Building Justice in Afghanistan

Kimberley Motley is many things—lawyer, tireless advocate, wife, mother, former Miss Wisconsin. There is one thing she is not: afraid.

Motley is an international lawyer advocating in Afghanistan on behalf of foreigners held in Afghan jails. Though routinely threatened—both covertly and openly—she is unyielding in her representation and protection of her clients. But that’s only part of her story, a story that started a decade ago and continues to unfold half a world away.

While in law school, Motley tried to steer away from criminal work because it overwhelmed her. “But it kept calling me,” she said. “It is what I am supposed to be doing.” Fresh out of law school, she worked as an assistant public defender for six years in Racine and Milwaukee. In 2009, she was selected for a one-year-commitment position as a defense justice advisor in the Justice Sector Support Program in Kabul, Afghanistan. During this time, she was being trained—unbeknownst to her—for her life’s next big calling.

As a defense justice advisor, Motley worked closely with nongovernmental organizations, the Ministry of Justice, and the Attorney General’s office to increase the overall criminal-defense capacity in Kabul.

She accomplished much in her year in a country not well known, let us say, for its justice system. Motley immersed herself in the culture, working on gender-justice issues for incarcerated and accused women. She organized conferences, training sessions, roundtables, and special events to educate the Afghan government and public on access to justice, criminal defense, legal rights, and legal responsibilities. She conducted frequent training and mentoring sessions with criminal defense lawyers, specifically focusing on investigatory and trial advocacy skills.

Motley also provided technical assistance, training, and staff mentorship to nongovernmental organization boards engaged in criminal-justice issues. Her constant effort was to instill a culture of professionalism, excellence, and independence that would be resistant to political pressure and other interference—that is, to set standards for adherence to international norms in criminal justice.

In 2009, she decided to stay in Kabul as a juvenile justice consultant, first for Terre des Hommes, an international organization.
international organization, and then for the Italian Embassy, conducting field research on juvenile justice throughout Afghanistan, where children are often locked up and not properly represented. “This research has had a significant impact in having more judges being hired for juvenile matters and more oversight regarding juvenile justice,” Motley said. The following year, she worked for UNICEF, again doing research in Afghanistan, to draft internationally distributed publications regarding juvenile justice.

This work took her into the field where she conducted research by speaking (through a translator) to hundreds of people. What she learned became the basis for her own law practice. “I have witnessed so many human rights violations in Afghanistan—prisoners beaten and abused, going to court without translators, receiving exorbitant sentences—that I felt obligated to step in. It affected me as a human being that no one was helping some of these people,” she said. “I have some of the tools to help them within this embryonic system. I feel it is my duty to do this,” she explained.

It is often a struggle. Along with obvious language challenges (she has a professional translator), Motley also faces the cultural differences. “I am respectful to their culture while being true to myself,” she explained. “I do not assume the traditional dress nor do I wear a headscarf.” She finds it necessary to take on a culturally masculine role within Afghanistan so as not to be a detriment to her clients. “I am not overly aggressive, nor do I show skin, but I do look men in the eye and, in order to be perceived as a peer, do shake the hands of men in professional situations,” she explained, “both of which they traditionally do not do with women in their culture.”

So, what started out as a one-year commitment has turned into the establishment of one of the first international law firms in Afghanistan—Motley Legal Services. Motley is working on a book about her experiences in Kabul and law in Afghanistan in general.

Motley said that, no matter where her work or life finds her, she still thinks of Milwaukee as home.

1964
Joseph J. Roszkowski was named to the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. He is managing partner of Zimmerman, Roszkowski & Brenner in Woonsocket, R.I.

1966
Robert O. Burr Jr. has been certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit civil mediator.

1972
Jeffrey P. Aiken, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, Milwaukee, spoke to the Hungarian Parliament in November 2010 about the advantages of a bicameral legislature. He is also the author of “Construction Experts and Res Ipsa Loquitur: Bridging the Evidentiary Gap,” appearing in Construction Lawyer (Fall 2010).

1977
Roxanne J. Decyk has been elected to the board of directors for Alliant Techsystems, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. She is currently based in Washington, D.C., where she serves as the executive vice-president, Global Government Affairs, for Royal Dutch Shell.

Dean R. Dietrich, Wausau, Wis., has received the John L. Cook Memorial Award from the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce for his years of service to Wausau-area residents. He is a shareholder at Ruder Ware.

1981
Jon Anderson, Madison, Wis., has been named to the Education Law Association board. He is a shareholder at Godfrey & Kahn.

Paul E. Bucher has formed Bucher Law Group in Delafield, Wis. The firm focuses on civil and criminal litigation, family law, social security and worker’s compensation matters, and municipal law.

Bush Nielsen is an author of Commercial Real Estate Transactions in Wisconsin (State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE, 2010). He is with the Waukesha office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.

1982
Michael Ariens is the author of Law School: Getting In, Getting On, Getting Out (Carolina Academic Press, 2010). He is professor at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas.
Rising to the Top by Serving Others

It is only fitting that Christine Wiseman is president of an institution founded by a strong and committed group of women. As president of Saint Xavier University, a coeducational institution established by the Sisters of Mercy and the oldest Catholic institution in Chicago, Wiseman works hard to continue the tradition in which she was educated, exuding the Jesuit mission of *cura personalis*—caring for each unique individual. “I am the woman the Jesuits educated me to be,” she said.

Wiseman—then Christine Giaimo—grew up in a strong Italian family in an ethnically diverse neighborhood on Milwaukee’s south side. She was salutatorian of her St. Mary’s Academy graduating class. When considering colleges, she sought a place that would offer an academic challenge. Marquette University was the answer. She commuted to and from Marquette during her undergraduate years and paid for her education herself, with assistance from some partial academic scholarships. Her intention was to major in drama or broadcast journalism. As with many other young people, Wiseman’s plans changed along the way: she ended up earning her bachelor of arts degree, with honors, in English and philosophy.

A legal situation in which a technicality prevented a family member from collecting death benefits gave Wiseman the idea that a law degree would allow her

Marquette law degree: 1973
Employment: President, Saint Xavier University, Chicago.
Family: Married for 38 years to William A. Wiseman; three adult children, Andrew, Nora, and Patrick.

Michael J. Gonring serves on the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, which develops and encourages means of expanding access to the civil justice system for unrepresented low-income Wisconsin residents. Gonring’s practice at Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee focuses on product liability litigation.

Kathleen A. Gray, Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee, has been elected to serve on the board of directors of the Waukesha County Community Foundation.

Steven J. Lownik has joined Bucher Law Group, Delafield, Wis.

Karen Goldman Zimmermann, Milwaukee, was inducted into the Wisconsin Law Foundation’s 2010 Class of Fellows.

1984
Charles G. Maris, Davis & Kuelthau, Brookfield, Wis., has been admitted to the Florida Bar.
Cheryl A. Gemignani, Waukesha, Wis., was inducted into the Wisconsin Law Foundation’s 2010 Class of Fellows.

1985
Timothy James Pruitt, Racine, Wis., has formed the firm Pruitt, Ekes & Geary.
Gary J. van Domelen has been elected a shareholder at Wagner, Falconer & Judd, La Crosse, Wis. He leads the firm’s business service team.

Robert Blazewick, captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, has been named as the navy JAG’s chair of international law at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany. He reported in August 2010, after completing three years as the commanding officer of the Navy's Mid-Pacific Regional Legal Office in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served as the Navy’s chief prosecutor in the mid-Pacific and as the staff judge advocate to the commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

Scott M. Fabry has joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the Waukesha, Wis., office. As a shareholder in Business Law and Tax Practices, he focuses on business counseling and mergers and acquisitions. Fabry also helps clients evaluate the use of tax credits, including new-markets tax credits and rehabilitation tax credits, as a means of financing. He is a member of the board of directors of Adoption Resources of Wisconsin and the Waukesha County Economic Development Corporation.

Peter M. Silver, Hartford, Wis., has joined Matthisen, Wickert & Lehner. He focuses on defense of worker’s compensation matters and also handles national subrogation and civil litigation.

to help those in need. She said she loved the challenge of law school, being an analytical thinker and good on her feet. “I learned along the way that I could synthesize different legal opinions and different rationales, bringing together many different strands of thought,” she said.

Upon graduating from law school in 1973, Wiseman worked for a year as an assistant attorney general for the State of Wisconsin in the Criminal Appeals Division. She then served as a law clerk for Robert W. Warren, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. She was appointed a full-time faculty member at Marquette Law School in 1980. She progressed from being a much-admired assistant professor to a full professor of law, ultimately becoming associate vice president for academic affairs for Marquette University.

Despite her deep love for Marquette, an opportunity arose at Creighton University in Omaha, in 2002, that offered personal and professional growth. “It is so helpful that you have experience at more than one institution,” she said. “The panoply of opportunities and experiences in the five years I served as vice president for academic affairs at Creighton University allowed me to hone my administrative skills.”

In 2007, her father became ill. As the oldest of three children, Wiseman wanted to be closer to her parents to care for them as they aged. She decided to look for a position closer to her Milwaukee roots. It was then that yet another Jesuit institution contacted her. She served as provost of Loyola University Chicago for nearly three years, a position that not only brought her closer to her parents’ home but also gave her valuable professional mentoring.

All of these positions were preparing her for the role that she recently assumed. In May 2010, Wiseman became president of the nearly 5,000-student Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She acknowledges that it is not where she thought she would be when she first began her legal career in the 1970s. But it is not entirely a surprise to her. “There is no more malleable degree than a law degree,” she said. Legal education has taught her to focus on the issues, not just the people, and to see many sides of a situation, allowing her to arrive at a rational decision and articulate it.

“That is what I do now as president of Saint Xavier,” Wiseman said. “I’ve refined the skill of being direct and communicative, which is a valuable asset for any president.” Just as she viewed the practice of law, Wiseman sees her role now as one focused on service. “I am a resource to the people here,” she said. Her often-12-hour days include being the public face of the university at meetings, donor gatherings, and student, faculty, and athletic events.

She and her husband, William A. Wiseman, make their home in Chicago. That said, she hastens to assure folks that she remains an “absolute and rabid Packer fan.”

1986

Gary J. Van Domelen has been elected a shareholder at Wagner, Falconer & Judd, La Crosse, Wis. He leads the firm’s business service team.

1987

Robert Blazewick, captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, has been named as the Navy JAG’s chair of international law at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany. He reported in August 2010, after completing three years as the commanding officer of the Navy’s Mid-Pacific Regional Legal Office in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served as the Navy’s chief prosecutor in the mid-Pacific and as the staff judge advocate to the commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

Scott M. Fabry has joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the Waukesha, Wis., office. As a shareholder in Business Law and Tax Practices, he focuses on business counseling and mergers and acquisitions. Fabry also helps clients evaluate the use of tax credits, including new-markets tax credits and rehabilitation tax credits, as a means of financing. He is a member of the board of directors of Adoption Resources of Wisconsin and the Waukesha County Economic Development Corporation.

Peter M. Silver, Hartford, Wis., has joined Matthisen, Wickert & Lehner. He focuses on defense of worker’s compensation matters and also handles national subrogation and civil litigation.
1988

Robert L. Jaskulski, Habush Habush & Rottier, Milwaukee, has been invited to join the International Society of Barristers.

Francis J. Hughes has been elected to the board of governors for the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin. He is a shareholder at Fox, O’Neill & Shannon.

1989

Nicholas C. Zales received a President’s Award from Wisconsin Bar President Doug Kammer at the 2010 bar convention for his work as chair of the state bar’s finance committee. He was also unanimously approved by the bar’s board of governors to serve a three-year term on the board of the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF).

1990

Arthur T. Phillips has been elected as a shareholder at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. He is a member of the Human Resources Law Practice Group in the firm’s Milwaukee office.

1991

David L. Borowski has been elected to the board of the Polish Heritage Alliance, Milwaukee. He is a judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

James C. Green, West Bend, Wis., has been appointed vice president—human resources, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Gehl Company, a Manitou Group subsidiary. He will have responsibility for all human resource and legal functions in the Americas region for Gehl Company and Manitou entities.

Stephen D. Zubiago has been named to the new leadership team of Nixon Peabody. He has been selected as chair of the firm’s Business and Finance Department and is based in its Providence, R.I., office.

1992

Marilyn M. Carroll has joined Davis & Kueltzhau as a shareholder in the firm’s Brookfield office. Her practice focuses on health-care litigation.

Steven D. Mayer, Milwaukee, has formed Mayer Galligan Law. The firm focuses on business succession planning, mergers and acquisitions, estate and tax planning, business contract negotiations, charitable planning, family business transactions, and probate and trust administration.

Aidan M. McCormack has joined the firm of DLA Piper, New York, as a partner with its Litigation Practice Group. His practice focuses on insurance, reinsurance, and financial-services-related litigation, arbitration, and counseling. He has served as lead counsel for insurers and reinsurers across the world.

Kelli Thompson was named Wisconsin State Public Defender in April. She started with the defender’s office as a Law School intern and has been deputy state public defender for seven years. Thompson also has been elected to the National Legal Aid & Defender Association board.

1993

Lisa C. Paul has written a memoir of her relationship with a prominent Soviet refusenik in Moscow in the 1980s. The book, Swimming in the Daylight: An American Student, a Soviet-Jewish Dissident, and the Gift of Hope, was published in February by Skyhorse Publishing.

Timothy S. Trecek, Habush Habush & Rottier, Milwaukee, has been invited to join the International Society of Barristers.

Maria E. Gonzalez Knavel received the Community Involvement Award from the Association for Women Lawyers Foundation. She is with the Milwaukee office of Foley & Lardner.

1994

Sally A. Piefer, The Schroeder Group, Waukesha, Wis., was named one of the “2010 Women in the Law” by the Wisconsin Law Journal. She is also chair of the board of the Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce and a long-time member of the board of directors for the Elmbrook Humane Society and several other community boards.

1995

Susan C. Minahan has joined the Milwaukee office of Michael Best & Friedrich, as a partner in the Wealth Planning Services Group. She focuses her practice on estate planning, probate and trust administration, will contests and trust litigation, charitable giving, prenuptial agreements, and business succession planning.

1996

Kelli Thompson was named Wisconsin State Public Defender in April. She started with the defender’s office as a Law School intern and has been deputy state public defender for seven years. Thompson also has been elected to the National Legal Aid & Defender Association board.

1997

Chad W. Koplien graduated from the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s School of Law, cum laude (Commandant’s List), and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Excellence in Legal Service Support, in 2010. He has joined Stafford Rosenbaum, Madison, Wis.

Debra E. Kuper was recognized as one of the most influential women in Georgia at the Georgia Conference for Women, where she received the Glass Ceiling Award for her dedication and hard work as a leader. She is vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of AGCO, headquartered in Duluth, Ga.
Kurt Dykstra wears many hats—a significant contrast, it seems, from his initial intention of wearing a collar.

Dykstra was born and raised in the predominantly Dutch-settlement area of Oostburg, Wis., near Sheboygan. He graduated, magna cum laude, from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, having studied humanities with an emphasis in religion and history. A year later, after becoming married, he and his wife, Leah, set off to Princeton Seminary in New Jersey, where Dykstra intended to enroll to become a minister.

“We finished our final visit to the campus, and when we went out to dinner that night, I shared my doubts about wanting to enter the seminary,” he said. This was quite a surprise to Leah, whose father was a minister. (Dykstra's great-grandfather also was a minister.)

And so their adventure began. The Dykstras headed to Milwaukee, where, a year later, Kurt attended Marquette Law School. “I had no idea what to expect,” he said. “I walked into the building pretty much petrified.” Three years later, he received his degree, summa cum laude.

Dykstra took advantage of the many seminars and courses offered. With a natural penchant for writing, Dykstra was selected as editor-in-chief for volume 81 of the Marquette Law Review. One issue of the journal included papers from a symposium at the Law School organized by Professor Scott Idleman regarding the role and influence of religious values in judicial decision-making. “This issue was unique and has been cited in various other types of non-legal research,” said Dykstra. The final issue of this volume marked Wisconsin's sesquicentennial.

Upon graduation, Dykstra clerked for Justice Ann Walsh Bradley at the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He accepted a position with Reinhart Boerner van Deuren in Milwaukee in the fall of 1999.

After nearly four years at Reinhart, and with two young daughters and a desire to sink some roots, Dykstra and his family set out to find what would become their new home. He sent his resume to a large firm in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which also had an office in Holland, Michigan, another Dutch-settlement area, where his wife had been born. It was a perfect fit. The family moved to Holland in the spring of 2002, where Dykstra’s practice focuses primarily on commercial litigation, trade secrets, and real estate litigation.

Once comfortable in his new position and settled in the community, Dykstra served on the city council. After four years on the council, Dykstra was encouraged to run for mayor by a longtime official who had decided not to seek reelection. “I jumped into that race in 2009 and was elected Holland's part-time mayor,” he said. Since then he has been serving as mayor while also maintaining his practice, which is four blocks from the Holland City Hall.

“The most challenging part of each day is to do a good job in two distinct roles. I am constantly trying to find extra hours in each day to do justice to both aspects of my career,” he said. “The rewards are many. I get to be a problem solver and conflict resolver in both roles. The decisions I make today will affect the trajectory of the community for generations. I try very hard for good and wise choices.”

In addition to these two positions, Dykstra also teaches a law-related class every semester at Hope College and serves on several community councils and boards. He maintains a connection to the Wisconsin legal system as a member of the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners.

Dykstra believes that it is important to treat people well, whether they are business associates, community members, or family. “Everyone deserves respect and to be heard,” he said. This is something that he recalls being reinforced in him while attending Marquette Law School. “The moral and theological dimensions and attitudes weren't always overtly discussed, but they were demonstrated and woven into our teachings on how we do what we do as lawyers. I’ve really come to value that.”

So perhaps the career that Dykstra once considered really isn’t so different from what he does now, he said. “Some of the same skills that make a minister successful—listening, asking good questions, and being comfortable with and respectful to people—are the same skills required to be an effective lawyer.”
Daniel G. Radler has been elected chairman of the board of directors of St. Anne’s Home for the Elderly. He is a partner in the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady.

Christopher M. Seelen, Eau Claire, Wis., has been appointed to the panel of Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees for the Western District of Wisconsin. He practices at Ruder Ware and focuses on representing creditors in bankruptcy court and state court.

1998

Thomas R. Nolasco has joined the Phoenix, Ariz., firm of Engelman Berger as a partner. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation and professional liability, including trademark/copyright infringement, contract disputes, non-compete covenants, and franchise disputes.

David Rose has joined Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker as a partner in the firm’s Stamford, Conn., office, working in the Government Affairs Practice Group. During the past four years, he served as an assistant counsel to three governors of New York State.

1999

Angela Campion has been recognized as one of the Milwaukee Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40.”

Daniel S. Galligan, Milwaukee, has formed Mayer Galligan Law. The firm focuses on business succession planning, mergers and acquisitions, estate and tax planning, business contract negotiations, charitable planning, family business transactions, and probate and trust administration.

2000

Jennifer Bolger has joined von Briesen & Roper, Milwaukee, Wis., as a shareholder in the environmental law and litigation section.

Evelyn L. Brown, Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee, has been appointed treasurer of the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin.

Elaine Sutton Ekes, Racine, Wis., has formed the firm Pruitt, Ekes & Geary.

Tyson A. Ciepluch has become a partner at Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee.

Patricia A. Lauten has become deputy city attorney in Madison, Wis. She focuses on labor, employment, and personnel issues.

Charles D. Schmidt has joined The Schroeder Group in Waukesha, Wis. He has ten years of civil litigation and appellate practice experience. He is also a co-founder and director of Sweet Water Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting community education and involvement in sustainable urban agriculture, aquaculture, and aquaponics.

Stephan J. Nickels has been elected partner at Foley & Lardner. He is part of the firm’s Madison office and focuses his practice on business litigation and dispute resolution, as well as intellectual property litigation.

2001

Jennifer J. Kopp has joined the Brookfield office of Davis & Kuelthau as a senior associate. She is part of the firm’s Heath Care Litigation Practice.

Mark J. Andres, Elm Grove, Wis., has been elected secretary of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin.

Mollie A. Newcomb has been elected president of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin. Newcomb has served on the society’s board of governors for three years and is its first female president. She is an attorney with Boyle Fredrickson.

2002

Eugene M. LaFlamme has been promoted to partner at McCoy & Hofbauer, Waukesha, Wis.

Daniel A. Kaminsky, Geoffrey A. Lacy, and Matthew R. McLean, Davis & Kuelthau, have each been promoted to shareholder in the firm’s Milwaukee and Green Bay offices.

Thomas Simon has joined the Bucher Law Group, Delafield, Wis.

Gilbert F. Urfer has joined Nistler Law Office, Brookfield, Wis., as a senior associate.

Patrick McNally and his wife, Sarah, Whitefish Bay, Wis., welcomed their fourth child and second son, Charlie, on December 10, 2010.

Joseph W. Voiland, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee, was named one of the firm’s Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year.
Aaron J. Bernstein, Milwaukee, has joined Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson.

Elizabeth P. Hanigan has been elected partner at Foley & Lardner. She is with the firm’s Milwaukee office and focuses her practice on finance and financial institutions.

Patrick S. Murphy, Milwaukee, has been elected shareholder at Godfrey & Kahn. He is part of the firm’s Banking and Financial Institutions Practice Group.

2003

Nathan K. Johnson has been named a shareholder at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. He is a member of the firm’s Trusts and Estates Practice.

Adrienne J. Olson has joined the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady as an attorney in the Corporate Services Group, where she focuses on providing legal counsel with respect to lobbying, campaign finance, ethics, procurement, and anticorruption matters at the federal and state levels. She most recently was Pro Bono Coordinator at the Law School.

2004

Jane E. Appleby has been named in-house counsel in charge of litigation for Aurora Health Care, Inc. She also has been appointed to the Wisconsin State Bar’s Diversity Outreach Committee and has rejoined the state bar’s Professional Ethics Committee.

Jack M. Cook has become a partner at Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee.

John C. Gardner has joined DeWitt Ross & Stevens in Madison, Wis., as an associate with the Employment Relations and Litigation Groups.

Sharon M. Horozanieck, Minnetonka, Minn., has joined Morrison, Fenske & Sund as an associate. She focuses on product liability, construction and insurance-coverage litigation, and collection law.

Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, Milwaukee, has been appointed to the State Bar of Wisconsin Dispute Resolution Section Board. Her solo practice focuses on elder mediation.

Matthew R. Rosek has been promoted to senior associate at McCoy & Hofbauer, Waukesha, Wis.

Robert W. Habich is an author of Commercial Real Estate Transactions in Wisconsin (State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE, 2010). He is with the Waukesha office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.

Ryan L. Woody, Hartford, Wis., has been promoted to partner at Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer. He focuses on nationwide large-loss subrogation, ERISA litigation, and insurance defense and coverage issues.

2005

Christopher G. Meadows has joined the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek as part of the Products Liability Litigation and Risk Avoidance team.

Brad J. Sarna has joined Ocean Tomo in Chicago, Ill., as a member of the Valuation Practice Group.

2006

Anthony Murdoch and Andrea (Neuman) Murdoch welcomed their son, Ryan Kent Murdoch, on August 28, 2010. Anthony and Andrea are both shareholders at Halloin & Murdoch in Milwaukee, focusing on construction, real estate, and insurance coverage litigation.

Mathew Pauly has accepted the position of Medical Bioethics director with Kaiser Permanente, Fontana and Ontario Vineyard Medical Centers, Fontana, Calif.

Daniel R. Peterson has joined The Schroeder Group, as an associate in the business area.

Stephen J. Gardner has joined the Madison, Wis., office of Quarles & Brady as an associate in the Commercial Litigation Group.

2007

Kerri A. Hutchison, Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee, is serving as president of the Wisconsin Retirement Plan Professionals for the 2010–2011 year.

Kristin A. Occhetti has been appointed to the associate board of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. She is an associate in Quarles & Brady’s Milwaukee office and a member of the firm’s Trusts & Estates Group.

Melissa M. Stone, Hartford, Wis., has joined Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer. She focuses on worker’s compensation and personal injury insurance defense, national subrogation, and civil litigation.

2008

Megan K. Heinzelman has joined Ruder Ware’s Wausau office as a member of the Business Transactions and Trusts & Estates Practice Groups.

Thomas E. Howard has joined the Peoria, Ill., office of Howard & Howard. He concentrates his practice in the areas of creditors’ rights, bankruptcy, and commercial litigation.

Megan L. W. Jerabek has joined von Briesen & Roper, Madison, Wis., as an associate in the Business Practice Group.

Christopher J. MacGillis, Waukesha, Wis., has opened MacGillis Weimer LLC. The firm focuses on personal injury, labor and employment, criminal, and family law.

2009

David P. Knaff has joined von Briesen & Roper, Madison, Wis., as an associate in the Business Practice Group.

Amy L. MacArdy has joined the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the firm’s Litigation Practice.

Justin C. Longley, St. Francis, Wis., has been elected treasurer of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin.

Alexander W. Hansch, Milwaukee, has joined Godfrey & Kahn as a member of the Corporate Practice Group.
From Tarpaper Shack to Trial Courtroom

Few people who hail from meager means are presented with or take such advantage of the opportunity to succeed professionally as has been true of Adrian P. Schoone. Born at home in a tarpaper shack in a small northern Wisconsin farming community, Schoone is the oldest of six children.

He attributes his career choice and subsequent success primarily to two people: “first, my hard-headed, brook-no-interference father,” and, second, Alfred E. LaFrance.

When recounting his career path, Schoone said, “Unlike 95 percent of lawyers, I was not inspired to be a lawyer for any other reason than the directive of my father. I didn’t know nor was I related to any lawyers.” While considering what to do after an admittedly underachieving stint in high school, Schoone asked his father to sign papers that would allow the young Schoone to join the navy, as his fellow classmate and next-door neighbor would do. His father’s verbatim response was, “What the hell are you talking about? You’re going to be a lawyer.” And so it would be.

Schoone suspects that proclamation stemmed from the fact his father was chairman of the Town of Harrison and had some interaction with Lincoln County attorneys during his comings and goings at the county courthouse.

In any event, Schoone packed his bags and was off to Milwaukee for college. Schoone enrolled in the Marquette University College of Business Administration in 1953 with a partial scholarship and about $600 he had earned working all summer as a greenkeeper at the local golf course. He continued to finance his education by working during the school year on campus and during summer breaks as a woodsman and bricklayer’s helper.

In 1956, his father’s plan continued to unfold, as Schoone enrolled in Marquette University Law School. He applied for financial aid and the required testing yielded a St. Thomas More scholarship. “Marquette has been good to me,” he said. “Marquette taught me to be a practicing Wisconsin lawyer,” a fact that catapulted him from near poverty to a position where he can now look out for others.

After two years with a Milwaukee firm, Schoone landed a job with the other person to whom he is forever grateful—the late Alfred E. LaFrance of Racine, a celebrated leader of the Wisconsin bar. “His first question to me, after we shook hands, was where I ranked in my law school class. When I told him that I had graduated first, he said that intrigued him and offered me a job.”

Marquette law degree: 1959
Practice: Personal injury and business litigation with Schoone, Leuck, Kelley, Pitts & Knurr, Mount Pleasant, Wis.
Family: Married to Sally; four adult children and 9 grandchildren.
LaFrance offered Schoone a small office, a file cabinet, and $10 an hour to conduct legal research and factual investigations for LaFrance and his partner, Ken Greenquist. Schoone had to pay for his own secretary and a percentage of the overhead. Within a month, LaFrance asked him to assume considerable insurance subrogation work, suing uninsured motorists for property damage. Schoone was immersed immediately in trial experience, which he parlayed into a successful career as a trial lawyer.

During the ensuing years, he established his own firm, Schoone, Leuck, Kelley, Pitts & Knurr, in Racine. Over the span of his career, he has tried more than 250 civil and criminal jury cases to verdict, “winning more than I’ve lost,” Schoone said. During his half-century plus in the profession, he has also served as president of the State Bar of Wisconsin in 1983–1984 and, by appointment of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, on the Wisconsin Judicial Commission and the former Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility, both of which he chaired for two years.

With no intention of retiring as long as his law practice is rewarding and gives him pleasure, Schoone is most often at the office by 5:30 a.m. “If you are born poor,” he said, “you learn to work harder.”

Looking back on his 75 years with an uncanny memory for detail, Schoone is full of gratitude. This has manifested itself in several ways, most recently in a $300,000 gift to the Eckstein Hall project, in honor of his parents, Adrian and Agnes Schoone, in addition to past gifts to the Law School.

Schoone and his wife, Sally (who is also the firm’s bookkeeper), make their home in Mount Pleasant in Racine County and, as of eight years ago, spend most of the winter in Georgia, where the golfing and horseback riding are plentiful, and the office is only a phone call (or two or three or four) away.

Alicia M. Augsburger, Monroe, Wis., has joined Duxstad & Bestul as an associate. She focuses on business law, estate planning, probate, and real estate transactions.

Dennis J. Elverman, Milwaukee, has joined Howard, Solocek & Weber as an associate. He practices creditors’ rights law.

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Marc J. Adesso has joined DeWitt Ross & Stevens in Brookfield, Wis., as an associate with the Business, Estate Planning, Tax, and Real Estate Groups.

Alyssa D. Dowse has joined von Briesen & Roper, Madison, Wis., as an associate in the Compensation and Benefits Section.

Jessica L. Farley has joined the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the firm’s Litigation Practice.

Nathan S. Fronk has joined von Briesen & Roper, Madison, Wis., as an associate in the Litigation and Risk Management Practice Group.

Peter J. O’Meara has joined Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of the Milwaukee as an immigration attorney.

Craig R. Nolen has joined Voegeli, Ewald & Bartholf Law Offices, Monroe, Wis. His focus is on real estate, agricultural law, municipal law, and tax law.

Peter J. Prusinski, Wausau, Wis., has joined Crooks, Low & Connell as an associate. He concentrates his practice on criminal and traffic cases.

Stacie M. Ringelstetter has joined the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in the firm’s Employee Benefits Practice.

Anique N. Ruiz has joined the Milwaukee office of Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan as an associate in the Litigation Group.

Amy K. Sholis has become a corporate compliance specialist at the Madison headquarters of Dean Health Plan.

Patricia A. Stone has joined McCoy & Hofbauer, Waukesha, Wis.