

1958

Michael Patrick Murray recently published *Passion, Prose and Poetry*, a book of short stories and poems.

1965

Wylie Aitken, Aitken Aitken Cohn (Santa Ana California), was named a 2006 California Super Lawyer and made the 2006 *Lawdragon 500* list for leading litigators in America. Wylie made his name with landmark cases against Disney and State Farm.

1968

William A. Jennaro of Cook & Franke S.C., Milwaukee, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the most recent edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

1972

Timothy P. Crawford has joined by invitation the Council of Advanced Practitioners (CAP) of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

Tim is a past chair of the Elder Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

1974

William C. Gleisner, III, was named the *Robert L. Habush Trial Lawyer of the Year* at the 2005 annual dinner of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers. He has coauthored a treatise with Professor Jay E. Grenig of the Law School, *eDiscovery and Digital Evidence*, which is published by Thomson-West.

1976

Greg Cook has opened a law practice in downtown Milwaukee which will concentrate in civil litigation. He will also offer his services as a mediator and arbitrator throughout the state.

Thomas Frenn, of Petrie & Stocking S.C., is Chair of the Editorial Board for the *Business Advisor Series* authored by various members of the Business

Part of the secret to professional success is being prepared, and according to **Tom Schendt, L'85**, that means having a strong foundation. And that, in turn, starts with meticulously placed elements that allow one to build and expand and grow.



Schendt began his “building project” back in the 1980s when he earned first a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a double major and then an M.B.A., both from Marquette University. After earning these degrees, he moved to Washington, D.C., to work in a lobbying firm. “I quickly realized that a law degree was needed for the kind of work I wanted to do,” he explained, so back he came to Marquette, this time to the Law School to add another vital building block.

While a student, Schendt worked at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the employee benefits unit and then stayed on for two years as an associate, after earning his law degree in 1985. “That professional experience provided me valuable human resources experience as well as

Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin. This nine-volume book is being published by the State Bar of Wisconsin and contains an overview of business law for lawyers

and businesses in the State. Tom coauthored the chapter on “Buying and Selling a Small Business” with Shawn Govern, L'91.

TOM SCHENDT

opportunities to become more involved in the Milwaukee community.”

But he was ready to make the jump back to D.C., to immerse himself again in the environment that had led him to law school. “It was more like a large leap,” Schendt said. He joined the Internal Revenue Service in 1988 and spent ten years working in a variety of positions. This included work as technical assistant to the Associate Chief Counsel, Employee Benefits and Exempt Organizations. Schendt assisted in the coordination of national employee benefits litigation for the IRS. “I spent a good deal of time focusing on technical tax advice and preparing cases in litigation concerning employee benefits.” He also acted as liaison between the IRS headquarters and various field offices. It was during this second move to D.C. that Schendt met and married his wife, Kristina. The two have been married 11 years.

Schendt then joined Alston & Bird’s Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Group. His practice focuses on employee plan litigation, agency civil and criminal audits, investigations and disputes, and voluntary compliance initiatives involving some familiar colleagues—the IRS, Department of the Treasury, Department of Labor, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Justice.

Schendt says that one of the most challenging things he does is manage clients’ expectations. “Solving the legal problem is only one aspect. The bigger issue is solving it in a way a client feels satisfied.” He believes that his own human resources background has helped him immensely

with his ability to take into account not only the legal issues but the personality of the client as well. “My word is my most important asset,” he said, when asked the single most important thing he has learned in his professional career. “Following through on what I promise makes people feel comfortable that they can take me at my word without compromise. This is the best, most ethical service I can provide.”

Schendt is deeply involved in outreach activities with the Law School and has been a steadfast supporter and friend. He is pleased with the Law School’s efforts to reach out to alumni, especially, he added, “those like me who are geographically challenged.” He finds the Law School deeply interested in improving.

“The most significant transformation I have seen at the Law School in recent years is its transition from an institution that always seemed very secure and self-fulfilling to another kind of institution—one that is willing to try to take several steps forward, one that is more self-critical, one that is reaching out to try to make advances even in areas in which it has less of a comfort zone.” He is pleased that with these solid steps forward the school is clearly quite different but, at the same time, has retained its core values. “That is an art,” he said.

The next natural step, it seems to Schendt, returning to his own metaphor, is for the Law School to expand its building blocks—its facilities. “This is a natural step in the maintenance and enhancement of the Law School,” he said. “But I don’t think that it will have to move back and forth between cities as I did.”

Eric J. Van Vugt of Quarles & Brady LLP, Milwaukee, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the most recent edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for

distinction in the practice of business litigation.

1978

Thomas D. Jacobs has established his own practice in Old Wethersfield, Conn.

1979

John Rothstein of Quarles & Brady LLP, Milwaukee, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the most

recent edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for distinction in the practice of business litigation.

PAT PELLERVO

Patricia Wendlandt Pellervo, L'84, is a long way from where she used to call "home" and took a rather circuitous route to get there. By her own admission, her career so far has been rewarding, but "not because I had any sort of mapped-out vision as to where I would go." In fact, she said, never in her wildest dreams as a girl growing up in Milwaukee did she think she would end up in San Francisco as a partner at an accounting firm.

During her final year of law school, Patricia Wendlandt accepted a position writing corporate income tax regulations with the Internal Revenue Service Chief Counsel at IRS headquarters in Washington, D.C. "The assignment to D.C. was quite an adventure for me, as I had never even been there," she explained. It turned out to be life-altering, in a very good way: On her first day at the IRS in 1984, she met Duane Pellervo. They were married in 1986 and have one son, Evan, who is 14.

Pellervo said that the government provided a great learning environment for new attorneys and that she was able to settle into the tax area quickly. After completing her four-year commitment, she left the IRS to join PricewaterhouseCoopers (or Price Waterhouse, as it was then) in the mergers and acquisitions tax group, also in Washington, D.C. She was admitted to the partnership of this global accounting firm in 1998, with a practice devoted to consulting on tax aspects of corporate transactions for major companies throughout the United States.

In 2000, at PwC's request, Pellervo went from one coast to the other, relocating to the firm's San Francisco office. At that time, her husband also joined the firm, and they now have offices adjacent to each other. Her enthusiasm for her work is evident. "My clients and colleagues are generally very smart, and the transactions are very complex, so I have a lot of intellectual stimulation in my job," explained Pellervo. As with most professional careers, there are challenges as well as rewards. "The intricate rules in my specialty area within tax are like a puzzle—it is quite challenging at times to figure out how interrelated provisions



work together," she said. The depth and breadth of her experience have their benefits. "One of the most rewarding things to me is coaching/mentoring less-experienced professionals and helping them advance their careers."

Pellervo's professional life is rich and diverse. In addition to her job at PwC, she also has taught a master's tax class at the San Francisco campus of San Jose State University and is coauthor of the treatise *The Consolidated Tax Return: Principles, Practice, Planning*, currently in its sixth edition from Warren, Gorham and Lamont. Any free time she has is spent keeping up with her son's activities, enjoying family vacations, reading, and cooking, or with public service work. Pellervo is the treasurer of her church in San Francisco, and she and her family volunteer at a center for abused children.

Pellervo said that, when she came back to Milwaukee for her law school class twentieth reunion in 2004, she was surprised by the new look along Wisconsin Avenue. She hopes that the education has not changed too much. "I have very fond memories of working long hours on the *Law Review*," she said. "I think those hours really paid off in terms of enhancing my writing skills and attention to detail."

1987

Kimberly A. Hurtado, of Hurtado, S.C., in Wauwatosa, has been elected a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers.

1989

James J. Andreucci, Jr. has joined Clifton Gunderson LLP as a tax partner in the Milwaukee office. Jim specializes in the domestic tax area and has significant experience in tax planning regarding acquisitions, dispositions, and reorganizations. Jim serves on the Board of Directors for First Stage Children's Theater in Milwaukee.

1990

Heidi L. Vogt is a shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, S.C. in Milwaukee. She practices in the litigation and risk management practice group.

1991

Shawn M. Govern is a shareholder in the Milwaukee law firm of Petrie & Stocking S.C. He concentrates his practice in the areas of civil litigation, business law for small and medium-sized companies, real estate, probate, and estate planning. He has coauthored, with Thomas Frenn, L'76, the chapter on "Buying and Selling a Small Business" in a nine-volume overview of business law being published by the State Bar of Wisconsin.

1992

Timothy S. Jacobson is executive director of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy in La Crosse, Wis. While a student at the Law School, he founded the Environmental Law Society and served as its president. Tim looks at this new position as a chance to continue working for the environment.

1993

Steven M. Szymanski has been elected a partner with the law firm of Weiss Berzowski Brady LLP. He advises clients on a wide range of business matters, including business formation, capitalization and governance, mergers and acquisitions, finance, taxation, succession and ownership planning, real estate, contract negotiations, and other corporate matters.

1995



Shawn M. Eichorst has been appointed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison as Senior Associate Athletic Director. Shawn's direct responsibilities will include sport oversight, governmental relations, trademark and licensing, contractual matters, strategic planning, liaison with campus administration and the Athletic Board, and athletic conference representation and special projects.

Susan Minahan Ruppelt is an associate in the Milwaukee office of von Briesen & Roper, S.C. in the sections for tax and for estate and trust planning and administration.

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RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION

RKM. The sign proudly welcomes visitors, clients, and employees to a modern new law office located in Waukesha County on the west end of Capitol Drive in what used to be a farm field.

The initials represent Ryan Kromholz & Manion, S.C., a firm established by three Marquette lawyers—**Daniel D. Ryan, L’78, Joseph A. Kromholz, L’89, and John M. Manion L’93**—whose practice encompasses all areas of intellectual property, including United States and foreign patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and unfair competition law and related litigation.

What drew them to the partnership may have been, in part, a common alma mater, but what keeps them together is an obvious mutual respect. “I think the fact that Joe, John, and I have all been nurtured to some extent by the spirit and philosophy of Marquette Law School provides an unspoken unity of purpose and outlook on life that also unite us as friends and business partners,” said Ryan.

Daniel Ryan

Daniel Ryan earned his bachelor’s degree in engineering in 1969 from the United States Coast Guard Academy and served in the Coast Guard until he entered Marquette Law School in 1975. While in law school, he realized that he could merge his prior life experiences as an engineer with law by practicing patent law.

“I practiced patent law with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP for three years after graduation,” explained Ryan, “then took an in-house corporate position with Baxter Healthcare Corporation in Deerfield, Illinois. I was a patent counsel for the company’s blood-products/transfusion-therapies group and its dialysis products group.” He spent seven years with Baxter and returned to Milwaukee and private practice in 1987. Ryan joined and later became the owner of a patent law practice, which was one-half of the breakup of the Wheeler Law Firm in Milwaukee.

This is when a remarkable aligning of circumstances wrote the script for what was to become RKM. “Unbeknownst to me, Joe Kromholz and John Manion had, in a parallel universe,

become the owners of the other half of the Wheeler Law Firm,” Ryan recalled. Kromholz and Manion competed with Ryan for several years. “Then, one momentous day, we started down a mutual courtship, which—a couple years later—resulted in the formation of Ryan Kromholz & Manion. Basically, we put the firm back together.”

Ryan’s expertise is in the technologies relating to medical products. “One of the rewarding professional aspects of my job is to talk with people whose lives have been transformed by the medical products developed by companies I’ve served. To see how medical products can change the quality of a person’s life for the better is a humbling experience. It’s also ‘Jesuit’ in spirit in a real-world way.”

Ryan has been married to his wife, Mary, for 36 years, and they have two grown sons—Daniel and Sean. “The most rewarding experience in my life has been the unqualified support and love of my wife and children,” said Ryan. “Nothing is possible without that.”

Joseph Kromholz

After graduating from Carroll College in 1984 with degrees in chemistry and history, Joseph Kromholz decided to enter law school in pursuit of a legal career that would allow him to practice in the field of intellectual property.

In addition to being a registered patent attorney, Kromholz is in charge of the firm’s litigation department. His more than 15 years of litigation experience has afforded him the opportunity to help clients enforce their patent rights as well as defend against charges of infringement. “We work not only to protect our clients’ interests in litigation, but also to position our clients to avoid litigation in the first place.”

Kromholz believes that those holding a law degree from Marquette have several advantages. “Marquette graduates are well respected in the community for their knowledge and understanding of the law, as well as their practical experience. This kind of respect and anticipation is very positive to those practicing law and has benefited our firm. I have benefited from this as well,” he said.

“Marquette University Law School has a stellar program

that encourages students to learn both from books as well as real-life experiences,” he said. His own time as a law student was marked with several interesting experiences. “I recall that as a participant in the Legal Clinic for the Elderly, I was asked to defend an elderly man of limited means. A company was threatening to sue him and hold him responsible because he had signed for the delivery of an artificial limb to be temporarily used by his roommate, who died before it could be returned. I asked the company whether it would release my client if I told the company where it could find the limb. And, although they were not very happy to learn that the limb was buried with my client’s roommate, they did release my client!”

Kromholz and his wife, Marjorie, have a four-year-old son who brings “great energy, curiosity, laughter, and joy” into their lives. “He challenges us each day with questions that require skill—and in some cases, research—to answer!”

John M. Manion

While John Manion was an undergraduate student in the Marquette University College of Engineering, he participated in the college’s co-op program and worked with Briggs & Stratton Corporation. After graduating in 1989, he accepted a position with Briggs as a product design engineer. “Shortly thereafter,” Manion explained, “I became acquainted with patents and the patent process. The idea of witnessing emerging technologies and working with others to help protect their discoveries and inventions was very appealing to me.” It was then that he decided to attend law school.

During law school Manion worked as a law clerk at the Wheeler Law Firm. “Allan Wheeler became my mentor and taught me the practical aspects of patent and trademark prosecution. For this I will always be grateful.” Upon graduation from



Daniel Ryan, Joseph Kromholz, and John Manion

Marquette Law School in 1993, Manion accepted a position as an associate with the firm, thereupon finding himself practicing with Wheeler & Kromholz in 1994, Wheeler Kromholz & Manion in 1995, and, finally, Ryan Kromholz & Manion, S.C. since 1998.

“Since that time, Dan Ryan, Joe Kromholz, and I have built our firm with a philosophy of bringing younger attorneys into the firm and making a significant commitment to each of them in terms of training. Marquette Law School has an outstanding intellectual property law curriculum, and the program and the quality of its graduates, who have immersed themselves in these courses, have certainly shortened the time it typically takes for a new attorney to become proficient.”

Manion and his wife, Lorelle, have three young sons and they enjoy traveling and spending time with family.

RKM actively recruits law clerks and associates from Marquette University Law School, but that is not the extent of the firm’s involvement in the school. Ryan, Kromholz, and Manion are all members of the Woolsack Society, and members of the firm have also found time to help prepare intellectual property moot court teams at the school. They may have graduated in three different decades, but each is committed to Marquette Law School today.

1996

Neil B. Posner has joined the Chicago-based law firm Much Shelist as a principal and head of the firm's growing Policyholders' Insurance Coverage Department. Neil was recently named a 2006 Illinois Super Lawyer in the insurance coverage category.

1997

Paul D. Bauer, specializing in commercial and securities litigation, **Patrick S. Nolan**, in products liability and toxic tort litigation, **Donald G. Radler**, in intellectual property law, and **Kelly H. Twigger**, in complex litigation, have been made partners at Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee.



Sean O'Donnell Bosack is a new shareholder at Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. in Milwaukee as a member of the Litigation Practice Group. He focuses his practice on complex business and corporate litigation.



Kurt D. Dykstra was named in January 2006 as a partner in the firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Holland, Mich. Kurt also is a lecturer in the Department of Economics, Management, and Accounting at Hope College and is active in Western Theological Seminary.

1999

Jeffrey E. Mark is an associate at von Briesen & Roper, S.C. in Milwaukee, practicing health and business law.

Jeff and Melissa Greipp

celebrated the birth of their first child, Olivia, on November 20, 2005. Melissa is an assistant professor of legal writing at the Law School. Jeff is an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee and an adjunct faculty member at the school.

2000



Timothy B. Anderson became a partner at Remley & Sensenbrenner, S.C., in Neenah, Wis. in January 2006. Tim emphasizes a business-related legal practice involving business transactions, business

formation, business litigation, construction litigation, collection, commercial and residential real estate, elder law, and estate planning.

2001

Adam Omar Shanti has joined Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP in its Charlotte, North Carolina office, in the Finance Group.

2002

Jessica A. Abbott joined the firm of Schott, Bublitz & Engel, s.c., in Brookfield, Wis. She will continue to practice in all aspects of family and children's law, including Guardian ad Litem appointments.

Jeffrey B. Norman and his wife, Sharniecia Norman, M.D. (AS '97), announce the birth of their son, Kyle Amani Norman, on December 31, 2005.



Kelly A. Williams joined Flaster/Greenberg P.C., in Cherry Hill, N.J., as an associate in the firm's Environmental Law Practice Group. She concentrates her practice in environmental litigation and regulation, including complex environmental litigation in the state and federal courts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

2003



D. Alexander Martin has joined the Madison office

of DeWitt Ross & Stevens as an associate. He has had an extensive practice in bankruptcy court hearings and creditor meetings and is active in the State Bar's Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditors' Rights section.

Kristin R. Muenzen lives in Arlington, Va., and is a trial attorney at the Department of Justice in the Land Acquisition Section. She previously clerked for the Hon. Christine O.C. Miller at the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.

Lisa A. Nester is an associate in the litigation department of the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.

2004

Gwendolyn J. Cooley, Madison, Wis., joined the Wisconsin Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General specializing in antitrust and environmental law.

2005

Brandon A. Graef is an associate at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., Milwaukee, in the Health Care Department.

Joseph A. Mohr won the First Prize in the Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). His winning essay concerned the secondary copyright infringement doctrine. Joseph is currently practicing in Portland, Ore., with Kolisch Hartwell, P.C., specializing in patent prosecution and litigation.

This article appeared last year in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and is reprinted with permission.

by Patricia Manson

Thomas G. Aridas keeps his eye on the target.

Those who have worked with him say Aridas immerses himself in the job at hand with a single-minded dedication.

“He’s a hard, hard worker,” Commissioner Lula M. Ford of the Illinois Commerce Commission said of her former legal and policy adviser. “Once he gets on a task, he’s relentless.”

Attorney Kevin J. Conlon of Wilhelm & Conlon Public Strategies in Chicago had the same take on Aridas, who worked for Conlon when he had an employment law boutique.

“He has that focus that’s like a laser beam,” Conlon said.

Chicago attorney Scott C. Lascari of Gardner, Carton & Douglas LLP, says Aridas displayed that focus when the two men teamed up in law school in a national moot court competition in intellectual property law.

The two won the award for best appellee brief and went on to compete in the finals even though neither had taken a class in intellectual property, Lascari said.

He said he was not surprised that Aridas, the Commerce Commission’s chief administrative law judge, has gone so far in his career.

“He will go the extra mile to put in the time and do what is needed to get the job done and do the job well,” Lascari said.

Aridas, 33, grew up on the Northwest Side.

His parents, George and Toulia, emigrated to the United States from Greece.

Toulia Aridas still works as a seamstress out of the family’s home, while George Aridas is retired after working in the restaurant business for 30 years.

“The Greek immigrant—the stereotype holds true there,” Aridas said of his father. “He owned restaurants, sold them, worked in them.”

Aridas’s first job was as a busboy in one of his father’s restaurants. He would rise at 4 a.m. to go to work in a kitchen where the temperature sometimes rose to 120 degrees.

Aridas said his father encouraged him to work hard—but to do so while following a different career path.

“I remember him telling me, ‘You see this? You don’t want to do this the rest of your life. Go to school. Go to school. Make something of yourself,’” Aridas recalled.

Aridas said his father’s advice stuck.

“It’s a lesson I never forgot,” he said. “The thing about immigrants is, there are only two things that matter to them: the work ethic and education.”

Aridas earned an undergraduate degree in political science in 1993 at DePaul University and then began his studies at Marquette University Law School.

Aridas said he chose a career in the law because “I’m a very competitive person.”

“I really like the law because of the finality. It’s a zero-sum game,” he said. “You work hard and there will be a result at the end. Whether it’s in front of a judge or a jury, there will be a clear win or loss.”

And Aridas said an education comes with that win or loss.

“Every case is a new learning experience,” he said. “You’re always challenged.”

While in law school, Aridas spent a year working as an intern for Justice Ann Walsh Bradley of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. His duties included reviewing cases and briefing Bradley before oral arguments.

“She was just great to work for,” Aridas said. “I got to see early on the decision-making process, being inside the inner



THOMAS G. ARIDAS

sanctum, if you will.”

Also while in law school, Aridas clerked for Conlon.

Conlon described Aridas as a “tremendously hard-working guy” who would drive to Chicago on Friday, spend the weekend in the office, and then return to Marquette on Monday.

“He has a work ethic you can’t put a price tag on,” Conlon said.

Aridas remained with the firm for a year after earning his degree in 1997. He handled labor arbitrations as well as matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board.

In 1998, Aridas joined the Commerce Commission.

The commission sets rates, considers merger applications, and handles other regulatory matters involving investor-owned companies that provide electric, gas, water, sewer, or telecommunications services to the public.

Aridas said he has had “the quintessential legal experience from top to bottom at the commission.”

Aridas first served as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel.

That role allowed Aridas to put his litigation skills to work in many cases, beginning with the merger of SBC Communications Inc. and Ameritech Corp.

After two years, Aridas was appointed to head the federal energy program. He handled matters before the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Aridas next became legal and policy advisor to Commissioner Ruth K. Kretschmer and later to Ford.

In 2003, Commerce Commission Chair Edward C. Hurley III tapped Aridas for his current position.

Hurley said he made the right move with that appointment.

“Tom has done an excellent job for the Illinois Commerce Commission in his role as chief administrative law judge,” Hurley said. “I made a conscious decision to place a young lawyer from the commission in that responsible role after his successes in two other positions.”

Aridas’s primary responsibility is to oversee the work of the commission’s administrative law judges.

His duties include assigning cases, setting hearing dates, ensuring that official commission calendars are kept current, and reviewing the recommended decisions issued by the judges.

Aridas also is responsible for training new judges and overseeing the office’s budget.

In addition to his administrative duties, Aridas handles his own docket of cases.

After hearing evidence in a case, Aridas drafts a proposed order. He prepares a second order after considering any exceptions that the parties raise.

The Commerce Commission then votes on the post-exception order. A majority vote is needed to adopt an order, which may be modified before it is approved.

Any application for a rehearing goes to Aridas, who recommends whether the request should be granted.

Appeals in most cases go to the Illinois Appellate Court. Some appeals go to federal court.

Last week, Aridas and Administrative Law Judge Ian D. Brodsky recommended that Nicor Gas be awarded a \$54.7 million rate increase. The utility had sought a \$77 million increase.

While most cases are assigned to a single judge, very large and complicated matters sometimes are handled by two judges.

Aridas said the cases that come before the Commerce Commission have an impact beyond the parties who appear in the hearing room.

“Every citizen in the State of Illinois is a customer of a phone company or an electric company, and some of the decisions we make literally affect every person in the state—an awesome responsibility, one we take seriously,” he said.

And Aridas said the responsibility brings work that is “very interesting, challenging, dynamic.”

The advent of competition in the utility industry about a decade ago as well as advances in technology mean that he and the other judges at the commission are grappling with cutting-edge issues, according to Aridas.

“I couldn’t be here at a more perfect time,” he said.