



**MARQUETTE**  
UNIVERSITY

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**LAW SCHOOL**  
**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Annual Pro Bono Report 2015**

**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, provide community service, and contribute to issues centered on access to justice.

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**STAFF**

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

# OURS IS A HELPING PROFESSION

The Office of Public Service is housed in the Eisenberg Suite, named for Howard B. Eisenberg, dean of the Law School from 1995 until 2002. Dean Eisenberg's distinguished career brought him many awards and honors, but he always remained dedicated to providing legal services to those in need. He corresponded with hundreds of prisoners (his "pen pals") who asked him for legal advice, took appellate cases on a pro bono basis, and led efforts to end elder abuse. Dean Eisenberg said, "I tell law students on their first day of orientation at Marquette that the primary task of a lawyer is to resolve a client's problems as quickly, as inexpensively, and with as little acrimony as possible. I tell them that as attorneys we must regard ourselves as a 'helping' profession in the most literal sense of that term." Dean Eisenberg remains a role model not only for attorneys and students, but for everyone.

In this report, we invite you to read about some of the helpers in our profession. From law students who voluntarily give a minimum of fifty hours of service (page 4) to those who commit their summer to working in a legal services setting (page 5) to lawyers working alongside law students to serve clients unable to afford legal representation (pages 7, 8). We find inspiration in Dean Eisenberg's words and act on the belief that ours is a helping profession.



Angela F. Schultz  
Assistant Dean for Public Service

# PRO BONO STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



A volunteer student assists at a Saturday Mobile Legal Clinic.

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

*“As future lawyers, we have a duty to donate our time to serving others. My supervising attorney said we should always save a corner of our desk throughout our career for pro bono. This commitment to service is something I love about our profession and I intend to save a corner, if not more, of my practice for pro bono work.”*

**Chrissy Wabiszewski, 1L**

## WILLS FOR VETERANS

"The Wills for Veterans program has had a profound impact on my volunteer experience. Having the opportunity to work closely with veterans in the community to provide them with an estate plan is an enriching experience that is invaluable for students looking to work closer with members of their community. By working with attorneys from the Milwaukee area we are able to provide veterans with the security of having a full estate plan along with the assurance that their wishes will be honored. This is a great experience that I would highly recommend as it gives students the opportunity to give back to our local veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf." *Cody Marschall, 2L*

## MARQUETTE LEGAL INITIATIVE FOR NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS

"My experience with M-LINC provided me with an opportunity to work with the individuals in our community that are seeking to effectuate real change for the people that need it most. Although the 501(c)(3) entity formation process is often daunting, the volunteer attorneys took the time to explain each step to the clients to make the process manageable. Working with these attorneys enhanced my knowledge of several substantive areas of law, including intellectual property and tax law." *Christopher Hayden, 2L*

## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

"I had the opportunity to volunteer with the MVLC's brief legal advice clinic during Project Homeless Connect. I was surprised by both the number of homeless community members in need of legal advice as well as the gratitude of those seeking legal advice to have their questions answered. I felt lucky to be part of the team working to empower this often overlooked group and hope to have the opportunity to participate again next year." *Erica Stoltz, 2L*

## MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER FAMILY LAW FORMS ASSISTANCE

"Since the first day of volunteering here, I've been hooked. I had the privilege of working here as a PILS fellow during the summer and am pleased to continue my involvement. The satisfaction of aiding clients and seeing how your work impacts others makes this clinic an unforgettable experience." *Angela Shin, 2L*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

"Having worked in the Domestic Violence Project since February 2015, I am honored and privileged to assist clients during such a difficult time in their life, while at the same time corresponding with attorneys, the Office of Public Service administrators, and local law enforcement officials to ensure that every case is given the requisite attention that it rightfully deserves." *Rexford Sheild, 2L*

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**63%** Marquette law students involved in pro bono

Incoming students who took the pledge to complete 50+ hours **117**

**46%**

students graduated with an honor cord for pro bono service

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS DONE BY MARQUETTE LAW STUDENTS

**9,702**

**28**

homeless or at risk individuals assisted in a one-day clinic **Project Homeless Connect** held at Marquette University.

**413**

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

**49**

veterans who received estate planning documents through four **Wills for Veterans** clinics.

**72**

nonprofits assisted through the **Marquette Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations**.

**60**

hours given by twelve law students to families participating in the **Guardianship Clinic**, a project to assist the parent of an adolescent with a significant disability who is in need of a court-appointed guardian.



Student Advisory Board member, Nick Sulpizio, greets clients at the Mobile Legal Clinic at Journey House.

# STUDENT PRO BONO HONORS

## PRO BONO HONOR SOCIETY GRADUATES

These 2015 graduates 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 of pro bono service are noted with an asterisk\*.

XHENETA ADEMI	PORCHIA S. LEWAND*
DEJAN ADZIC	AMANDA PATRICIA LUEDTKE
BRYAN J. ARSENEAU	KELSEY E MADER
JAMES R. BALLARD	SAMUEL ANDREW MAGNUSON
LUCAS PAUL BENNEWITZ*	BRYANT J. MCFADDEN
ERIN ELLA BLOCK	AIMEE LYNN MCGINTY*
CHRISTINE M. BOHN*	JENNIFER RENEE MCNAMEE
BRIAN MICHAEL BROCKMAN	PETER HOULIHAN McNULTY
JOSHUA J. BRYANT	ANGEL GUILLERMO MEDINA
KELSEY R. BURAZIN*	PAUL ADAM MILLER
MICHELLE MARY CAHOON	KATHERYN ANN MILLS
KELLY E. CAVEY	REBECCA L. NELSON
STEPHANIE MARIE CHIARELLI*	AMANDA MARIE NIMMER*
STEPHEN JOSEPH CLARKE	ISIOMA O. NWABUZOR
PAIGE ELAINE COLE	ELIZABETH ANNE OESTREICH
NATHAN EDWARD CROMER	COLIN T. O'MEARA*
LINDSAY ANN DECKER	A. DAVID OSTROW
JESSICA C. DICKMAN	NICOLE MARIE OSTROWSKI*
TRISTAN A. DOLLINGER*	GILLION VERLISA PARHAM
ELIZABETH LOUSIE EDDY	VANESSA RACHAEL PASTER*
JENNY IRMA KRISTINA EK	NICOLE RAE RADLER*
JAMIE ANNE EPSTEIN	RACHEL AARONSON RETZKE
CHAD FAHRENKRUG	LAUREN ELIZABETH
JAMES LEROY FIELDS-BOWERS	ROSENBAUM*
LEAH P. FRANCOUR*	CARL S. SAMIS*
ELLEN CLAIRE FRENCH	CHRISTINA L. SCHIEK
JARED STEVEN GAMM*	KATHERINE ANN SEELOW*
ALISON R. GANSERT	KATIE MARIE SHAW
JAMES WEBSTER GOLLNICK	JESSICA MARIE SIMMONS
JOHN GERARD GOSIOCO	WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMONSICK
MICHAEL A. GREGORY*	NICHOLAS R. SINRAM*
ANGELA B. HARDEN*	PETER J. SMILEY
AMY L. HEART	SPENSER TOMÁS SOTOLONGO
GRANT IAN HENDERSON*	ALTHEA MARIE SPEAKS
MARCUS BRANDON HIRSCH	JOSEPH ALAN SYVERSON
KRISTIN ALISA HOFFMAN	STEPHANIE E. THOMAS*
SHANNON E HURST	PHILIP ERIC THOMPSON
MARY C. HUSCROFT	AMANDA JEAN TOONEN*
CHRISTLE S. JONES	MORGAN M VAN ROYEN*
ERIN ELIZABETH KAPRELIAN	JOSEPH ISAAC WASSERMAN*
ELIZABETH RITENOUR KENDALL	DEREK JOHN WATERSTREET*
MICHAEL ISAAC KESSLER	CHELSEA RENA WEATHERSPOON
THOMAS R. KNIGHT	CAMERON G. WEITZNER*
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON KRADLE	JULIA CATHERINE WESTLEY*
BRITTNEY MAE LAFOND*	BRYAN CLAYTON WHITEHEAD
ANDREA ELIZABETH LAU*	LAUREN LYNN WICK
EUGENIA YI-LING LEE	TAYLOR A. WILSON
KATHERINE E. LEGEL*	MORGAN LYNNEA WILZ*
DANIELLE JOY LEMIEUX*	PATRICK DAVID WINTER
PATRICK JOHN LEO*	ELIZABETH ROSEMURGY WOOD*

## PRO BONO SOCIETY INDUCTION AND POSNER EXCHANGE



Jeff Colman (center) with Angela Schultz, and Josh Gimbel, Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation President.

The annual Posner Pro Bono Exchange honors law students who have performed 50 or more hours of pro bono service during their law school careers; students who have achieved 120 or more hours receive special recognition. The event also remembers Gene Posner, L'36: the Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation generously supports the Law School's public service work. Jeff Colman was the event's distinguished guest. Mr. Colman, a graduate of Stanford Law School, has been a lawyer at Jenner & Block in Chicago for the past 40 years. His pro bono leadership has been extraordinary ranging from defending Guantanamo Bay prisoners to serving on the Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Access to Justice.

## STUDENT AWARDS

### Milwaukee Bar Association Pro Bono Law Student of the Year



Kasey Parks (center) pictured with Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler and Milwaukee County Chief Judge Maxine White.

### Courtesy Corporation Summer Fellow for Underserved Wisconsin Children



Natalie Wisco conducted legal research at Exploit No More, a Milwaukee-based nonprofit focused on ending child sex trafficking.

### State Bar of Wisconsin Public Interest Law Student of the Year



Nikki Ostrowski (center) pictured with Angela Schultz, assistant dean for public service, and Joseph Kearney, dean and professor of law.

### Association of Corporate Counsel Wisconsin Summer Fellows



Katie Czapankiy, left, worked at Catholic Charities Legal Services for Immigrants. Larissa Dallman worked at the Wisconsin Public Defender's office.

# PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SOCIETY FELLOWSHIPS

Twenty-two law students were awarded Public Interest Law Society (PILS) fellowships for unpaid full-time summer internships in public interest settings. PILS fellows each receive a stipend to support their work on behalf of the common good and serve in a variety of legal services settings. In exchange, students perform a minimum of 350 hours of public interest legal work, complete a reflection at the end of the fellowship, and provide at least twenty hours of service to the Public Interest Law Society during the following academic year.



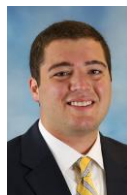
**Nicole Brandemuehl**  
WI State Public  
Defender's Office



**Katie Czapanskiy**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
Catholic Charities Legal  
Services for Immigrants



**Larissa Dallman**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
WI State Public  
Defender's Office



**Michael Farley**  
Milwaukee Justice  
Center



**Samantha Feak**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
Milwaukee Justice  
Center



**Alyson Girton**  
American Civil Liberties  
Union Wisconsin  
Foundation



**Emily Harriman**  
Legal Aid of Nebraska



**Emily Hartsinck**  
Legal Aid Society  
Tennessee



**Gregory Isaac**  
Wisconsin State Public  
Defender's Office



**Omar Malcolm**  
Public Defender's Office  
Tampa, FL



**Daniel Marazan**  
*Cudahy Fellow*  
Catholic Charities Legal  
Services fo Immigrants



**Brianna Meyer**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
Federal Defenders of  
Wisconsin, Inc.



**Michael Panlener II**  
*Cudahy Fellow*  
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Gillion Parham**  
*Cudahy Fellow*  
Wisconsin State Public  
Defender's Office



**Gabriel Peterson**  
Wisconsin Judicare Inc.



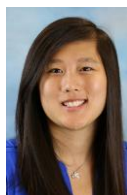
**Ami Regele**  
Wisconsin State Public  
Defender's Office



**Amber Saskowski**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
Legal Aid Society of  
Milwaukee



**Nicholis Schroeder**  
*Schoenleber Fellow*  
Milwaukee Justice  
Center



**Angela Shin**  
*Cudahy Fellow*  
Milwaukee Justice  
Center



**Windsor Wrolstad**  
*Cudahy Fellow*  
Disability Rights  
Wisconsin

*Not pictured: Eric Eisenheim, Legal Action of Wisconsin-Green Bay; Morgan Wilz, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.*

## MVLC Program Assistant, Mindy Schroeder, Awarded *Wisconsin Law Journal*, Unsung Heroes Award

Mindy Schroeder was honored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* at their annual Unsung Heroes Award Event. Mindy was nominated and selected for her work with the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics (MVLC). Mindy has been with the MVLC since 2013 and regularly facilitates the clinics at the House of Peace and the United Community Center. Mindy is critical to the clinics running smoothly as she manages volunteers, works with students, and helps the many Spanish speaking clients of the clinics.

Mindy brings kindness, patience, and compassion to each experience with clients of the MVLC. She has truly helped the MVLC to make a difference in the Milwaukee community. Mindy sums up the impact of the MVLC on the Milwaukee area well: “We can fill a need. Unfortunately there aren’t a lot of financial resources for lower-income folks...and free legal advice doesn’t solve everything. But we can make a real difference for people in a brief legal advice clinic.”



## MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER



The Milwaukee Justice Center’s new children’s space.

**2,129** MVLC clients served at the Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC) clinics in 2015. This is **49%** of all MVLC clients served annually.

- **34%** family law questions
- **22%** housing questions
- **17%** small claims questions

Law students also volunteer to help serve an additional **7,825** clients assisted at the MJC family forms clinic.

## MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC

The Mobile Legal Clinic is an expansion of our partnership with the Milwaukee Justice Center

- **23** clinics held
- **12** different community locations
- **187** clients served
- **35** law student volunteers





# VOLUNTEER CLINICS UPDATES

## UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER

For five years, on Wednesday evenings, the MVLC enjoyed the open arms of Centro Hispano's Hillview Building. In January 2015, the MVLC said hello to a new partnership with the United Community Center (UCC). Volunteer attorneys from Quarles & Brady, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and a number of others continue to serve a largely Spanish-speaking population at the UCC.



## VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICE

The MVLC offered estate planning appointments at the Milwaukee County Veteran's Service Office beginning in 2015. This provides veterans and active duty service members and their spouses or partners a more immediate option for getting an estate plan in place. It also provides a great hands-on learning experience for law students interested in estate planning work.

## VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PERSPECTIVE

"Using skills built up over years of legal practice brings the sense of fulfillment so many of us sought with youthful idealism as we entered law school a lifetime ago."

Melita Biese, MVLC at the Milwaukee Justice Center

"I continue to work with the MVLC because I really enjoy it. You can interact with so many types of law in such a short amount of time. It also allows me to get out of my comfort zone, meet new people, and have meaningful client interactions. It just feels good to help people and know that your time with them made a difference."

Brian Jacobs, Mobile Legal Clinic

"Volunteering at the United Community Center has been a great experience for me. I love sharing my knowledge of family law with people who are nervous about going to court because of language or cultural barriers. The MVLC does a great job of providing legal services in an easy-to-access setting. I am happy to help, in part because my own family includes immigrants who had to learn to navigate institutions in a new country."

Nidhi Kashyap, MVLC at the United Community Center

## HOUSE OF PEACE

During rare down moments at the House of Peace, law students and attorneys work together to address the legal needs of those throughout the state. Using Wisconsin Legal Advice Online, an interactive portal that allows low income individuals to ask brief legal questions, the volunteers are able to assist those who do not have access to legal resources in their area.

Wisconsin Legal Advice Online was created by the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission and is also sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin's Pro Bono Program. Its mission of increasing access to legal advice for those who cannot afford it is a natural fit for the volunteers of the MVLC.

# MARQUETTE VOLUNTEER LEGAL CLINICS THE MVLC

**4,345** Total # of clients served in 2015

**7,663**

Hours donated in 2015

Value of services provided

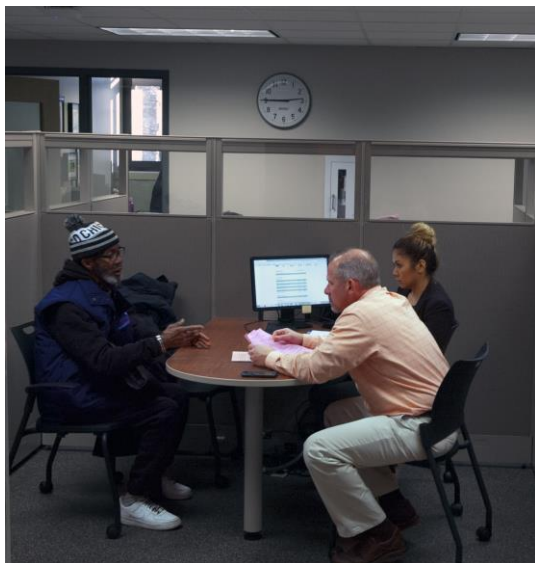
**\$1,063,000**

Number of law student volunteers **220**

Number of attorney volunteers **293**

**77%**

Clients at or below 115% of the **Federal Poverty Guideline** (\$18,320 annual gross income for average household size of two)



The MVLC in progress at the Milwaukee Justice Center.

## CLIENT PERSPECTIVE

- Milwaukee Justice Center

“These guys were awesome! Good listeners, professional, and helped me a lot in a very difficult situation. I wish I could keep one of them for my attorney. This service is exceptional and I am so thankful it exists!”

-Jackie, *health law issue*

- Milwaukee County Veteran’s Service Office

“Very good experience, great service, friendly, kind, extremely helpful and showed concern toward my questions. Will recommend this clinic to others. Keep up the good work and continue to assist the veterans.”

-Mark, *estate planning issue*

- United Community Center

“I appreciate the positive concise service provided to me today. The attorney eased my fears of facing this issue in front of the judge and encouraged me to face it head on while informing me of the approximate timeline and what to expect. [The student’s] notes helped immensely. Thanks again.”

-Judy, *employment issue*

- House of Peace

“Incredible appreciation for this clinic and all help provided...in helping me with this legal assistance of emailing [another party] and teach[ing] such legal language and tactics of negotiating...and resolving a dismissal for a new future for me and my children...”

-Christine, *municipal issue*

## OUR CLIENTS’ LEGAL MATTERS

- 27% FAMILY
- 21% HOUSING
- 14% SMALL CLAIMS
- 11% OTHER
- 8% CONSUMER
- 5% EMPLOYMENT
- 3% GUARDIANSHIP
- 5% PROBATE
- 4% MUNICIPAL
- 2% IMMIGRATION

# 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.

*From left to right:*

BJ Westfahl, Westfahl & Westfahl, S.C.  
Katie Perhach, Quarles & Brady LLP  
Judge Laura Gramling Perez, Milwaukee County  
Katrina Hull, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP  
Lars Gulbrandsen, Quarles & Brady LLP  
Amy Wochos, Milwaukee County  
Julie Darnieder, Founder & Advisory Board Chair



## 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.



*From left to right:*  
Cassandra Van Gompel, 3L  
Lauren Maddente, 3L  
Kasey Parks, 3L  
Nick Sulpizio, 2L  
Jill Halverson, 2L  
Melissa Maldonado, 2L  
Jessica Lothman, 2L  
Tyler Helsel, 3L  
Erica Stoltz, 2L  
Aimee McGinty, 3L

*Not pictured:*  
Adam Vanderwerff, 3L



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2015

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