

Providing Coast-to-Coast Legal Expertise

Eric Van Vugt didn't set out to achieve an unusual career goal, but he succeeded. He realized several years ago that he had been involved in legal work in 49 of the 50 American states. The one not on the list? Maine. Without Van Vugt's seeking it, a short time later one of his clients asked for help on a legal matter—in Maine, of course. Van Vugt had completed the full set, so to speak.

More important than the geography of his legal work over 38 years, Van Vugt is able to look back, appreciate his good fortune, and say, "I have nothing but great feelings. . . . What a great career." His work, primarily as a litigator, has been rewarding, and he's had great colleagues and clients.

He is also able to look forward eagerly. A partner at the Milwaukee-based firm of Quarles & Brady, he has been transitioning into a newly created position at the firm: general counsel. More law firms are creating their own general counsel's offices as the firms recognize, with their growing size and complexity, that they have many of the same legal needs their clients have, Van Vugt said. He has continued to work with some of his previous clients, but his main emphasis now is "having basically 450 lawyer clients," dealing with issues such as liability, regulatory compliance, and cybersecurity. "It's a good time and a logical transition," he said.

Van Vugt grew up in western Michigan and met his wife, Wendy, when both were students at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. She was from the Chicago area, and, when he decided to go to law school, they agreed to focus on choices within range of Chicago. One reason for picking Marquette Law School was the scholarship help he was offered. He said he appreciates to this



day what that meant to him, and one result is his and Wendy's generous support of scholarship funding at Marquette Law School now.

Van Vugt figured that he would spend the three years in law school in Milwaukee and then move on. But he and his wife decided Milwaukee was an appealing place,

and, with the help of Professor James Ghiardi, he was offered a position with a local law firm. The 1970s were “the heyday of the litigator,” Van Vugt recalls, and his practice went well. He joined a different law firm in 1986, which merged in 1991 with Quarles. Van Vugt developed specialties including issues related to aviation and public pension plans.

Beyond his duties with the firm, he is an avid traveler. He has been able to combine his professional and personal interests in trips such as one he took this past spring to Honduras as part of a group of lawyers advising that country’s local bar on enforcing land title laws.

Van Vugt said that the fast start he got to his practice—he was trying a case in court a month after graduating— isn’t likely to occur in today’s much-changed world. But he is confident that career paths offering important and exciting work for new lawyers are still out there. That’s another reason for his continuing support and encouragement for the students at Marquette Law School today. ■

Congratulations to the following Marquette lawyers, inducted as members of the Class of 2013 into the **Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation**. This honorary program recognizes a select number of lawyers for their high professional achievements and outstanding contributions to the advancement and improvement of the administration of justice in Wisconsin.

Steven M. Biskupic, '87

James F. Boyle, '84

Patrick W. Brennan, '81

Megan Patricia Carmody, '94

Randall D. Crocker, '79

William T. Curran, '75

Frank J. Daily, '68

John R. Decker, '77

Julianna Ebert, '81

Harry G. Holz, '58

Michael F. Hupy, '72

Kimberly A. Hurtado, '87

Barbara J. Janaszek, '81

Ralph J. Tease, Jr., '81

1968



James E. Duffy, Jr., a former associate justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, received the National Center for State Courts’ Distinguished Service Award this past September.

NCSC President Mary McQueen said, “Justice Duffy has been a tireless advocate for the legal profession and for the people of Hawaii. His commitment to continuing legal education has made great strides in strengthening the profession and improving the public’s trust and confidence in the courts.”

1972



John F. Maloney has joined Quarles & Brady’s Milwaukee office as of counsel in the firm’s trusts and estates practice group. He brings to the firm

the experience of more than 40 years of practice in commercial litigation at both the trial and appellate levels.

1979



James A. Wynn, Jr., was elected this past fall to the Marquette University Board of Trustees. Wynn is a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

1983

Paul T. Dacier was featured in a recent *National Law Journal* article about the Boston region’s top in-house law departments and their general counsel, denominating Dacier’s team at EMC Corp. “Boston Legal Department of the Year.” EMC, which Dacier joined in 1990 as its sole attorney, now has more than 60,000 employees and 120 lawyers.

1984



Daniel M. Chudnow has opened a museum featuring his father Avrum’s (L’37) collection of memorabilia from Milwaukee in the 1920s and 1930s. The museum is located at 839 North 11th St., near

the Marquette campus. Information can be found at chudnowmuseum.org. ▶▶

1985



Mark A. Cameli, of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Milwaukee, has been recognized by *Benchmark Litigation 2014*, which recently named Reinhart a “highly recommended”

litigation firm. Cameli is a shareholder in the firm’s litigation practice, where he chairs the white-collar litigation and corporate compliance team.

1986

Thomas J. Krzyminski has been appointed Spokane County (Washington) public defender. He oversees the public defender’s office staff, which comprises 82 attorneys and support staff. Krzyminski also has held professional positions in the Air National Guard.

1989

Jack A. Enea has joined the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek as a member of the corporate and finance practice group. Enea is also a certified public accountant.

1991

David Stegeman was recently honored at the *Milwaukee Business Journal’s* Top Corporate Counsel Awards Luncheon. Stegeman is general counsel at Michels Corp. and received the award as “Diversity Champion.”

1994

Lee Ann N. Conta has joined the Milwaukee office of von Briesen & Roper as a shareholder in the litigation and risk management practice group. Conta’s practice concentrates on insurance coverage disputes and other litigation.

2002



Joshua J. Brady has joined Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson in Milwaukee as a shareholder. His practice focuses on the areas of creditors’ rights and commercial business litigation.

2003

Lydia J. Chartre has been elected a shareholder of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. She is a member of the real estate practice group in the firm’s Milwaukee and Madison offices.



Sherry D. Coley has been elected chairperson of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Board of Governors. A member of the litigation practice group in Godfrey & Kahn’s Green Bay office, Coley is one of the youngest attorneys to receive this honor.

2004



Gwendolyn J. Cooley has been appointed vice chair of the American Bar Association Antitrust Section State Enforcement Committee for 2013–2016. She is an assistant attorney general at the Wisconsin Department of Justice in Madison.

John C. Gardner has been promoted to partner at the Madison office of DeWitt Ross & Stevens. He practices in the firm’s labor and employment relations and litigation practice groups.

Adam J. Sheridan has been named senior counsel for Meijer, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

2005

Danielle M. Bergner was recently appointed a deputy city attorney for the City of Milwaukee. Her new responsibilities include managing the legal aspects of the city’s foreclosure, housing, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

Bridgette DeToro has been named a partner in the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady. She practices in the area of public finance. ▶▶

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASS NOTES may be emailed to christine.wv@marquette.edu. We are especially interested in accomplishments that do not recur annually. Personal matters such as wedding and birth or adoption announcements are welcome. We update postings of class notes weekly on the Law School’s website, law.marquette.edu.



Davis Positions Herself for Success On and Off the Job

It seems in character that Cindy Davis has excelled even when it comes to relaxation.

It's been eight years since she became a Marquette lawyer, and in that time she has thrived in three positions where high-quality work was expected—first as a clerk for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser Jr.; then as an associate working on business law matters in the home office of Foley & Lardner, Milwaukee's largest law firm; and now as a prosecutor in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office.

Each position has brought demands and pressures. Although she handled them well at work, Davis wanted outlets to balance her life. She turned to yoga about five years ago—or as she put it in a written piece, “Yoga found me . . . at a time when I was simply looking for a way to relax from the stresses of everyday life.” She wrote, “Yoga has been my safe-haven during both the good times and the bad and has empowered me through not only increased physical strength but also increased mental and spiritual strength.”

The yoga studio became, as Davis put it, “my home away from home, my club.” She became a certified instructor one year ago at YamaYoga studio, working with classes of 5 to 10 people one evening a week.

Davis described her year working for Justice Prosser as a great experience that combined many of her interests in the law. She spoke highly of her time with Foley & Lardner as well. “But my true passion was more with criminal law,” she said, so she joined the staff of Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm in January 2011. Chisholm told her when she started that his central expectation is for prosecutors to “do the

right thing.” That instruction has stuck with her as she has worked in the drug, domestic violence, and child protection units in the district attorney's office. “It's worked out very well,” Davis said. “I feel I'm giving back to the community in which I grew up.”

Davis gives back to the community in her personal life as well. In addition to her yoga instruction, she is on the boards of Brookfield Academy, the school she attended from kindergarten through 12th grade, and First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa.

Davis's grandfather was a prominent lawyer in Milwaukee—he was the (Walter) Davis in the Davis & Kuelthau law firm, founded in 1967. Although her father, the late Stewart Davis, went into business, by the time Cindy Davis was in middle school she had developed an interest in becoming a lawyer. That led her to Marquette Law School, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Marquette Law Review*. Davis remembers her student experiences not only for the training they gave her but also for the sense of warm community among faculty members and students and the ways the philosophy of *cura personalis* was given meaning and life.

Davis is reluctant to speculate on what is ahead for her. But it is clear that it will involve pursuing her commitment to work that serves the community and fulfills her own drive to do well. And, when it comes to her personal life, it will include ways to enhance her strengths, the way her yoga practice does. ■



From Small-Town Iowa to a Los Angeles Law Practice, Via Marquette Law School



Peter Roan didn't set out to be a successful lawyer with a specialized practice in Los Angeles. He started out as a public defender in Milwaukee, without a clear long-term plan.

But things have worked out differently and well—and that underlies the advice he has for law students now. In short: Aim to develop a specialty.

"I kind of fell into it," Roan said of his own specialty, health care litigation. He no doubt understates the work and knowledge that have gone into building his practice and, in recent years, led him to join Crowell & Moring, a 500-lawyer firm with offices around the world. But, Roan suggests, his advice reflects how the legal world has changed since the 1980s, when he started his career.

"There's always a degree of serendipity," Roan said, in anyone's life and career path. For him, the path started in Traer, Iowa, a town with a population of about 1,800 during his childhood. From there it led to the University of Iowa, where he got his bachelor's degree. After that he set his sights on law school and considered several, including Marquette Law School. "I just liked the feel of the place," he recalled. That feeling remained during law school: He remembers both working hard and having fun at Marquette.

Roan participated in the Public Defender Clinic in law school, and after graduating in 1985 accepted a position as an assistant public defender—a job that he greatly enjoyed. But when his then-girlfriend said she was moving back to her native southern California, "that sounded to me like a splendid idea."

In California Roan joined a small law firm. "When I started, I did anything that came in the door," Roan recalled. Increasingly, clients in health-related businesses

were the ones coming in that door. The firm grew over the next 18 years to about 50 lawyers, with a significant health care focus.

The health care world kept changing, and those changes have produced much litigation over the years. Another large change in the health care industry is underway now, of course, with implementation of the new national health care law. As Roan put it, a large number of people and organizations have been working hard on the front end of the new law—aiming to get the licenses, contracts, systems, practices, and policies in place to implement the law. "I'm kind of on the back end," which he said means that when things unravel or parties have disputes, he gets more involved.

Overall, Roan said, a lot of the things that young lawyers used to do as they started out, such as document review, are in declining demand because of technological change and outsourcing of services. Clients are looking for lawyers who know "everything there is to know" about a specific industry or field. "You're trained as a generalist, but you need to be a specialist," he suggested.

Roan still has ties to the Midwest, including family members who live in the region. An important remaining tie: "I'm still a Packers fan, and I have a share" of the stock the football team sold a few years ago. But he enjoys his life with his wife and two teenage daughters in a town near the California coast.

As much as the legal world is changing, Roan remains optimistic about prospects for those starting out. He said, "My advice for law students is to take action, not to hang your head." ■

2006

Nicole C. Maher, senior vice president/general counsel at Waterstone Mortgage Corporation, was honored at the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* Top Corporate Counsel Awards Luncheon as a mentor/coach.

Jessica D. Poliner, with Caterpillar Inc., has been promoted to a district manager position located in Panama City, Panama. She leads a team of individuals whose responsibilities include divisions of the company located in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela. Within Panama, she serves as Caterpillar's main contact for governmental affairs.

2007

Steven M. DeVougas, an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson, has been appointed by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett to the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission.

2008

Melissa M. Ostrowski was recently named research compliance officer at Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin, which currently has approximately 350 active research studies. She and her husband, Michael, welcomed a daughter, Allison, to their family in October 2012.



Amy Ruhig, attorney and manager-retail leasing at Jockey International, Kenosha, has been honored as one of the

Milwaukee Business Journal's "40 Under 40" for 2014.

Daniel R. Suhr has been appointed chief of staff to Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. He manages all aspects of Kleefisch's office, including communications, legislative relations, external engagement, and policy.

2009



Charles R. Stone, an attorney with Weiss Berzowski Brady in Milwaukee and adjunct professor of business at Peking University's Market Economy Academy,

was interviewed in Chinese by Yinan Wang of *Voice of America Chinese* for a video and series of articles on JP Morgan Chase in China.

2011

Daniel M. LaFrenz has joined the Milwaukee office of Michael Best & Friedrich. He is part of the firm's growing transactional practice group, specializing in tax matters.

2012



James N. Law has joined the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren as an associate in the litigation practice. He previously served as a law clerk in Green Bay for the Hon. William C. Griesbach, L'79, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.



litigation, municipal law, civil rights, and

real estate and eminent domain. Before joining the firm, he served as a law clerk to the Hon. David T. Prosser Jr., justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

2013



Joseph D. Birdsall has joined the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, practicing in the firm's human resources law practice group. His experience includes successfully pursuing appeals to the Wisconsin Labor and Industry Review Commission.

Rachel H. Bryers has joined Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee office as an associate in the health law practice group.

Holly E. Courtney has joined the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich as an associate in the employment relations practice group in the firm's Madison office.

Patrick C. Greeley has joined the Milwaukee office of von Briesen & Roper as an associate in the firm's banking, bankruptcy, business restructuring, and real estate practice group.

Matthew J. Ludden has joined the corporate practice group in the Milwaukee office of Godfrey & Kahn.

Ariane C. Strombom, an attorney with Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in Milwaukee, practicing corporate and technology law, has blogged about "data hoarding" at the website of *IB In Business*, based in Madison.

Kathryn K. Westfall is an associate in the business law practice of the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.