Many Law Faculty and Alums Say “Welcome Home”

This year marks the dawn of a new era for Marquette University—after ten years of participating in Conference USA athletics, Marquette has joined the ranks of the Big East Conference and will compete in athletics with 15 other distinguished universities such as Georgetown, Notre Dame, Villanova, Syracuse, and St. John’s. In a recent address to the Marquette community, University President Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., stated that “Marquette is very excited to be joining the Big East.” Not only is the Big East one of the most competitive basketball conferences in the country, Father Wild noted, but “through the extensive television exposure of the conference, this move should also provide our alumni from all over the nation even more opportunities to see us play.” In addition to more television coverage and nationwide exposure, Marquette’s entry into the Big East Conference expands its presence on the eastern seaboard, a part of the country where the Law School has solid connections.

The Big Apple

Consider New York City, for example, not only home to Big East rival St. John’s University, but also a breeding ground for Marquette Law School faculty and a destination for a number of successful Marquette lawyers. Several members of the Law School faculty are New Yorkers. Associate Dean Peter K. Rofes grew up on Long Island and graduated from Columbia Law School (after undergraduate work at Brandeis and graduate study at Harvard). After 18 years at Marquette, Professor Rofes may not have a New York accent, but his New York roots remain pretty obvious to most who meet him.

And then there is Professor Michael P. Waxman, a Yonkers native (then on to Cornell and Boston College Law School), whose New York style is exemplified by the Woody Allen posters that adorn his office walls. And Assistant Dean Sean Reilly, another native New Yorker, heads the Law School Admissions Office after earning his stripes in the Admissions Office at New York University Law School. NYU Law School also gave us, in a sense, one of our newest faculty, Professor Rebecca K. Blemberg, who graduated from that school after attending Marquette as an undergraduate. The New York connection is even stronger for another of the newest faculty:

Professor Scott A. Moss, a Queens native, clerked in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York after graduating from Harvard Law School and then practiced in New York City at Outten & Golden and handled cases for the New York Civil Liberties Union. Of course, Interstate 80 goes in both directions and many highly successful Law School alumni work in the Big Apple. The dean perhaps of this group of alumni is also the new Dean of Hofstra University School of Law, Rabbi Aaron D. Twerski, L’65. Dean Twerski, profiled in the cover story of this magazine, was at the Law School last fall, delivering workshops and a major lecture in his capacity as Boden Visiting Professor. A number of Marquette lawyers practice in the giant law firms of Wall Street and midtown, including Edwin C. Jean, L’95, at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Susan Rohrbach, L’95, at Hogan & Hartson; Adam G. Finger, L’96, at Kaye Scholer; and Aidan M. McCormick, L’92, at Nixon Peabody. Marquette lawyers in New York also hold positions in government service. Patricia K. Fernandez, L’87, for example, works in the civil trial section in the Bronx County Courthouse, and Lt. Col. Kevin H. Govern, L’87, is a faculty member, teaching law, at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The Keystone State

Down the coast (be sure to wave “hello” to Michael J. Cramer, L’78, Chief Administrative Officer at Pinnacle Foods Corp. as we pass through New Jersey), Pennsylvania
is home to Big East rivals Villanova University and the University of Pittsburgh and another rich set of Law School connections. Ancestors of Professor Alison M. Barnes arrived in Philadelphia in 1734 on the cargo ship St. Andrews, and Professor Barnes has returned to her hometown regularly, including for a teaching stint at Temple University Law School several years ago. Professor Alan R. Madry also was a Philadelphia lawyer for a time; he was the Abraham A. Mitchell Assistant Professor of Legal Studies at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and was associated with the Wharton Real Estate Center before joining the Law School faculty. Professor Andrea K. Schneider and Professor Alison E. Julien, both members of the Pennsylvania bar, have strong Pittsburgh connections. Professor Schneider is a Pittsburgh native, and Professor Julien graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Justin M. Johnson of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Professor Peter K. Rofes also was a judicial clerk in the Keystone State, in his case for the Honorable Max Rosenn of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The idea of the Philadelphia lawyer has long been associated with corporate practice, and Law School alums have an impressive presence in the corporate world of Philadelphia and its vicinity. Cornelius C. Shields, L’57, is on the faculty of the Temple University Law School Graduate Tax Program, following service as Vice President for Tax and Public Policy of Sun Oil Company. Carol J. Comeau, L’88, developed the House Counsel Office in Philadelphia for Chubb & Son Insurance, where in addition to managing the staff counsel office, she also maintains an active caseload defending clients in litigation. Antoinette C. Robbins, L’90, is the Deputy Director of Compliance at Brandywine Asset Management, which manages over $20 billion dollars in assets. Robbins, who is also an active arbitrator for the NASD, says, “I learned from my Marquette experience how to combine theory and application in order to achieve workable results.”

Nancy Kathleen Cuozzo, L’97, a Compliance Consultant at United Health Group in the Philadelphia area, says, “I’m really looking forward to seeing Marquette compete locally. It’s definitely a great way to stay connected to Marquette and to introduce Marquette to many more people.”

The Law School’s service mission is in play wherever Marquette lawyers can be found, and Thomas M. Place, L’69, does his alma mater proud in Pennsylvania. Place is Professor of Law at Penn State, The Dickinson School of Law, and serves on several boards and committees concerned with the provision of legal services to low-income people and families. He also has served as appointed and pro bono counsel in a variety of cases, including a number of high-profile post-conviction proceedings. Before his career in academe, Place was a co-founder of the first legal services program in Appalachia.

Our Nation’s Capital

Washington, D.C., is home not only to Big East rival Georgetown University but also to an impressive concentration of high-achieving Law School alums. A number of Marquette lawyers from Washington, and indeed from other parts of the country, convened in September for a reception and CLE program hosted by Thomas G. Schendt, L’85, at the Washington offices of Alston & Bird. Schendt has hosted an East Coast Alumni Reception for the Law School each of the past four years.

Law School alumni in the D.C. area are a very impressive group. Tod I. Gimbel, L’84, for example, serves as Regional Director, State Government Affairs, for Altria Corporate Services, the parent company of Kraft Foods, Philip Morris International, and Philip Morris USA, and is responsible for government relations in a large number of eastern and southern states. Gimbel was at the Law School in October to discuss with students careers outside of traditional practice. Jerris Leonard, L’55, Chairman of The Leonard Group, which concentrates on legislative and lobbying activities, has made five appearances before the United States Supreme Court. He, too, has maintained his connection to the Law School, chairing the Class of 1955.
Reunion Committee this past year. Raymond S.E. Pushkar, L’63, is a partner at McKenna, Long & Aldridge, specializing in government contracts counseling and litigation. Barbara B. Berman, L’75, a presenter at the recent Washington, D.C. CLE, is International Initiative Coordinator and Trial Attorney in the Counterterrorism Section of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Captain Shannon M. Elliott, L’02, is the Assistant Counsel for Procurement at the Office of the Chief Counsel, Headquarters for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The government also benefits from the long-time service of Robert S. Berman, L’75, Deputy Chief of the Voting Rights Section of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, and as of this fall from the service in the same division of Ryan G. Lee, L’02.

The list of high achievers is long: Thomas A. Morrison, L’77, is Associate Dean at The George Washington University Law School and, just down the street, Joel B. Teitelbaum, L’96, is Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Health Policy and the Managing Director of the Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. (The Law School connection with GW also includes Professor Andrea Schneider’s service, prior to coming to Marquette, as a visiting faculty member at the Elliot School of International Affairs, Professor Alison Barnes’s service as Senior Policy Analyst with the Health Policy Project, and Assistant Dean Paul Katzman’s doctorate in higher education administration.) Robert J. Crnkovich, L’81, is a partner at Ernst & Young and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and Jennifer Britt Giannattasio, L’83, is a principal in Deloitte Tax LLP’s National Tax Office. Even those not living in Washington, D.C., frequently find themselves in the capital: for example, Marsha J. Rabiteau, L’85, was profiled earlier this year on the cover of Corporate Counsel magazine for her work in helping to persuade Congress to enact a significant bill related to class actions. Rabiteau, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at The Hartford Financial Services Group, routinely traveled to D.C. from Connecticut—another Big East state—to work on that legislative project. Congressman Don Manzullo, L’70, who represents the Sixteenth District of Illinois (Rockford and northwestern Illinois), would have had a vote on that—and much other—legislation.

A great law school faculty must have a strong Washington, D.C. connection, and of course the Marquette law faculty does. Dean Joseph D. Kearney clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia at the United States Supreme Court, and Professor Barnes was on the staff of the United States Senate before coming to Marquette. Professors Edward A. Fallone, Andrea K. Schneider, and Peter K. Rofes, and Assistant Dean Paul D. Katzman were all in private practice inside the Beltway. Professor Julian R. Kossow was a professor at Georgetown Law Center and a successful D.C. real estate developer in his pre-Marquette days, and Professor Vada Waters Lindsey was a member of the University of the District of Columbia law faculty and before that served as a law clerk to the Honorable Joel Gerber of the U.S. Tax Court and as trial attorney with the Office of the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, Professor Shirley A. Wiegand was a visiting professor at the Washington College of Law of American University immediately before coming to Marquette in 1997. And then there are the Maryland connections of Professor Michael P. Waxman, including private law practice in Baltimore and with the FTC, and Professor J. Gordon Hylton’s extensive Virginia experience, most recently as a visiting professor at the University of Virginia Law School.

And these lists are hardly exhaustive. They give but a glimmer of the vast range of relationships and experiences, even within the territory of the Big East, that compose the Marquette Law School community. As this article highlights, we are in contact with some of our alumni in the D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia areas. We understand that there are many other alumni in this part of the country—as always, we would love to hear from any and all of you to know more about what you are up to. Now that Marquette is officially a part of the Big East, that should get a bit easier.