Remarks of Dean Joseph D. Kearney at Law Alumni Awards Conferral, April 21, 2005

Tonight we celebrate the ideal of the Marquette lawyer, and we do this by presenting awards to, and listening to, some of our alumni. I am pleased that Cathy has begun that celebration by recognizing past award winners who are here this evening—individuals such as Mike Berzowski, L’69, Frank Daily, L’68, Judy Drinka, L’75, Professor Ghiardi, L’41, Jim Janz, L’64, and Mark Thomsen, L’87.

To this I wish to add a special greeting to another group—future award winners, perhaps. More specifically, I welcome those members of the third-year class, about to graduate, who have joined us tonight.

You are by now Marquette lawyers, for all practical purposes (save the most important practical purpose, I admit, which is to say the fact of licensure, but even that is only a month away). We hope that you take the example of tonight’s other attendees and maintain your connection with the Law School.

When a dean makes this comment, this is often mistaken as simply implying some fund-raising-related hope. In fact, the statement is at least equally motivated by my belief that an inherent incident of the law’s being a learned profession is that members of the profession have an obligation to help educate and develop new members of the profession. So you should maintain your connection with us in years to come, in a variety of ways, to help us to develop the next generation of Marquette lawyers.

What is this ideal of the Marquette lawyer? Last year on this occasion, I quoted one of my predecessors, the late Dean Robert F. Boden, L’52, on the matter. Tonight
I choose a different quotation, and not because its author, Father Wild, the President of Marquette University, is here this evening. Here is something that Father Wild said of my predecessor, the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg, who, though not a Marquette graduate, was nonetheless the greatest Marquette lawyer whom I have had the privilege to know:

He wanted the men and women who would graduate from the Law School to have a passion . . . for seeking and achieving genuine justice through their professional work, for accomplishing what is right and good. He desired as well that these future lawyers be motivated in their legal careers by a commitment to the genuine service of others, especially to the service of the poor, the marginalized, the voiceless in our society. This commitment in turn should spring from another characteristic that he viewed as essential for dedicated and capable lawyers, namely, a deep respect for the human dignity of anyone with whom they have dealings and a corresponding willingness to be attentive and responsive to his or her needs.

This captures not only my predecessor specifically, but, more broadly, another important aspect of the profession of law: I have mentioned that it is a learned profession, but it is a helping profession as well—differently from, but no less than, such undertakings as medicine. Our very purpose as lawyers is to help our clients in seeking justice.

In a wide variety of ways, tonight’s award winners have realized these various ideals. Through their actions they have been—they are—leaders within the legal profession and their communities.

Sports Law Alumnus of the Year Award

I will begin with the Sports Law Alumnus of the Year Award. This award was created by the Sports Law Alumni Association to recognize an individual dedicated to the Sports Law Program at Marquette and to the field of sports law. Kathryn M. Statz, L’00, is this year’s award winner, and deservedly so.

Kathryn started her sports career as a basketball and volleyball player at Mundelein College. She thereupon worked for Marquette’s athletic department, serving as assistant athletic director for Olympic sports marketing and compliance. While working at Marquette, Kathryn served as the athletic department’s senior woman administrator and chair of the University’s Gender Equity Committee.

Although I cannot imagine that these positions left her with much time on her hands, she decided to enroll in law school (as a part-time student). Even during this time, Kathryn combined her interests in sports and law by creating an athletic department internship for students in the Sports Law Program. Shortly after graduating in 2000, Kathryn acted upon her professional obligation to contribute to her new profession and developed and began co-teaching an Amateur Sports Law Workshop course at the Law School.

Three years ago, Kathryn became the Associate Athletic Director for Varsity Sports at DePaul University in Chicago. She has remained an invaluable resource for the Sports Law Program and has continued to support students in the program.

Kathryn, you exemplify the success and dedication sought by students who take part in the Sports Law Program at Marquette University Law School. For your commitment to Marquette as a student and alumna, and for the excellence and leadership you exemplify as a Marquette lawyer, and on behalf of the University, I ask you please to accept the award for Sports Law Alumnus of the Year.
Thank you very much, Dean Kearney. When Professor Anderson notified me that I would be receiving this award, I was somewhat confused. I have not been out of law school very long, and I don’t feel that I have done a lot for the community so far—in all events, there is a lot more I would like to do. And now that I stand up here, I realize that perhaps I was selected because I can stand (literally) toe-to-toe with Father Wild—which I did (figuratively) a couple of times while I was at Marquette!

I am extremely honored and flattered; I can’t say that enough. To be in this distinguished company calls my mind back to December 2000, when I received my degree and the December graduates had a special ceremony here in the Alumni Memorial Union. Dean Eisenberg presented us with our hoods, and it was special for me and my family.

I did have a very non-traditional law school career. I grew up in a family where we would only talk about lawyers when we would drive by the golf course, and my dad would say, “Look at those poor guys! That’s all they can think of to do on a Saturday morning: chase the ball around.” So it wasn’t a family where law was something that was a tradition.

I did nonetheless develop an interest in the law. When I came to Marquette, Father Leahy and Father DiUlio were here, and they were willing to give me the chance to study law on a part-time basis, which was very rare at that time. It was hard: it took me five and a half years, and there were a lot of times I would stop on a bench on my way back to the athletic department and ask myself what I was trying to prove. Inevitably then I would run into a student-athlete, and I would put my shoulders back and try to get my act together; they would encourage me, and I would encourage them. That’s kind of how things went along.

Another thing that happened to me during my career was I felt that I was very labeled because I worked in the athletic department. During my second year (which was really my fourth year), I had the opportunity to take a class and meet with someone who really changed my career: Andrea Schneider, who was a professor of mine, asked me to be a teaching assistant, which astonished me. I thought maybe I was going to get kicked out of law school.

That Andrea had the faith in me to ask me to be her teaching assistant meant a lot to me—and it still does. My experience at Marquette and at DePaul is that you don’t really realize at the time how significant those small acts are. But this said to me that maybe I really could pull through this thing. I developed an interest in a negotiation seminar that was taught and that I continue to teach today. And so I just want to recognize Professor Schneider for that.

Bill Cords, the athletic director at Marquette, could not be here today. I do want to thank him very much, because he didn’t have to put up with me coming and going every day, taking my law book down to the soccer fields sometimes, studying in my car at halftime of games. But he did it, and I really owe a debt of gratitude to him and the whole athletic department, for I really did do two things at once and sometimes, it seemed to me at least, neither very well.

I was very gratified as well when, after graduation, Professor Paul Anderson asked me to be an adjunct professor. I did it for two terms, with the support of a co-teacher, Shawn Eichorst, who is in South Carolina right now and doing very well. I really miss that and hope to get back to it some day. I see students here whom I taught; I really learned more from them than, I am positive, they learned from me.

I take this award with a great deal of pride. I am very honored, and I will carry it with me as I proceed with my career and try to give as much back as I can. I am a very proud Marquette alum. Thank you.
Greetings, everyone, from North Carolina. This is Ginny. I want to thank you all for choosing me to be the recipient of the Law School’s 2005 Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award. I am very excited and very happy to accept this award, and I want to thank the person or persons who nominated me for the award. Thank you very much.

I also want to send greetings to the Eisenberg family and to the entire Marquette community for choosing me to receive this award. It means very much to me. I’m sorry that I couldn’t be there with you tonight. I graduated today from municipal administration courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Unfortunately, I could not logistically work out attending both events. But I want you to know I am with you there in spirit and thank you for this award.

I also want to send special greetings to my study buddy from Law School, Suzanne Strater. Thank you from Alexis and his fellow Marines for the care package and pictures. He wanted me to let you know he really appreciated it. I also would thank Michael Gonring, a friend and mentor from Quarles & Brady, where I worked from 1994 to 1998 prior to moving to North Carolina. Thank you, Mike, for being my friend. Thank you all for keeping me in your thoughts and for this award. May God bless you all. Have a wonderful evening. Good night.
Lifetime Achievement Award

The third of our four awards is the Lifetime Achievement Award. Judge V. Robert Payant, L’56, is yet another example of how a Marquette law degree can take you places nationally. His law career began in Michigan and took him to Nevada, back to Michigan, and back to Nevada.

After working as a solo practitioner, Bob was appointed Probate and Juvenile Court Judge for Dickinson County in Michigan, and thus began his judicial career. It was the National Judicial College that brought him to Nevada. This college is America’s premier training facility for state judges. The Michigan Supreme Court later asked Bob to return to implement new civil procedure rules and to reorganize the court’s financial structure.

Thereafter, Bob returned to the National Judicial College as a consultant and was later appointed President. He is now retired, but continues to teach, primarily foreign judges who are sent to the College by their governments. Bob took time at lunch today to talk to some interested students and faculty about his experiences training judges in Russia, Israel, Palestine, and Africa—this is yet another example of established members of the profession reaching out to educate others.

Bob has been devoted not merely to the profession but to his family as well. He and his wife Virginia, a Marquette 1954 Arts graduate, have five children and are blessed with grandchildren.

Bob, we recognize you for your outstanding professional achievement and leadership. You have exemplified such basic Marquette principles as excellence, leadership, and service. It is my privilege on behalf of the University to ask you to accept the Award for Lifetime Achievement in law.

I accept with pleasure. Father Wild, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: It’s a delight beyond measure that I am here with you this evening. I love Marquette University. I’ve loved it since the very first day I stepped on this campus, and I’m so proud always to tell people that I’m a Marquette lawyer. In two minutes, I can’t tell you all of the things that I love about Marquette University, but let me tell you just a couple.

First of all, Marquette University brought me my bride. Here I was, a hick boy from the upper peninsula of Michigan coming to the big city—and then finding this beautiful young woman from Chicago, Illinois! We met the very first week we were on the campus. Several years later, as I was getting ready to graduate from the Law School, Virginia finally said “yes,” and so here we are: five children (so far!) and seven grandchildren (some of whom, along with other members of my family such as spouses of children, are here with us this evening). They all make me very proud, too.

Let me tell you a second reason I love Marquette. Incidentally, before I do, I should tell you that I—this decrepit old man—came to Marquette University as a football player. Lyle Blackburn was our coach, and I had a football scholarship. I was the worst guy they ever recruited, and I lasted less than the whole spring training as I remember. In any event, the second reason I love Marquette University is the wonderful education that I received here.

The Dean recited my various positions since graduation. Perhaps you thought to yourselves, “He’s had a heck of a time holding on to a job!” But that isn’t true. They’ve all been pretty fair jobs—my work as a judge in Michigan (twenty years on the bench in the Upper Peninsula) and three years as the administrator of the Michigan court system.

But the highlight of my life has been the work at the National Judicial College. I was pleased that some of the young law students...
Alumnus of the Year Award

Our final award tonight is special. In fact, it is for the Law Alumnus of the Year. Louis J. Andrew, Jr., graduated from the Law School in 1966. He has practiced in Fond du Lac ever since, although his title business, his interest in aviation, and his broader interests take him to an extraordinary number of places. When I call Louie, I never know whether I will get him in Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, or Door County or will instead be told that he is in Russia, China, or Africa.

I say “when I call Louie” because Louie is one of my closest counselors and one of the most active supporters of the Law School. I would like to say that I developed him into the latter, but in fact Louie played similar roles, on both a professional and personal level, with two of my friends and predecessors: Justice Janine P. Geske, while she served as interim Dean, and the late Dean Eisenberg.

In the memorial issue of the Law Review, from which I also took my earlier quotation from Father Wild and which remains required reading for entering students, Louie described how he came to renew his connection to the Law School in the mid-1990s. He heard Dean Eisenberg early in his tenure speak about the Ignatian mission of the Law School and also about the Law School’s need significantly to improve its fund-raising. Louie contacted Howard and asked to help.

I doubt that even Louie knew that his question would lead to monthly trips from Fond du Lac to Milwaukee to chair a new alumni group, the Law School Advisory Board and the Board’s Executive Committee. The Committee meets with me monthly to identify alumni and friends who might have the resources to help the Law School.

But it is far more than his work in law school fund-raising, both by example and by commitment, that distinguishes Louie. Louie has served three different deans, pushing when we need to be pushed, giving pep talks, and, it is not too much to say, espousing a vision of greatness for his Law School, our Law School. And I would say all this even if Louie had not served on whom I met this afternoon had such great questions about the work that is done in training judges, particularly those from across the world. I’ve had the opportunity to teach in Palestine and in Jericho and Gaza. I’ve had the chance to teach, in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and Uganda and around the world, men and women who are sitting judges and want to do a good job in seeing that justice is brought to their people. I’ve made 13 separate trips to Moscow and other places in Russia, and there, too, I think that the people are hungry for a real justice system. It’s been great to be able to be a part of that.

A third reason I love Marquette University is that it strengthened and deepened my religious faith. I came from a town that did not have a parochial grade school or high school. The first really formal training in theology that I had was here at Marquette, and that was an important thing and still remains an important thing in my life.

The Dean mentioned my current job as President Emeritus of the Judicial College (“emeritus” anything means that you don’t get any money any more). But eight years ago, as I was getting ready to retire from the Judicial College, the bishops of my state thought that it was time for Nevada to have a Catholic Conference as most states do—somebody to represent the dioceses of the state before the state legislature. I accepted the invitation of the bishops and serve as Executive Director. I represent the church with the legislature, and so far it’s going pretty well.

I have taken more than my allotted time. I am so appreciative of Marquette. I’ll continue to express my love in any way I can. Thank you very much.
the search committee that recommended me to the Provost and the President for the deanship.

To give merely one example of his wise influence, Louie, along with his wife, Sue (a Marquette University alumna herself), has played a lead role over the past year and a half in helping Professor Geske and the Law School to develop our Restorative Justice Initiative. Louie and Sue’s assistance has ranged from the conceptual (helping Janine to sort out the undertakings of this Restorative Justice Initiative) to the intensely practical (Sue served on the planning committee this past year that organized a week of restorative-justice-related activities for students, alumni, and the community). Inasmuch as one of their children, Sarah, is a 2L well on her way to becoming a Marquette lawyer, we are on solid ground in claiming not only Louie but also Sue as our own as well.

Louie is extremely loyal to Marquette. In addition to his leadership of the Executive Committee, he is a member of the Woolsack Society and will co-chair his law reunion planning committee next year. In the true Marquette spirit, we are not the only group he helps. He serves on many community boards such as the Experimental Aircraft Association, better known as the EAA, and is a trustee of Marian College.

Louie, you are a shining example of Marquette’s mission. For your commitment to excellence, faith, leadership, and service, it is my privilege, on behalf of the University, to present to you the Award for Law Alumnus of the Year.

Father Wild, Dean Kearney, Cathy, I want to thank all of you. But I must first address myself to Judge Payant: Judge, I also met my wife, Sue, here at Marquette. Now I don’t know where at the school you met your wife, but I met mine in a tavern about a half-block from here! I want to recognize Sue. She’s helped me so much with my reconnecting again with Marquette, and, as the Dean said, she has been very involved with the Restorative Justice Initiative with Janine Geske, who has been a very good friend of ours.

I also want to recognize my children. The Dean has recognized Sarah, and I am going to start from the next-youngest to the oldest. Our sons, David, Tom, and John, and our daughter, Christine, are here. It’s great to have them all here tonight.

It is really a wonderful honor to receive this award. I want you to know that I appreciate it very much. I think, though, that it is really fitting for me to think of the award as one for the entire Executive Committee of the Law School’s Advisory Board. This is really what I’ve been involved in here at the Law School, and the people on the Committee—it has been somewhat of a changing group over a period of time—have met with me and with Dean Eisenberg, Dean Geske, and Dean Kearney just about once a month for going on about nine years.

I would like to recognize each of the members of the current Executive Committee and thank them for their faithful service to this law school: Jim Janz, Deb Beck, Mike Berzowski, Judy Drinka, Janine Geske, Ralph Huiras, Don Layden, Don Levy, Mike McChrystal, Joe Niebler, Jack Skagerberg, and Russ Stepke. Jack lives in Houston and Russ in Chicago, but they actually attend about half of our meetings in person and the other half by telephone (that’s how dedicated these people are). So I just wanted to thank all the members of this Committee, many of whom are here. They really have done a wonderful job.

Traditionally, I’ve been involved in a lot of community service activities both as a lawyer and as a businessman. I want you to know I haven’t done this for penance—I’ve done it because I really enjoyed it. As each year goes by, I understand more and more that you really get a lot more out of these activities than you put into them. Tonight is an example of that principle. I hope that my
children realize this so that they can continue the tradition of community service that Sue and I have undertaken on behalf of our family.

At Marquette, Sue and I have benefited in so many ways. We’ve reconnected with many Marquette friends. We’ve made many new friends. This has enriched our lives. Just the chance to get to know people like Howard Eisenberg, Janine Geske, Joseph Kearney, and many, many more—interesting, friendly, fun, and in many cases very distinguished people. We’ve been very lucky. Sue and I have received so much more than we’ve given in this relationship.

It’s truly wonderful in life to be involved in a few things where you can at least make a small difference, especially where the thing that you are involved in is much bigger than you are or anything you could dream of. That’s how I feel about my involvement with Marquette. Father Wild has said that the goal of Marquette University is to be one of the top Catholic universities in the country. He has acknowledged that, for this to occur, the Law School must be one of the top Catholic law schools in the country. If I can just play a small part in making that happen, all the time and effort will be worth it.

I would like to thank Father Wild, Dean Kearney, Christine Wilczynski-Vogel, and the Board of the Law Alumni Association and everyone else involved in this for this wonderful honor.

In closing, I would like to read a prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake 450 years ago. I think that it is especially fitting tonight, as we continue to pursue Father Wild’s goal and dream for this great university:

**Disturb us, Lord, when**
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have all come true,
Because we dreamed too little,
When we have arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

**Disturb us, Lord, when**
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,

We have allowed our vision
Of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push us into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Thank you very much. •
In addition to the alumni awards ceremony held by the Law School, the Marquette University Alumni Association bestows a number of all-University alumni awards. On April 23, 2005, at the Alumni Memorial Union, the Hon. Diane S. Sykes, L’84, received from the President of the University one of Marquette’s two Alumni Merit Awards for Professional Achievement. Her remarks that evening captured, we hope, something important and true about Marquette University Law School, and so we reprint them here.

Remarks of Hon. Diane S. Sykes in Accepting the Alumni Merit Award for Professional Achievement

I am so proud to be a “Marquette Lawyer.” As most of you know, that phrase means so much more than a lawyer with a juris doctor degree from Marquette University Law School. The Law School infuses its graduates with a deep commitment to the law and the legal profession, and to the broader community as well.

I was raised in a family dedicated to public service. My father, Gerald Schwerm, is a Marquette engineering graduate who spent his career in public administration, serving the people of this community in municipal and county government through many years and many important development projects. My mother, Joyce Hanrahan Schwerm, was a guidance counselor at Shorewood High School. This family value of community service found positive reinforcement at Marquette Law School, where I received more than a very fine legal education. I received as well a strong sense of the role of lawyers and judges in sustaining not only the rule of law and our system of representative government, but also the civic life and institutions of our society.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a member of both the state and federal judiciaries, where Marquette lawyers are well represented and have a long history of substantial service. My predecessor on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Judge John Coffey, is a Marquette lawyer, and so is my former boss and now-colleague, Judge Terence Evans—which makes it a clean sweep of the Wisconsin seats on the Seventh Circuit, with the two active-duty judgeships currently held by Marquette Law School graduates and Judge Coffey still hearing cases on senior status.

In fact, as Dean Joseph Kearney noted in his remarks at my investiture last fall, the first judge to hold the Seventh Circuit seat that I now occupy, Judge James Jenkins, became the first Dean of Marquette Law School after he left the bench. In the same vein, my predecessor at the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Donald Steinmetz, is also a Marquette lawyer. The Milwaukee County Circuit Court, where I served as a trial judge for seven years, is well-populated with Marquette lawyers. And I have been privileged as a state and federal judge to witness the many significant contributions of the justice system by Marquette lawyers in the service of their clients and the community.

So it is with this history and tradition in mind, and with gratitude and affection for everyone at Marquette Law School under and with whom I was fortunate to study the law, that I accept this very special award this evening.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my wonderful family for their constant love and support; without them my service in the judiciary would not be possible. Some are here with me tonight—my father and stepmother, Jerry and Judy Schwerm; my sister and brother-in-law, Jo and Bill Gray; my stepbrother and fellow Marquette lawyer, David Stegeman, and his wife, Diane; and most importantly, my wonderful sons, Jay and Alex.

I am deeply honored to receive this award. Thank you.

Dean Kearney, Judge Sykes, and Father Wild.
Marquette University’s core values are Excellence, Faith, Leadership, and Service. The Klingler College of Arts and Sciences “Person for Others” Award recognizes alumni who exemplify all these values, but especially service to others.

This year we present the Person for Others Award to Don and Mary Jo Layden—as a couple. One would be hard pressed to find a pair of alumni who so exemplify the value of service.

It seems there are few things in the community with which the Laydens have not been involved. Don is a leader on issues focused on economic development, education, and advocacy for families. Mary Jo is a community activist and advocate for the disadvantaged, passionately serving those who have no voice and for whom society creates structures that prohibit full participation. Let me read to you the names of just a few of the organizations to which they, together or as individuals, have committed their time:

- Nativity Jesuit Middle School
- Community Advocates
- Ways to Work
- Competitive Wisconsin, Inc.
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee
- United Performing Arts Fund
- Trinity Memorial Hospital
- St. Luke’s Hospital
- Casa Romero Renewal Center
- Alverno College
- Highland Community School
- The Cathedral Center
- Consuelo Foundation
- Families International
- The Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County
- The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
- The Archdiocesan Resource Development Board
- The Vocations Advisory Council of the Wisconsin Province of Jesuits
- The Jesuit Partnership Advisory Board
- The Ignatian Associates

I myself was the beneficiary of this dedication to service when Don, then president of the Arts and Sciences Alumni Association Board, assisted me during my first few years as dean. I truly appreciate all he did on behalf of the College.

The Consuelo Foundation, located in Hawaii and the Philippines, sent a note to the Laydens because its representative couldn’t be here today at our event. I think it sums up nicely why the Laydens are deserving of this award. Permit me to read it.

Our warmest aloha and congratulations to both Don and Mary Jo Layden on being honored with the “Person for Others” Award by Marquette University. Individually and as a couple, Don and Mary Jo have shown their passionate dedication and commitment to the service of “others” not only in their own community but also on an international level. They consistently help improve the quality of [the lives] of the most disadvantaged children, women, and families. Their compassion is unsurpassed. They’ve helped to renew hope for those who have lost it and have given hope to those who never bad it.

The Consuelo Foundation also sent along some leis to honor the Laydens, and as we bestow our award to honor them we will also be placing the leis over their heads. So because of everything Don and Mary Jo Layden have done in serving others, the Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences is proud to name them the 2005 “Couple for Others.” •