

## Seeking Excellence, in This Magazine and All Else

The academic year in Eckstein Hall can seem a whirlwind. Our primary work, to understate the point, supports the academic efforts of Marquette law students. My own courses this year were the Supreme Court Seminar in the fall and Advanced Civil Procedure in the spring, but that is a small fraction of the combined contribution of the faculty, both full-time and adjunct. And even this collective work is a tiny percentage as against the time invested by the students themselves in their courses, for most of their work is outside the classroom. This direct program of legal education is the reason for the Law School's existence.



Yet the Law School's work is much broader. We take seriously our role as an engaged citizen of the communities of which we are part, and this magazine both constitutes and reflects some of that engagement.

For example, when the Marquette University History Department proposed a campuswide project, marking the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and reflecting more broadly

on freedom, the Law School acted. We devoted our annual Boden Lecture to the project and brought to the university and the broader southeastern Wisconsin community the renowned Columbia University historian, Eric Foner. We now bring him to you in these pages.

Our other distinguished lectures are also community events. This magazine presents the Barrock Lecture, dedicated annually to the discussion of criminal justice and delivered this year by Cal-Berkeley law professor Frank Zimring. Professor Zimring's lecture served also as a keynote address introducing our conference on one of the first national crime commissions. The next issue of the magazine will include material from two other distinguished lectures of the past academic year: Paul Clement's Hallows Lecture, "The Affordable Care Act Case in the Supreme Court: Looking Back, a

Year After," and Arti Rai's Nies Lecture in Intellectual Property, considering "Patents, Markets, and Medicine in a Just Society."

We help drive the conversation on important public policy issues even beyond these lectures. Our conference last summer with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, "Milwaukee's Future in the Chicago Megacity," gives rise in these pages to John Gurda's and Aaron Renn's essays. And it occasions Alan Borsuk's close look at the viability of the regional initiative and focus that many—including the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—are promoting for the tri-state region of which we are part. We promote no particular policy on these matters, but we ensure that especially important questions—whether there is substance to the Megacity initiative, whether there is net value in it for Milwaukee, etc.—are joined.

And our alumni, many of whom are with us at times during the year and several of whom are profiled here, remind us that the careers of today's students will be varied, indeed. They provide important models for all of us of the Marquette lawyer.

My purpose here is not to provide a table of contents for this *Marquette Lawyer*—one is available on the facing page. It is rather to suggest, first, that Marquette Law School today is an energetic, ambitious place and, second, that we are capable of channeling that energy and achieving our ambitions. We demonstrated this in building Eckstein Hall—the best law school building in the country. Our public policy initiative is something quite extraordinary: certainly there has been nothing elsewhere quite like the Marquette Law School Poll, chronicled in our 2012 magazines, so far as I am aware. Our distinguished lectures are outstanding.

In short, we seek excellence. This goal has pride of place at Marquette University, whose mission is "Excellence, Faith, Leadership, Service," and we increasingly demand it of ourselves in each aspect of our program. Let this magazine give you a sense of this—and of us.

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