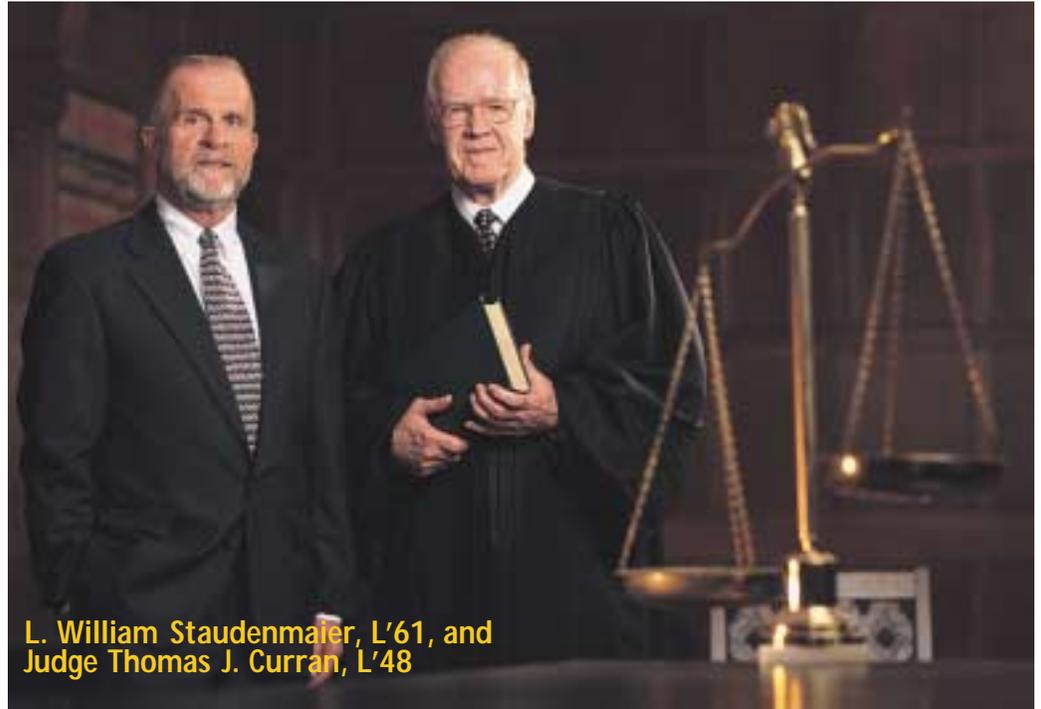


The combined continuing interest of Marquette Law School alumni in their school and the Law School's desire to be of service to all lawyers, whether alumni or not, can lead to interesting programs at the Law School. A notable example of this occurred this past academic year when the school's Boden Courtroom was the venue for a program entitled "Trial Skills for Public Interest Lawyers." The two-day program in November 2003 was sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and was assisted not only by the Law School but by the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Bar Association, Cook & Franke S.C., Foley & Lardner LLP, Quarles & Brady LLP, and Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.

L. William Staudenmaier, L'61, of Cook & Franke, was the primary organizer of the program. "The concept of a trial skills training program for public interest lawyers was developed by the American College of Trial Lawyers a few years ago," Staudenmaier explains. "A small handful of other state sections put on such a program. When I agreed to lead the effort here,

each of the public interest entities I contacted confirmed the need for such a program. By and large, lawyers who work for public interest entities lack trial experience and mentors, and when faced with an upcoming trial date often negotiate from weak-



L. William Staudenmaier, L'61, and Judge Thomas J. Curran, L'48

ness rather than strength, causing their clients to be short-changed."

The free program sought to address this problem by providing both training sessions and a trial demonstration for public interest lawyers. Experienced trial lawyers (in fact, fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers) such as E. Michael McCann and Peter J. Hickey, L'77, undertook the mock trial, and United States District Judge Thomas J. Curran, L'48, presided. Adjunct Professor Michael J. Hogan and Richard C. Ninneman, L'61, were among a number of attorneys instructing in the training programs. Some 60 public interest attorneys participated in the program.

"I was delighted that Bill Staudenmaier wanted to involve Marquette Law School in the program and that interim Dean Janine Geske had agreed to this last year," says Dean Joseph D. Kearney. "Our contribution was fairly modest: we provided the venue, some students who served as the jurors for the mock trial, and some other support. Bill and other lawyers in Wisconsin did everything else. But it seems to me desirable—even important—that the Law School should serve as a common gathering ground for lawyers in Wisconsin and, in particular, for the development of skills of those who represent the least advantaged in society." •

