Dear Fellow Alumni—

It is an honor to serve as the 2006–2007 President of the Marquette University Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. We have been busy connecting with as many alumni as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or recommendations you have regarding the Law School or the Alumni Board.

My “platform” provides me with the opportunity to encourage fellow alumni to become active ambassadors for the Law School. Of course, monetary contributions are always welcome and valued, but your involvement in Law Alumni events is equally important. We hope you will participate in them, particularly our annual Law Alumni Association Awards Ceremony (this year on April 26).

In addition to increasing alumni attendance at events, we have taken on several other important goals. They include:

• Supporting the Law School by creating alumni networking programs;
• Increasing alumni participation in “Simplicity” (the Law School Career Planning Center’s program) to advise and mentor students;
• Supporting the Law School Admissions Office’s recruitment efforts, especially to help matriculate a diverse class;
• Increasing the nomination pool for our annual Law Alumni Awards; and
• Increasing overall alumni participation in the Law School’s Annual Fund.

Your volunteering to help the Board achieve these goals will contribute greatly to fulfilling our new strategic plan. Further, your participation and engagement create an alumni network of which both current law students and alumni can be proud.

There are many ways for you to be a part of our efforts each year. For more information on Law School activities and Alumni events, please visit http://law.marquette.edu.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your service as a Marquette Law School ambassador! I look forward to seeing you at events into the future.

Genyne Edwards, L’00
President,
Marquette University
Law Alumni Association

SEEKING TALENTED LAW STUDENTS OR GRADUATES?

If your organization has hiring needs for law school students or graduates for full-time or part-time positions at any level, target the rich pool of talent of Marquette University Law School alumni and current students.

The Career Planning Center will post your job opening for students and/or alumni free of charge. Simply complete and submit the online job posting available at law.marquette.edu/jw/jobposting, or email your complete job description to mulawcareers@marquette.edu. If you have any questions about recruiting at the Law School, please contact us at (414) 288-3313.

Marquette University Law School provides its students and graduates with the opportunity to obtain employment without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, religion, age, disability or perceived disability, or veteran’s status. The Law School restricts its recruiting programs and services to employers that agree to abide by this policy.
As we look forward to this year’s Law Alumni Association Awards Ceremony (see information on page 40), we look back at last year’s ceremony, which saw five alumni honored for aspects of their careers or service to the Law School. The then-president of the Law Alumni Association Board, Larry B. Brueggeman, L’69, Dean Joseph D. Kearney, and the President of the University, Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., presented the various awards.

Sports Law Alumnus of the Year

Shawn M. Eichorst, L’95, received the Sports Law Alumnus of the Year Award. Eichorst is currently the Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, having previously served at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and the University of South Carolina. After graduation, Eichorst helped to create the course at the Law School in Amateur Sports Law. He has helped the sports law program in other ways as well, including the creation of an internship and participating in career panels, conferences, and seminars. Eichorst has particularly made himself available to talk with students interested in working in college athletics.

Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award

The Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award ordinarily is presented to a fairly recent graduate who has demonstrated an unusual commitment to the school, the profession, or the underserved. As Dean Kearney noted in his remarks at the ceremony, “The only difference this year is that there are two winners of the award.”

Eric Montgomery, L’90, whose day job is as Assistant General Counsel at Bank of America in Charlotte, North Carolina, was recognized for his civic involvement. Montgomery has served as President of the Board of Cooperative Ministry, as a board member for Children Unlimited, as the Treasurer of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, as Chair of the City of Columbia’s Planning Commission, and in several other organizations serving the community, the profession, and the public at large.
**Tanner Kilander, L’02**, helped to establish the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic even while a student at the Law School. The MVLC recently celebrated its fifth year of service to the Milwaukee-area community. It operates each Tuesday, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the House of Peace at 17th and Walnut Streets, just blocks from campus. Kearney cited the MVLC as “essential in our efforts to redefine and broaden the concept of what it means to be a Marquette lawyer.” Kilander’s own service to the profession and society goes far beyond the clinic, such as through her extensive work as a court-appointed guardian ad litem for children.

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**Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Michael Wherry, L’62*, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Wherry’s career has been distinguished by accomplishments in litigation, beginning with his work at the United States Department of Justice from 1963 to 1966 and for the next almost 40 years as a civil litigator in Wisconsin’s state and federal courts. In presenting the award on behalf of the Law Alumni Association, Kearney noted “a broader characteristic, specifically, his leadership, which has been a particular hallmark of Mike Wherry’s career.”

In addition to leading law firms, Wherry served as the President of the Milwaukee Bar Association, was a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s disciplinary agency for lawyers, and played an active and leading role in matters ranging from his local parish to more-extensive politics. He has demonstrated as well his support for future Marquette lawyers through a scholarship that he established several years ago. His nominators specifically noted that he has devoted a significant amount of time to mentoring younger attorneys. The career is summed up, perhaps, in the words of one of Wherry’s nominators, who described him as “a highly skilled and ethical trial lawyer, a committed public servant, a leader among his peers, and a kind and generous individual.”

*“Looking back at my entire legal career, from start to finish, I can say in honesty that it all started at Marquette. I started at Marquette High School, Marquette University, and Marquette Law School. So I will tell you that I would not have had the ability to advance in the legal profession if it had not been for Marquette. And I am so glad that I did. My father told me (he was a well-known lawyer in Milwaukee and a Marquetter), ‘Start and stay ‘til the end, Mike, because you’ll never, never regret being a Marquette person, because you’re going to learn a lot over there.’ And I did, and I did.”*  

—from the remarks of Michael Wherry, L’62, in accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award
Gene Duffy, L’78, received the Law Alumnus of the Year Award. Duffy passed away in November 2006, several months after receiving the award. In his practice, Duffy handled almost all manner of state and federal taxation issues as well as corporate law and other matters. His practice extended beyond Wisconsin and was marked, in the words of one of his nominators, “by excellence not only in expertise and success but also in ethics and civility.”

Duffy’s lifetime of service extended far beyond his clients. He served his country in the military, both in combat in Vietnam and in the courtroom as a member of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the United States Navy. He served the community, with extensive board work for educational institutions throughout the Milwaukee area, not least (but also not only) for a decade as a member of the Law Alumni Association Board, including a term as President.

In presenting the award to Gene Duffy, Dean Kearney recounted some of the foregoing and noted in part as follows: “But Gene is a leader quite apart from any formal institutional role. When my predecessor, the late Howard Eisenberg, became Dean of the Law School in 1995, one thing that he made clear is that, in order to advance, the Law School needed to develop more of a culture of philanthropy among those closest to and most knowledgeable about the school—in particular, its alumni. At the time, this was a hard sell; it still can be, but it especially was then. Gene was one of the very first to answer Howard’s call, helping to establish a scholarship so that the Law School would be better able to attract and to educate the next generation of Marquette lawyers.” Excerpts from Duffy’s remarks appear on the page opposite this.
Excerpts from the Remarks of the Late Gene Duffy, L’78, in Accepting the Law Alumnus of the Year Award

The Dean forewarned me that he was going to make the effort to get students here tonight, and he has succeeded at that. He wanted me to address some of my remarks to them. He knew also that a few of my classmates and friends would be here. And he wanted me to address some of my remarks to them as well. But the precise remarks are mine, and I tried to harmonize them with the help of my expert writer, my daughter.

So I’m going to take about five minutes, and hopefully not bore you, but hopefully motivate you to think about what we need to take as the next step to maintain the momentum in the improvement of our Law School. What are we going to do in terms of facilities, what are we going to do in terms of faculty, what are we going to do in terms of student recruitment? What are we going to be able to do ourselves?

So here is my description of the ideal Alumnus of the Year. First, the relationship between an alumnus and the institution must be a strong one. You can’t come in and out of your relationship like anything else. You have to be committed to a law school to help it. You have to provide it the kind of involvement that is a sustained contribution of time and talent, that advances the standing and stature of the institution.

The second thing about the relationship of a strong alumnus and a school is that it must be a dynamic one; it can’t be passive. If alumni no longer have a stake in their institution, there will be no future for the relationship. So, too, if the Law School merely stands in place, it has no future, and it’s not a place that I would, frankly, want to waste my time in. I want something dynamic, and someone that’s asking me to help it to build and to grow. And I am confident that this is what this administration wants, too.

I will be forever grateful to Marquette and to Marquette’s community for the opportunity that it has offered me across the board. This is the place where I met and proposed to my wife; it is the place where I raised my children; it has allowed me to participate in some incredible, creative social and educational planning, like Campus Circle.

I take great pride in being a member of the Class of 1978, and I want to apologize to my classmates, because with this award I was unfairly acknowledged. All of my class participated in responding to Howard Eisenberg’s call, and I was so proud to be in a class that stepped up to the plate and sacrificed at a young age, with a lot of debt, to fund a scholarship, because the Law School needed the example. And maybe it’s time we did it again. But my classmates did it, and it was just a wonderful, wonderful self-sacrifice, and a classic example of what it means to be good alumni.

Finally, I want to take this moment to say that I’m very grateful that my wife and children, and my beautiful new daughter-in-law, and my sisters and their families are here to share tonight. For me it was a little iffy—I got out of the hospital today—and I’ve been given another little battle to deal with. And it’s helped me learn another very, very important lesson in life, which maybe is important to every Marquetter in the room. And that is a song, or a thought from a song, that my son was taught. It goes like this: “Someday I hope you get the chance/To live like you were dying.” It changes your perspective, and it helps you really to understand what the important work is. Thank you for this honor. I will treasure it.