

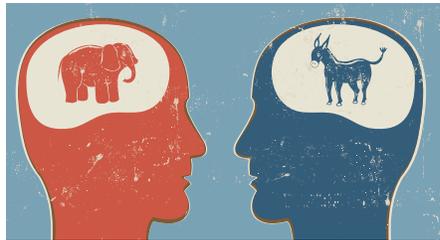
Election trails to cross through Eckstein Hall for debates, forums

Autumn is often the hottest season of the year in Wisconsin—when it comes to politics. That is certainly the case this year, as strongly contested battles for governor, the U.S. Senate, and control of both houses of the legislature have put Wisconsin in a prominent position on the national political map.

Building on its commitment to be a place for serious discussion of major issues and taking advantage of the extraordinary facilities in the new Eckstein Hall, Marquette Law School will play a major role in the political events of the fall.

The Appellate Courtroom in the new building was the site in August of a one-hour “town hall challenge” between the two major Republican candidates for governor, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and former Congressman Mark Neumann. The session was broadcast live on television and radio stations across the state as part of the “Up Front” program hosted by Mike Gousha, the Law School’s distinguished fellow in law and public policy. The program originates from WISN-TV (Channel 12) in Milwaukee.

Again with Gousha moderating and the Appellate Courtroom as the venue, debates between the two major candidates for U.S. Senate and between the two major



candidates for governor are expected to be held in October.

In addition, Gousha is scheduled to moderate a discussion about the role of money in elections and whether and how it should be regulated at 12:15 p.m. on October 5. Offering their decidedly different views will be Jay Heck,

executive director of Common Cause Wisconsin, and Rick Esenberg of the law faculty.

And at 12:15 p.m. on October 26—just a week before the November 2 election—Gousha will host the state chairmen of the two major political parties, Republican Reince Priebus and Democrat Mike Tate.

Marquette leaders want people to regard Eckstein Hall as “the other Marquette interchange.” Located adjacent to the heavily traveled freeway crossroads, the Law School aims to provide a heavily used setting for considering major issues facing Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Joseph D. Kearney, dean of the Law School, said, “From the origins of designing this great building, we placed a premium on providing space and opportunity for public discussion of the events most important to our community.”

National political experts have described Wisconsin as one of the places most worth watching as elections near. One of the best places for doing that watching will be Eckstein Hall.

The Lawyer(s) of the Year

Maybe it would have been more accurate to call the Milwaukee Bar Association’s award “the program of the year,” but no one had trouble getting the message when the organization recognized the Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program as “Lawyer of the Year.”

The program was recognized for “activities and extraordinary accomplishments over the previous year [that] reflect well not only on the award winner but also on the profession in general.”

The Law School’s leadership of the program has been directed by Daniel Idzikowski, L’90, assistant dean for public service; Natalie Fleury, coordinator for dispute resolution programs; Debra Tuttle, L’87, chief mediator; and Amy Koltz, L’03, program coordinator.

With the involvement of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen, state and city funds were made available for Marquette University Law School, the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, and other organizations, judges, and lawyers in private practice to launch the program.

The program offers mediation to lenders and homeowners who are involved in court proceedings related to foreclosure. It has enabled parties in dozens of cases to come to voluntary agreements allowing many people to remain in their homes.

Law School programs aim to shed light on improving MPS

When Gregory Thornton was in the early stages of learning his new job—superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools—one of his first public appearances was at a Marquette Law School forum in which four former superintendents of MPS talked about what they had learned from the job.

Like more than 150 other people, Thornton listened to the thoughtful yet passionate remarks of people who preceded him.

What he heard included calls to pursue reform of MPS more forcefully and calls to be cautious about taking things apart before you know what you're going to put together. He heard criticism of the amount of politics that surrounds education in Milwaukee, as well as a defense of what was done by some who were involved in those politics. And, in general, he heard the kind of provocative, serious discussion that the Law School is seeking to host as it develops its public policy programming, particularly in the area of education. The superintendents' forum was organized by Michael Spector, Boden Visiting Professor, who has focused on enhancing discussion about issues surrounding MPS.

"Although the Law School is a convener and a neutral rather than an advocate for any particular position or point of view, it believes that the more facts and ideas relevant to MPS decision-making that are made available to the community, the better will be those decisions and the better will be MPS educational outcomes," Spector said in his opening remarks at the session.

Spector and others are making plans for the new school year, including a half-day program on November 9 at Eckstein Hall that is expected to include two nationally prominent educators, Raj Vinnakota, co-founder and CEO of the SEED boarding school for high-needs students in Washington, D.C., and Rafe Esquith, a Los Angeles teacher who has authored three books and been recognized as national teacher of the year for his long record of success with fifth-graders from low-income homes. For more information, visit the Law School website at law.marquette.edu.



Health, aging, and the Law School

How will the medical system be changed by the aging population? In a few years, will taking vitamin D be regarded as a fad or an established practice? What will really result from the new national health care law?

These may sound like issues for a medical conference. Actually, they were each discussed at Marquette Law School's annual *Elder's Advisor* conference several months ago. Titled "The Push to Institutionalize Prevention: We Win, We Lose," the conference drew about 100 people and featured presentations by experts from around the country.

Issues related to health and older people have been a major interest of the Law School since 1993. There are numerous courses taught each year focusing on those subjects, said Prof. Alison Barnes, who led the establishment of the *Marquette Elder's Advisor* law review. The courses are optional for second- and third-year students; interest has been steady and strong, Barnes said. Part-time and second-career students seem particularly interested, she noted.

The issues that the conference considered are fundamental to the well-being of people, Barnes said: "There are many legal aspects, including business, contracts, torts, and others that cut across a whole range of bioethics." There are even more criminal actions connected to health care than there used to be.

Plans are under way for the next *Elder's Advisor* conference to be held in spring 2011.