affairs. Whether "Minnesota nice" is always applicable to fans of the Twins insofar as baseball is concerned, we know, from the past decade, of Chad's commitment to Marquette Law School and its students. This is the sort of commitment that brings and keeps us together. While we never quite let go of the past, we will always reach for the future.

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Dean and Professor of Law