

CLASS NOTES



Michael J. Gonring



Ted A. Warpinski



Christine E. Woleske



Brian C. Randall



Craig A. Pintens



Andrea B. Niesen

74 **William C. Gleisner III** was elected chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Council. He has been a member for the past 10 years.

82 **Michael J. Gonring** received the 2018 John H. Pickering Award of Achievement from the American Bar Association in recognition of his "significant contributions to improving justice for all." Gonring recently stepped down as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee.

84 **Jill M. Rappis** was recognized as one of Chicago's Notable Women of Healthcare by *Crain's Chicago Business*. She is regional senior vice president and general counsel of Loyola University Medical Center. Her recent work includes leadership in Loyola Medicine's acquisition of MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Ill.

85 **Michael J. Marcil** received the NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association's 2018 Award of Merit. The award is for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the NCAA Division II membership and its student-athlete experience. Marcil now teaches in the sports management program at Bellevue (Nebraska) University.

87 **Ted A. Warpinski** and his colleagues at Friebert, Finerty & St. John have joined the firm of Davis & Kuelthau in Milwaukee. His practice includes environmental nuisance claims and toxic tort litigation, contract and property disputes, insurance coverage litigation, and enforcement actions.

94 **Nina M. Jones** has been named development director for Congregation Shalom in Fox Point, Wis.

Suzanne D. Strater is now a career law clerk to Judge Amy St. Eve at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago.

Christine E. Woleske, previously executive vice president and chief operating officer, has been named president/CEO of Bellin Health System in Green Bay, Wis.

98 **Troy D. Cross** has been elected as a judge of the circuit court in Columbia County, Wis. He served as an assistant district attorney in the county for 19 years.

99 **Brian C. Randall** is among the former Friebert, Finerty & St. John attorneys who are now part of Davis & Kuelthau in Milwaukee. His practice includes zoning, land use, licensing, ordinance changes, and local government bids and contracts.

Congratulations to the following Marquette lawyers named among the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* "Women of Influence" for 2018:

Danielle Bergner, L'05, J. Jeffers & Co.

Madeleine Lubar, L'80, Community Volunteer

Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, L'04, LOTUS Legal Clinic

01 **Craig A. Pintens** has been named athletic director at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. He was senior associate athletic director at the University of Oregon for the prior seven years.

03 **Andrea B. Niesen** was selected as a 2017 Attorney of the Year by *Minnesota Lawyer*. A civil litigation attorney at Klampe, Delehanty & Pasternak in Rochester, Minn., she was recognized for her amicus work influencing state appellate decisions relating to the care of mentally ill and disabled individuals.

Ryan E. Ruzziconi was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. The foundation has provided more than \$42 million in grant funding, making it Michigan's largest funder dedicated solely to children's health and wellness.

04 **William V. Gruber** was appointed this past June to serve as a judge of the Jefferson County Circuit Court. He served as Watertown city attorney for the prior five and a half years.

SHARE SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASS NOTES WITH CHRISTINE.WV@MARQUETTE.EDU.

We are especially interested in accomplishments that do not recur annually. Personal matters such as weddings and birth or adoption announcements are welcome. We update postings of class notes weekly at law.marquette.edu.

Employment data for recent classes are available at law.marquette.edu/career-planning/welcome.



JANET PROTASIEWICZ, L'88

A PEOPLE PERSON of the First Order

Growing up on Milwaukee's south side, Janet Protasiewicz was interested in politics. Fortunately, living nearby was a major figure in American politics, Clement Zablocki, a longtime member of Congress who chaired the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Protasiewicz wasn't shy. One day, she was passing Zablocki's house, and he was outside gardening. Then 18, she approached him and said she wanted to work for him. She had no experience in office work, but he said no one had ever asked him for a job in that way. He hired her for a summer position in his small office on Lincoln Avenue, where she answered the phone and helped constituents. Soon, the two other people who worked in the office switched over to working for Zablocki's reelection campaign, and Protasiewicz, who was then attending the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), staffed the office solo.

"I learned so much from the experience," she says. One thing she learned was that a large proportion of political leaders were lawyers. Protasiewicz also had a big interest in American history, and she observed that many of the great leaders of the country had been lawyers.

So she decided she was going to go to law school. After studying early American history and graduating from UWM, Protasiewicz enrolled in Marquette Law School. "Coming to law school here was one of the best decisions I ever made," she says. "Marquette Law School has been really, really good to me." She has reciprocated with her energetic involvement, currently serving as immediate past president of the Law School's alumni association board.

At first, she wasn't sure what direction she wanted to pursue as a lawyer, but two things changed that. "I took a trial advocacy class, and I just loved it," she says. And she did an internship in a business setting and decided that wasn't for her.

After completing law school, Protasiewicz joined the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office. That was in 1988.

She worked as a prosecutor in the office until 2014, handling a wide range of cases and duties, from involvement in heart-warming adoptions of children to trials of violent criminals. "It was invaluable time," she says. She developed great respect for her colleagues' professionalism and commitment to do what was ethically, as well as legally, right. And the people in the DA's office and the court system "were like your family."

So why did she leave? Because she wanted to be the one on the bench, making the decisions. In 2014, Protasiewicz was elected to be a judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

"The job is harder than it looks," she says. "There are some really hard calls. What some of the people involved in cases have endured is amazing." But she likes the work. Her duties have included parts of the court dealing with drug cases, domestic violence and child abuse, and misdemeanors. Most recently, she has been on the bench in felony drug court.

What did a high-ranking congressman see in an 18-year-old who approached him for a job while he was gardening? Let's assume Zablocki saw someone who would step forward to connect with people and serve her community.

That's exactly what Protasiewicz has done.

She remains a people person and networker of the first order. "The most important thing I have is the people who surround me and help me every day," she said upon being honored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* earlier this year as one of the state's "women in the law." The list of the people surrounding her starts with her husband, Gregory Sell, who is also an attorney, and includes her extended family, friends, work associates, and others involved in the large number of community groups—Rotary, the Red Cross, Professional Dimensions, Tempo, and more—in which she is an active participant.

The investiture ceremony in 2014 when she became a judge drew one of the largest gatherings in memory for such an event. The reason is simple: Janet Protasiewicz herself. ■



WILLIAM R. DREW, L'66

Alderman, Commissioner, Director —ALWAYS A LEADER

My grandmother used to have a saying when something happened that was not really planned,” Bill Drew says. “She would call it the finger of God.”

Drew says he didn't have a plan for what he would do after completing Marquette Law School in 1966. So let's assume it was the finger of God that pointed him to a long and distinguished career in public service in Milwaukee.

Or maybe we shouldn't entirely dismiss the human element in setting the course of Drew's life. He had an active interest in politics while an undergraduate at Marquette University and during several years of work after graduation, including a job in dorm administration for Marquette, before he entered law school. During that period, he was chair of the Young Democrats organization in Wisconsin, where he got involved in campaigns and came to know some of the most famous names in mid-twentieth-century Wisconsin politics.

After Drew graduated from the Law School, he contacted then-U.S. senator William Proxmire in hopes that Proxmire could help him get a job in Washington. That led to Proxmire's hiring him as legal counsel in his Capitol Hill office.

After two years in Washington, Drew returned to Milwaukee, where—this is one of those things that Drew hadn't planned on—then-mayor Henry Maier recruited him to run for alderman from a district that covered much of downtown, the Marquette campus, and the Merrill Park area to the west of the campus. Drew won and rose quickly within the Milwaukee Common Council. From 1972 to 1974, he was president of that body.

In 1974, another unplanned turn: There was a vacancy in the position of commissioner of the city's Department of City Development. Maier asked Drew to help with the search for a successor. When someone whom Maier wanted for the job turned it down, the mayor told Drew, “I guess you'll have to do it.”

Drew resigned as alderman and began 14 years of leading the city's involvement in a wide range of projects. Some examples: He played important roles in the launch of the Grand Avenue Mall in downtown Milwaukee, the construction of the Bradley Center sports arena, the development of the Summerfest grounds, and local work under federal programs aimed at improving housing and neighborhoods in Milwaukee.

“Those were exciting days for me,” Drew says. “Every day was different.” He was involved in many complicated real estate transactions and setting up public-private partnerships for development projects. He oversaw compliance with requirements of federal programs. “I used my law degree on a regular basis,” Drew says.

In 1988, Maier left office after 28 years, and Drew left the city development position and joined the law firm known today as O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing. But when Thomas Ament was elected Milwaukee County executive in 1992, Ament asked Drew to head the county's Department of Administration.

Another unexpected turn: The county was launching work on creating a research park, west of the medical complex in Wauwatosa, to attract new businesses. When the head of the effort retired, Ament asked Drew to step in. Drew was director of the research park until 2013, as it went from being largely undeveloped land without infrastructure to a well-developed home to enterprises with about 5,000 jobs.

Drew and his wife, Mary Cannon, continue to live in Milwaukee, and he continues to be of counsel with the law firm.

Drew has had big roles in big developments shaping the Milwaukee area as it is now and will be in the future. Feel free to credit the finger of God for leading him to the public sector. “That's where I belonged, I guess,” Drew says with a smile. ■



Sara E. Dill



Nirali N. Shah



Jessica A. Kumke



Brent A. Simerson



Max T. Stephenson



Michael G. Koutnik

05 Sara E. Dill launched a law firm and policy consulting agency, Anethum Global, in Washington, D.C. Her areas of focus include international law, human rights, foreign affairs, cross-border finance, national security, white collar crime, and immigration. She previously was the director of criminal justice standards and policy for the American Bar Association.

06 Jessica D. Poliner, who was previously head of Ingersoll Rand's Thermo King Latin America team, is now vice president and general manager for the company's Transport Solutions Marine, Rail and Air (MRA) business. She is based in Brussels, Belgium.

Chad E. Novak, in Minneapolis, has been named vice president, underwriting counsel, Midwest region, for Alliant National Title Insurance Company.

08 Nirali N. Shah appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* on May 1. Her appearance was filmed in October 2017.

Mauri Hinterlong, an attorney at Gray Reed & McGraw, in Dallas, gave birth to a daughter, Amanda Tyler, on April 8, 2018. Amanda joins her sister, Elizabeth Ottilia, who was born December 11, 2016.

Jessica A. Kumke has been promoted to serve as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's associate athletic director-compliance and enrollment services. She continues her responsibilities for compliance, enrollment services, and sport supervision and is now responsible for the oversight and management of UWM's athletics scholarship budget.

10 Alexander R. Britton has been named general counsel of Zywave, a Milwaukee-based software company offering insurance agency software for management, analytics, HR portals, and marketing to more than 5,000 insurance agencies nationwide.

Brent A. Simerson joined the Milwaukee office of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren as an associate in its litigation practice. His practice focuses on product, health care, and governmental liability.

13 Max T. Stephenson is president of the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association. He is an attorney with Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, practicing in family law.

Michael G. Koutnik has been promoted to shareholder at Fox, O'Neill & Shannon, Milwaukee, where he is in the firm's transactional and real estate practice.

14 Andrew N. Docter has been named director of business operations and special events for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's athletics department.

16 Jeffrey A. Smith has been named executive vice president of hospital operations and chief operating officer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, in Los Angeles. Immediately previously, he was executive vice president and chief operating officer at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

The Wisconsin Law Journal selected seven Marquette lawyers to receive its "Women in the Law" honors for 2018:

Bonnie M. Abramoff, L'85, Abramoff Law Offices

Jesica A. Ballenger, L'10, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

Sherry D. Coley, L'03, Davis & Kuelthau

Tiffany L. Highstrom, L'04, Stafford Rosenbaum

Mary Honzik Kliesmet, L'81, Waste Management

Porchia S. Lewand, L'15, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

Janet C. Protasiewicz, L'88, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge



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