



**MARQUETTE**  
UNIVERSITY

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**LAW SCHOOL**  
**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Annual Report 2014**

**MARQUETTE LAW SCHOOL**  
**Office of Public Service**

The Office of Public Service was created in 2005 under the leadership of Dean Joseph Kearney to build upon the Jesuit tradition of public service by the Marquette Lawyer and the legacy of public service performed by the late Dean Howard Eisenberg.

The Office of Public Service collaborates with the community at large to offer students and alumni a range of opportunities to perform pro bono, community service, and contribute to issues centered on access to justice.

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**STAFF**

Angela Schultz	Assistant Dean
Katie Mayer	Assistant Director
Mindy Schroeder	Program Assistant

**STUDENT EMPLOYEES**

Matthew Ackmann  
Joel Chappelle  
Devan Montgomery  
Candy Reyes  
Chad Shamali

# DEAR FRIENDS,

We had a year of hellos in the Marquette Law School Office of Public Service. We said hello to new members of the Law School Pro Bono Honor Society who earned special recognition for their unwavering commitment to pro bono work (page 4). We said hello to incoming students and invited them to take a pledge to get involved with pro bono work (page 3). We said hello to a new group of Public Interest Law Society fellows who spent their summers working for the public good (page 5). We said hello to twenty-six middle and high school students who participated in the second annual Summer Youth Institute (page 5). We said hello to Katie Mayer, L'II, who joined our office as the new assistant director for public service.



Angela Schultz, assistant dean for public service (left), and Katie Mayer, assistant director for public service.

Even our goodbyes were hellos. We said goodbye to Julie Darnieder as she exited from her role as Director of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics (MVLC), but we quickly said hello as she continued her involvement as chair of the MVLC advisory board (pages 6, 8). And as we said goodbye to graduating students, we soon said hello to many of them who returned to our pro bono clinics in their new capacity as licensed attorneys eager to advise members of our community who cannot afford representation.

We dream of saying goodbye to a world where no one struggles to access justice, but are heartened that our endless string of hellos to students and lawyers seeking opportunities to serve others is furthering our ultimate goal of equal justice for all. I invite you to read about our efforts in the pages of this annual report.

Angela F. Schultz  
Assistant Dean for Public Service

# PRO BONO STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



A volunteer student and attorney collaborate to resolve a client's questions.

Upwards of a dozen formal pro bono opportunities are readily available to students each semester. The work is legal in nature, uncompensated, and not performed for academic credit, supervised by an attorney, and of service to individuals or groups who have barriers to equal access to justice.

## GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC

"Beyond the practical legal experience, the guardianship clinic has been a truly rewarding experience in affording me the opportunity in aiding families through the guardian process, while working with exceptional local attorneys."

*Krista Callaghan, 1L*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

"Working with Professor Centinario in the Domestic Violence Unit was one of the most educational and enjoyable experiences of my law school career. Learning from him reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career in criminal prosecution." *Joshua Dryak, 2L*

"As a 1L participating in the Domestic Violence project, I am privileged to interact with clients, attorneys, and members of the law enforcement community on day one of law school, all while knowing the work we do collectively serves to help victims of domestic violence reestablish some sense of personal security." *Bill Davidson, 1L*

## BANKRUPTCY HELP DESK

"I volunteered several times during the Fall 2014 semester at the bankruptcy help desk. I knew I was interested in bankruptcy from taking Creditor Debtor law, but only had an academic perspective from the course. At the help desk, I participate in filling out the bankruptcy forms, communicate essential information, and learn how attorneys advise a chapter 7 proceeding. This pro bono opportunity demonstrates firsthand how the skills attained in law school provide valuable services to those in need." *Isabelle Faust, 1L*

## FAMILY LAW HELP DESK

I decided to start volunteering at the Family Law help desk because of my interest in public interest work. I have ultimately found it to be an incredibly rewarding experience. From learning more about court procedures, family law, the law in general, and how to interact with clients, the clinic will help me become a better lawyer wherever I end up.

*Larissa Dallman, 2L*

## REFUGEE HELP DESK

"The Refugee Help Desk opened my eyes to the ways that the law enriches and improves the lives of people who have little to nothing except the desire to start a new life in a strange country in order to provide a better life for their children." *Danielle LeMieux, 3L*

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IMMIGRATION PROJECT

"One can spend an infinite amount of time studying Immigration Law without ever truly experiencing the nuances and the context I have been exposed to when visiting detained immigrants on the Know Your Rights trips."

*William Simonsick, 3L*

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

46%

Marquette law students  
involved in pro bono

Incoming students who took the  
pledge to complete 50+ hours

121

42%

students graduated  
with an honor cord  
for pro bono service

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS  
DONE BY MARQUETTE LAW  
STUDENTS

10,833

264

detained immigrants interviewed by Marquette law students in  
the **Know Your Rights Project** to determine if they qualify for  
pro bono representation by the National Immigrant Justice  
Center.

316

petitioners assisted through the **Domestic Violence  
Injunction Project**.

37

veterans who received estate planning documents through  
two **Wills for Veterans** clinic.

20

refugees assisted in completing asylum and refugee law  
forms at the **Refugee Help Desk**.



Wills for Veterans clinic.



Volunteers research to solve a problem.

# STUDENT PRO BONO HONORS

## PRO BONO HONOR SOCIETY GRADUATES

These students were inducted into the Marquette Law School Pro Bono Society in recognition of their pro bono service. Pro Bono Society members complete at least 50 hours of pro bono work. Students who performed 120 hours or more are noted with an asterisk to reflect their distinguished service.

JEREMY RABINOWITZ ABRAMS	CATHERINE ERICA LOEW*
TODD ROBERT ALLEN	MICAELA JESSICA LOGAN
STEVEN CHARLES AYALA*	LAURA LYNN MALUGADE
BLAINE L.M. BALOW	JAMES GREGORY McCANN*
BRADLEY JOSEPH BECHARD*	KEVIN JOSEPH MEYERS*
MYRIEM BENNANI*	JEFFREY DAVID MORRELL
WILLIAM T. BERENS	BRITANY ELIZABETH MORRISON
SAMUEL THOMAS BERG	VINCENT MICHAEL MORRONE
ERIN VIRGINIA BOYD	KYLA NICOLE MOTZ*
CHRISTIAN LAINE BRAY	SAMIR RAOUF NAKHLEH*
CHELSEA BELINDA BROCKER*	NATALIE SARAH NEALS
KENNETH SAMUEL BROOKS	THOMAS RICHARD NEUMAN
CODI CHRISTINA CARSTENS	MINDY MARIE NOLAN*
DENISE C. CHANDLER	KRISTI LYNN PAPEZ
MONICA M. CHASE	BRYANT PARK*
CIERRA BRIELLE CHESIR	KYRA KELLIE PLIER
MICHAEL EDWARD CRANE	JESSICA CHARLOTTE PUHL
JILLIAN LEIGH DAVIS	KERRI MARIE PUIG
CHRISTIAN THOMAS DEME*	AMBER MARIE RAGONESE
ANDREW NOVOTNY DOCTER	DILLON I. RAUNIO
ADAM WILLIAM DREUTH*	KAITLYN JEAN REISE
JENENE RAE EBSTEIN*	JOSEPH STEVEN RIEPENHOFF*
KARA EILEEN ESPERA	SAMANTHA RAE SCHMID
JOELLE RENEE ESPINOSA*	MEGAN ELIZABETH SCHULZ
DANIEL THOMAS FAHEY	SARAH JEAN SEMROW
MAKDA FESSAHAYE	JESSICA ANNE SHANK
TRISHA JANET FRITZ*	ALEXANDRA WEILAND
ZACHARIAH D. FUDGE*	SHORTRIDGE
LISA MARIE GALVAN*	CASEY PAUL SHORTS
ALEXANDER ZDZISLAW	KYLE WILLIAM SILVER
GOLUBIEWSKI	JUSTIN LAWRENCE SINGLETON*
JOHN PATRICK GRAHAM	JOY NOELLE SISLER*
THOMAS C. HAESE*	AMY JEAN SMITH
ALEXANDER JAMES HALL*	RENAE NICOLE SPEARS
ROBERT JOHNSON HAMPTON III*	KEVIN J. SPEXARTH
KRISTEN DANIELLE HARDY	NAOMI SARAH STANISZEWSKI*
GREGORY THOMAS HELDING*	KATHERINE MARIE THOMETZ
DAVID LEE HERRING	MATTHEW E. TOUPIN*
CODY JOHN HORLACHER*	ANNABELLE KANA VANG*
FREDERICK MICHAEL	GAIL VERLEY VOSS
HOSTETLER	BRADLEY ROBERT WENZ
KRYSTAL LYNN JOHN	KATHERINE LOUISE WESTON
JORDAN MICHAEL KARTH	JARED DWIGHT WIDSETH*
SUSANA KIM	BRANDON A. WIGLEY
JILL SUZANNE LAKE	ZACHARY ALLEN WITTCROW*
CATHERINE CLARA LAMBRECHTS	LYDIA MARIE WITTE
BORA LEE	DAVID MICHAEL WOOLF*
GABRIELA A. LEIJA*	RYAN DAVID YBARRA
ELISE EMELINE LIBBEY	MELISSA JEAN ZILAVY*

## PRO BONO SOCIETY INDUCTION AND POSNER EXCHANGE



Ramona E. Romero, General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, celebrated pro bono at the annual Pro Bono Society Induction and Posner Exchange. The event honors law students who have performed 50 or more hours of pro bono service. 114 students were honored including 12 1Ls, 34 2Ls, and 68 3Ls.

## STUDENT AWARDS



Britteny Lafond (right) pictured with Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

### BRITTENY LaFOND, 3L Milwaukee Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Law Student of the Year

"Before coming to law school I had no idea that individuals with legal issues who can't afford attorneys just don't get the help they need. Without pro bono, the individuals who need the help the most, the individuals who would have the greatest impact from help, would continue to be prevented from accessing justice. Pro bono helps close the gap in our community and more importantly, pro bono helps the members in our community to feel whole again."



### MINDY NOLAN, L'14 State Bar of Wisconsin's Public Interest Law Student of the Year

"Before coming to law school I had no idea that individuals with legal issues who can't afford attorneys just don't get the help they need. Without pro bono, the individuals who need the help the most; the individuals who would have the greatest impact from help, would continue to be prevented from accessing justice. Pro bono helps close the gap in our community and more importantly, pro bono helps the members in our community to feel whole again."

# PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

## PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SOCIETY

18 fellows were awarded \$4,000 each for completing a minimum of 350 hours of public interest legal work during the summer.



**Matthew Ackmann**  
Milwaukee Justice Center



**Nicole Brandemuehl**  
WI State Public Defender's Office



**Kelsey Burazin**  
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee



**Tyler Coppage**  
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee



**Grant Henderson**  
American Civil Liberties Union



**Brian Kane**  
Milwaukee Justice Center



**Britteny LaFond**  
WI State Public Defender's Office, Rhinelander



**Gabriela Leija**  
WI State Public Defender's Office



**Patrick Leo**  
Disability Rights Wisconsin



**Amanda Nimmer**  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



**Nicole Ostrowski**  
WI State Public Defender's Office Gillion



**Vanessa Paster**  
Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Inc.



**Katherine Seelow**  
Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Felony Trial Division



**Nicole Simpson**  
WI State Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Division



**Cassandra Van Gompel**  
American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin



**Joseph Wasserman**  
Cook County State's Attorney's Office



**Morgan Wilz**  
Milwaukee Justice Center



**Patrick Winter**  
Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Inc.

## WisACC



The Association of Corporate Counsel Wisconsin Chapter (WisACC) awarded two fellowships to law students committed to serving underserved communities both during and after law school. Recipients were Grant Henderson, 2L (right), and Cassandra VanGompel, 1L (left), pictured with Wesley Warren, a WisACC Board Member.

## COURTESY CORPORATION



The Richard and Wendy Lommen Jr., Courtesy Corporation selected Morgyn Ray, 1L, as the recipient of their fellowship which is awarded to a Marquette law student doing public interest legal work focused on helping

Wisconsin's abused, neglected, or underserved children. Ms. Ray spent her summer focused on guardian ad litem cases in Dodgeville, Wisconsin.

## SUMMER YOUTH INSTITUTE

The second annual Marquette Law School & Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association Summer Youth Institute included 26 eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-graders interested in exploring careers in the law. The seven-day program, a collaboration of Just the Beginning Foundation, Johnson Controls, the Association of Corporate Counsel Wisconsin Chapter, and Kids, Courts, & Citizenship, is designed to introduce Milwaukee students to the legal system and provide them with practical tools for achieving their educational goals. The program culminated in oral arguments before panels of judges and a celebration luncheon.



## RETIREMENT OF JULIE DARNIEDER, DIRECTOR OF THE MVLC



Julie Darnieder founded the MVLC in 2002. Under her direction, the clinics served more than 20,000 clients and grew from a single location to five locations serving the Milwaukee community. During her time with Marquette, Julie received a number of awards and acknowledgements for her extensive work in the community, including being named 2012 MBA Lawyer of the Year. We are fortunate to retain Julie as a dedicated MVLC volunteer and Chair of the MVLC

Advisory Board. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

## HOUSE OF PEACE

Beginning in 2003, this is the longest-standing clinic host site.



## MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC



## MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

**58%** MVLC clients  
seen at this location

# VOLUNTEER CLINICS

## HILLVIEW BUILDING OF CENTRO HISPANO

Serving 46% monolingual Spanish speaking clients and the sole location providing immigration services.



### MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC AWARDS

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's List of Big Ideas 2013
- 2014 State Bar of Wisconsin Legal Innovation Award
- National Jurist's Top 15 Innovative Legal Clinics 2014

## MARQUETTE LEGAL INITIATIVE FOR NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS

Serving Wisconsin nonprofit organizations.



## VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PERSPECTIVE

"Providing pro bono services in my opinion is incumbent upon all attorneys. The MVLC at the House of Peace allows me to service an important segment of our community and also assist the students with whom I work to gain some practical experience."

Peter Ramirez, MVLC at the House of Peace

"The clinic and the students and volunteer lawyers embody the notion of justice for all by ensuring veterans without the means to hire legal counsel can get advice regarding their particular legal issues."

Francis Schmitz, Milwaukee Veterans' Service Office

"I fondly refer to my shifts at the clinic as my 'monthly lessons in humility.' Humility is a virtue. Working at the clinic is humbling for me ... it helps me be grateful for the opportunities I've had, and that I haven't found myself in the dire situations with which many of the MVLC clients need to cope."

Kenneth Hallet, Hillview Building of Centro Hispano

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

Serving veterans and their families through the brief legal advice clinic and quarterly Wills for Veterans clinic.



# MARQUETTE VOLUNTEER LEGAL CLINICS

## THE MVLC

<b>4,256</b> Total # of clients served in 2014		<b>8,000</b> Hours donated in 2014	Value of services provided <b>\$1,200,000</b>
Number of law student volunteers <b>228</b>	Number of attorney volunteers <b>307</b>	<b>70%+</b> Clients below 200% of the <b>Federal Poverty Guideline</b> (\$23,050 annual gross income)	



MVLC in progress at the Hillview Building of Centro Hispano

## CLIENT PERSPECTIVE

- Milwaukee Justice Center**  
 “The volunteers were extremely helpful with their advice. We got the extra days we wanted and the landlord waived all possible damages and monies owed to him. Thank you very much. The attorney was very professional, and the student, in my opinion, will make an exceptional lawyer. Again, thank you.”
- Milwaukee County Veterans’ Service Office**  
 “I was very thankful for the time and expertise both of the gentlemen showed me. They went out of their way to ask another lawyer for advice. This is a wonderful service that is provided for our veterans—a great stepping stone to other informative legal channels.”
- Hillview Building of Centro Hispano**  
 “I had a very positive experience. I really appreciated the attorney who was willing to give his time to help those in the community in need of legal direction. I also appreciate the fact that he is helping students to learn their chosen profession as well as teaching them the importance of giving back to the community. This is a very positive program. Thank you for operating it.”
- House of Peace**  
 “This was my last source. When you lose everything and see no hope, the MVLC at the House of Peace offered hope.”

## MOST COMMON LEGAL ISSUES



# MARQUETTE VOLUNTEER LEGAL CLINICS ADVISORY BOARDS

## MVLC ADVISORY BOARD

The MVLC Advisory Board guides clinic operations, policy considerations, and professional responsibility. All board members are or have been active volunteer attorneys with the MVLC.

Julie Darnieder, Founder and Advisory Board Chair  
Judge Laura Gramling Perez, Milwaukee County  
Katrina Hull, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP  
BJ Westfahl, Westfahl & Westfahl, S.C.

Steve DeVougas, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP  
Lars Gulbrandsen, Quarles & Brady LLP  
Katie Perhach, Quarles & Brady LLP

## STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Student Advisory Board provides leadership to their peers and advanced knowledge of clinic procedures at each clinic. These students make a two-year commitment to the board and are selected for their demonstrated dedication to the MVLC. The student board members provide valuable assistance with recruitment, training, and planning of MVLC events.



*Back Row, from left:*  
Kenneth (Billy) Ryder, 2L  
Kasey Parks, 2L  
Adam Vanderwerff, 2L  
Cassandra Van Gompel, 2L  
Denise Chandler, 3L  
Tyler Helsel, 2L

*Front Row, from left:*  
Aimee McGinty, 3L  
Katherine Legal, 3L  
Lauren Maddente, 2L  
Jessica Lothman, 1L  
Julia Westley, 3L  
Morgan Van Royen, 2L



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2014

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