

CLASS | NOTES

1963

William M. Graham received the Judge Robert Smith, Jr. Humanitarian Award at the Annual Red Mass on October 3, 2015, at St. Joseph Church in Libertyville, Ill., sponsored by the Justinian Society of Italian-American Lawyers and Judges of Lake County. He retired in June 2015 after 52 years of practicing law.

1968

Frank J. Daily has been named chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission, the official body charged with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting allegations of misconduct or disability on the part of Wisconsin judges and court commissioners. He is a retired senior partner and chairman emeritus of the national products liability trial practice at Quarles & Brady, Milwaukee.

1972



Michael Hupy presented a \$50,000 check to the Milwaukee Justice Center. He is pictured with Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation President Francis W. Deisinger (left) and Mary Ferwerda, L'11, executive director of the Justice Center.

1975



Janine P. Geske, now retired as distinguished professor of law at Marquette University, was honored at the Niagara

Foundation's "Peace and Dialog Award Ceremony" in Milwaukee, where she received the organization's Commitment Award.

1980



Gary M. Ruesch, a shareholder with Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson & Vliet, Waukesha, Wis., was the 2015 recipient of the

George Tipler Award for Distinguished Service in School Law. Presented at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin School Attorneys Association, the award recognized outstanding advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin public schools.

1982

Donald W. Layden was honored at the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center's "A Night to Remember" for his dedication to the Milwaukee center. (See text of remarks on page 46.)

1983

Paul T. Dacier was honored by the New England Legal Foundation in Boston with the John G. L. Cabot Award. This award is conferred annually on an individual whose work reflects a steadfast commitment to the advancement of free enterprise principles, in both courtrooms and public discourse. Dacier is executive vice president and general counsel at EMC Corporation in Hopkinton, Mass.

1985



Maxine Aldridge White was chosen as one of Milwaukee's "Most Influential People" by *Milwaukee Magazine*. She has been a judge in

Milwaukee since 1992. In 2015, the Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed White as chief judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. She is the first African-American chief judge in the Wisconsin court system.

1986



Richard V. Poirier was chosen as the new CEO of Church Mutual Insurance Co., a national provider of insurance services to religious

organizations and schools. He joined Church Mutual as vice president—claims in 2011 and was promoted to chief operating officer that same year. ▶▶

A Lifelong Passion for Education

Important ideals were ingrained in Paul Bernstein when he was a youth in Shorewood, Wis., bordering the city of Milwaukee.

Ideals such as fighting for social justice. As a high school student, Bernstein joined in open-housing marches in Milwaukee led by Father James Groppi, and he tutored students in the central city.

Ideals such as making continual learning a core part of your life. Dedication to learning ran deep in his family and in his upbringing. “The pursuit of education is perhaps the most important value I have,” Bernstein said.

One place where the two ideals came together was Marquette Law School.

The love for learning first had led Bernstein to the University of Chicago, where he received both undergraduate and medical degrees. After advanced medical training at hospitals in Chicago, he returned to Milwaukee, where he became a prominent cardiologist. He has been on the staff of Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center since 1983. Among a long list of leadership roles at the hospital, he formerly headed its cardiology practice.

Bernstein’s love for learning continued long after college and went well beyond medical pursuits. While maintaining his medical practice, he returned to the University of Chicago to earn a master’s degree in liberal arts when he was 41.

His commitment to social justice led him to become involved in a medical clinic serving large numbers of low-income people on Milwaukee’s north side. For a while, Bernstein felt the clinic was making a positive impact. But then the business side of the clinic became unstable, the whole endeavor went downhill, and the clinic closed.

Bernstein came away from the experience thinking that many of the low-income patients he saw were not getting a fair deal on a variety of fronts in life. He thought if he became a lawyer, he might be able to combine that training with his medical expertise and help such people even more.

That thinking led to him becoming one of the more unconventional students at the Law School. He enrolled as a part-time student. He said he remembers reading cases in between heart catheterizations. After six years, he completed law school in 2007.



Bernstein said he loved the experience. He found law school “deeply stimulating and intellectually demanding.” He learned a lot, not only about specific subjects but also about the world, he said. He also said that he met people who continue to inspire him, such as Janine Geske, now retired as distinguished professor of law.

As much as he remains enthusiastic about law school, he eventually realized that his notion of formally combining law and medicine would not work for him. To be sure, he has used his law degree in some roles in his medical practice, such as serving on the hospital’s credentials and executive committees. But Bernstein’s professional focus has continued to be his medical practice.

He describes himself as “basically a doctor who was deeply enriched by the experience” of becoming a lawyer. More broadly, he said, he has used his legal education as part of his continuing personal development, based on his values.

A yacht? Other luxury possessions? Those aren’t things that motivate Paul Bernstein. He may be a doctor and a lawyer, but his primary motivation was in place long before he trained for either of these roles. He wanted to be a learner all his life, and he wanted to put that learning to use helping others. Those are both goals that he has achieved. ■

1988

Scott R. Letteney has been promoted to city attorney in Racine, Wis. He previously served as deputy city attorney. Letteney, a retired United States Air Force lieutenant colonel, has been the municipal judge for the Town of Geneva since 1999.

Robert Jaskulski, shareholder and managing partner of the Waukesha office of Habush Habush & Rottier, was selected as the Wisconsin Association for Justice's Robert Habush Trial Lawyer of the Year.

1990

Donald Gallo has been named a co-leader of the environmental litigation team at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. A shareholder in the Milwaukee office, he is a member of the firm's real estate practice group.

1994

Nina M. Jones has become executive director of the University of Wisconsin–Washington County Campus Foundation. She has worked with many nonprofit organizations in the Milwaukee area, including the Bel Canto Chorus and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

1995

Todd J. Schneider has joined Strauss & Malk, a Chicago law firm, as a partner. His practice is

concentrated in estate planning, trust and estate administration, charitable planning, and business succession planning.

Jennifer (Pabreza) Sielaff was named president of the Wisconsin Association for School Personnel Administrators. She is director of personnel, administrative, and legal services for the School District of South Milwaukee.

1998

John E. Hedstrom has taken a position as vice president, policy and advocacy, for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. He works from his home in Santa Clarita, Cal.

1999

Joseph T. Miotke has been elected chairman of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Wisconsin's statewide leadership team. PLTW partners with middle schools and high schools to ignite students' ingenuity, creativity, and imagination. He is an attorney at DeWitt Ross & Stevens, in the firm's office in Brookfield, Wis.

2001

Mark J. Andres has become a member of Miller McGinn & Clark, in Milwaukee. He practices in the area of estate

planning, elder law, and tax planning.

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 at law.marquette.edu.

2002

Byron B. Conway, a shareholder with Habush Habush & Rottier's Green Bay office, has been elected a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation. He is a past president of the Brown County Bar Association.

2003



Lydia J. Chartre recently became co-leader of the condominium and home

owners association law team at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. She works in the firm's offices in Milwaukee and Madison. She also has been granted membership in the College of Community Association Lawyers.

2004

Sharon M. Horozaniecki is now the managing attorney in the compliance services division of Wolters Kluwer Financial Services, Saint Cloud, Minn.

Andrew J. Bezouska has joined DeWitt Ross & Stevens in its employee benefits, labor and employment, tax, and corporate practice groups. He is based in the firm's Madison office.

Martin C. Kuhn has been named a shareholder in the law firm of Jeffrey S. Hynes & Associates, and the firm has changed its name

to Hynes & Kuhn. It is based in Wauwatosa, Wis. Kuhn will continue to focus on all aspects of labor and employment law.

2005

Danielle M. Bergner has rejoined the Milwaukee office of Michael Best & Friedrich as a partner, serving as co-chair of the real estate practice group.



Sara E. Dill spoke at the Legal Challenges of Modern Warfare Conference at The Hague in

January, discussing her work at Guantánamo and with the military commissions and the United Nations. She is a partner in Sara Elizabeth Dill Law Offices, based in Miami and London.

2006



Ray H. Littleton was appointed chair of the rules and calendar committee for the State Bar

of Michigan's Representative Assembly. He is an associate at Foster Swift Collins & Smith in Lansing, where his practice areas include insurance litigation, commercial litigation, general litigation, and employment/labor defense.

Devan J. Brua was promoted to vice president—compliance and risk for Spinnaker Support in Greenwood Village, Colo. Spinnaker provides companies with support and consulting services for their software investments.



Sara B. Andrew has joined the Milwaukee firm of Becker, Hickey & Poster after practicing with

her father, Louis J. Andrew, L'66, in Fond du Lac for nine years. Her practice consists of real estate, estate planning, and family law. She is the past president of the Fond du Lac County Bar Association.

Garet K. Galster, together with **Melissa S. Hockersmith**, has formed the intellectual property law firm of Smith Keane. The firm, located in Hartland, Wis., is a full-service intellectual property firm.

2007



Steven M. DeVougas, an attorney in the Quarles & Brady product liability practice group, has been

elected chair of the City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission. He was appointed as a commissioner in September 2013. ▶▶

Relevant Lessons from a Career Beginning

If timing is everything, then Jennifer Kratochvil had cause for concern in launching her legal career. Kratochvil completed Marquette Law School in the spring of 2008 and had been hired the previous fall to work at Mayer Brown, a large international law firm based in Chicago. She wanted to live in Chicago and work on complex financial transactions.

One week after she started, the huge Lehman Brothers financial firm declared bankruptcy. The financial world entered a powerful tailspin. Business transactions such as the ones on which Kratochvil expected to work all but came to a halt—and, soon, law firms were among those laying off people.

“It was certainly an interesting time to start a practice,” Kratochvil recalled understatedly. How did she respond? “You had to find a way to make yourself relevant,” she said. “You needed to put yourself out there.”

That meant going to lawyers in the firm, offering to help with whatever they needed. It meant learning new things and working with different types of clients and many different people within the firm. It took developing relationships with mentors. It entailed doing good work (“It sounds so simple,” she said with a wry sigh). It involved spending slow days focused on things like studying the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), telling yourself, “I’m really going to understand this section of the UCC.”

Almost eight years after the Lehman collapse, Kratochvil is well established at Mayer Brown—and, in fact, doing much the kind of practice she envisioned originally. She primarily represents lenders, but also does borrower-side work, on



financing transactions; this includes drafting and negotiating loan agreements, collateral documents, and other transaction documents for deals ranging from a few million dollars to more than a billion dollars. She has worked on general lending transactions, acquisition financings, insurance finance, debt restructurings, and other transactions that are not so easily categorized. Her experience working on a broad range of deals is a result of her willingness to help and contribute where needed, and she takes those experiences and applies what she learned from them to new transactions as she continues to develop her practice.

A typical day at work? “I don’t know that there is one,” Kratochvil said. During the week she was interviewed, she had worked full steam on a deal with a short deadline. Then, suddenly, the deal was off. And a different client called about one of

its customers, which was in default on a loan. Some days, she said, the to-do list just gets longer, and it feels like nothing is getting checked off. On other days, deals in fact close.

She also regularly does pro bono work and enjoys mentoring junior associates, which includes preparing and teaching training sessions for junior associates at Mayer Brown.

Outside of work? Kratochvil plays the piano and golfs a bit, but you're a lot more likely to find her reading. Both nonfiction and fiction appeal to her.

Kratochvil grew up in a small city in Nebraska and went to Creighton University in Omaha, where she graduated with a degree in finance. "I'm not really a risk taker," she said. But when she was offered

admission to Marquette Law School, she accepted without ever visiting Milwaukee. She knew that Creighton and Marquette, as Jesuit universities, had similar philosophies, and she wanted to go somewhere outside of Nebraska. "I just sort of took a leap and did it," she said. Marquette turned out to be a good fit for her. Not only did she thrive generally, even serving as editor-in-chief of the *Marquette Law Review*, but she also especially enjoyed practical aspects of her education.

The crisis atmosphere that shaped Kratochvil's first experiences as a lawyer in practice has faded. But, she said, it taught her a lot about how banks and the financial world work. One legacy: She learned to do more to factor into any deal "what happens in the downside scenario."

And she learned a lesson of continuing importance: Make yourself relevant. ■



Patrice B. Childress has been elected to the partnership of Beck Redden, Houston, Tex., where she has been an associate

since 2007. Her practice includes a diverse set of clients in the energy, legal, business, and real estate sectors.

2009

Charles R. Stone has joined Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft's Beijing office as an associate.

2010

Andrea S. Pleimling has joined the southwest Florida law firm of Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, where she focuses her practice on personal injury law, personal injury protection, and civil litigation.



Jason K. Roberts has been promoted to senior consultant with Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting, Lake Oswego, Ore.,

where his responsibilities include consulting and providing guidance on matters related to value-added tax determination and compliance.

2012

Jennifer J. Montalvo was honored at Mount Mary University's distinguished alumnae awards ceremony. An attorney at the nonprofit Centro Legal in Milwaukee, she received the Tower Award: Young Alumna. ▶▶

Professor James Ghiardi:

REVERED, FEARED, BELOVED FOR DECADES



“He was the stuff of which legends are made.” That’s how Aaron Twerski, L’65, a nationally renowned expert on tort law, described Professor James D. Ghiardi, who was a professor or professor emeritus at Marquette Law School for almost 70 years. Ghiardi died on January 18, 2016, at age 97.

“He was intellectually challenging, witty, and so obviously in love with the

material that he was infectious. His passion for the law was transmitted to legions of law students,” said Twerski, now a professor at Brooklyn Law School and formerly dean of Hofstra Law School. “Professor Ghiardi was my inspiration.”

Ghiardi was a member of the Marquette Law School Class of 1942. After service in the military during World War II, he began teaching at the Law School. He had other important roles—serving in 1970–1971 as president of the State Bar of Wisconsin and as the longtime head of the Defense Research Institute, a national think tank for defense lawyers in cases involving insurance and personal injury litigation. But he was, foremost, a law school teacher, who was feared, revered, and loved, oftentimes by the same people at different points in time. He remained active in the life of the Law School until the past year.

Professor Michael McChrystal, L’75, recalled on the Law School’s faculty blog, “Jim Ghiardi was larger than life.” McChrystal characterized his first exposure to Ghiardi. “He was intimidating, commanding, and inspiring in the first-year torts course, where he could make 160 students squirm in unison. He could also inspire truly extraordinary levels of class preparation (i.e., serious study of the law).”

McChrystal summed up the Jim Ghiardi he came to know well: “Powerfully effective teacher. Widely respected scholar. Incisive lawyer. Manager of lawyers. Leader of the bar. Lawyer for the university. Leader of the faculty.”

Janine Geske, L’75, former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice and now retired as distinguished professor of law

at Marquette, said, “Although he was extremely tough on students, I learned that his rigorous approach to legal education was based on his deep desire to prepare his students to be high-performing lawyers. He expected Marquette lawyers to be extraordinary attorneys. . . . His loyalty to the Law School and its alumni was truly unparalleled.”

Professor Ed Fallone said, “Jim Ghiardi was demanding (of both students and his colleagues). It is true that his demeanor could be fearsome, but he was also very giving of his time and his advice. He mentored countless Marquette lawyers and law school faculty members over many decades. In some ways, Professor James Ghiardi was Marquette Law School during large parts of the twentieth century.”

Fallone said, “I always understood Jim’s gruff manner as a form of a challenge. It was his way of asking his colleagues in the law, ‘Are you giving your very best effort to this profession?’”

In 1971, then-Dean Robert F. Boden, L’52, wrote of Ghiardi: “Few are more zealous in their loyalty to the University and to the profession. Few also have the industry and capacity for work that manifests itself every day in Professor Ghiardi’s vigorous and devoted attention to the responsibilities which he has assumed in the Law School and in the many other related activities which he has undertaken.”

Professor John Kircher, L’63, retired from teaching at the end of 2015. Recounting his career, he recalled Ghiardi as “my teacher, my mentor, my faculty colleague, my second father, and my friend.”

Ghiardi was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. He received an undergraduate degree from Marquette University in 1940. While serving in Europe during World War II, he met an American nurse who was caring for soldiers. Jim and Phyllis Ann Ghiardi were married in Germany after the war ended. They had three daughters. Phyllis Ghiardi died in 2012 at 91.

Following the death of Professor Ghiardi, Dean Joseph D. Kearney wrote, “The loss of Jim Ghiardi now diminishes us, but his work and life magnified us—and as a legacy will continue to do so. *Requiescat in pace.*” ■

Katharine M. Marlin has taken a position as underwriting counsel for First American Title–National Commercial Services, Milwaukee.

Sabrina R. Gilman, senior counsel at Emerson Process Management, was recently interviewed for the Association of Corporate Counsel online international *Docket*.



Heather D. Mogden has joined the Milwaukee office of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, the largest health care–

focused law firm in the nation.

2013

Ariane C. Strombom was named co-leader of the international transactions team at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. She is a member of the corporate and finance practice group and the technology law and emerging companies teams.

2014



Emil Ovbiagele is an associate in the Milwaukee office of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, where his areas of concentration are

construction, insurance, and employment litigation.

Matthew J. Jann is an associate in the corporate and real estate departments at Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro in Los

Angeles, focusing on the areas of corporate, real estate, and entertainment law.

2015

Mario D. Falsetti has joined the Milwaukee office of Deloitte Tax as a tax consultant.

Laura L. Ferrari has joined the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, where she is a member of its human resources law practice group.

Melissa J. Fischer has joined the Groth Law Firm, Brookfield, Wis., which specializes in multiple areas of personal injury law.

Angela B. Harden is now a member of the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, where she is in the litigation practice group.

Mitchell D. Lindstrom has joined the business law practice group of the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady.

Rachel E. Mather has joined Quarles & Brady's business law and real estate practice groups in Milwaukee.

Katheryn A. Mills has joined Godfrey & Kahn's labor, employment, and immigration practice group.

Katherine E. Metzger has joined Studinski Law, a personal injury law firm in Plover, Wis.

Keith Reese-Kelley has joined Ryan Kromholz & Manion, a Brookfield law firm, as an associate. His practice includes all aspects of intellectual property law, with an emphasis on litigation and dispute resolution.