

## Bringing the National Academy to Milwaukee—and Sending It Back Out

On occasion, we have characterized the work of Marquette University Law School as bringing the world to Milwaukee. We have not meant this as an altogether unique claim. For more than a century, local newspapers have brought the *daily* world here, as have, for decades, broadcast services and, most recently, the internet. And many Milwaukee-based businesses, nonprofits, and organizations are world-class and world-engaged.

Yet Marquette Law School does some things in this regard especially well. For example, in 2019 (pre-COVID being the point), about half of our first-year students had been permanent residents of other states before coming to Milwaukee for law school. Some number of them will stay and practice in Wisconsin. This is an important contribution of great universities: expanding the human capital of a region by those whom it attracts.

Another way Marquette Law School brings the world to Milwaukee is our annual series of distinguished lectures and, in more recent years, public conversations with other



visitors to our Lubar Center. This issue of the magazine draws on a number of them, with a particular focus on crime and society. These include discussion of last year's Boden Lecture by Georgetown's Professor Paul Butler, in the cover story (pp. 6–17); excerpts from an in-person symposium on violent crime and recidivism, organized by my colleague, Professor Michael O'Hear (pp. 18–31); and an

essay version of the 2019 Barrock Lecture on Criminal Law by Professor Darryl Brown of the University of Virginia (pp. 32–37).

Nor did COVID-19 shut down our exploration of these important issues. For example, you will also find Princeton University's Professor Patrick Sharkey and his take on Milwaukee presented in the cover story. This comes from a discussion, "On the Issues with Mike Gousha," that the Law School held in July 2020 and made available online. Professor Sharkey had been to Milwaukee and Eckstein Hall twice previously, in 2016 and 2018. Thus, we especially welcomed his observations during the perilous time after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, even before the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha.

Renowned experts such as Professors Butler and Sharkey and the others whom we bring "here" do not claim to have charted an altogether-clear (let alone easy) path to a better future for our communities, but we believe that their ideas and suggestions can advance the discussion in Milwaukee and elsewhere about finding that better future.

So we continue to work at bringing the world here, even as we pursue other missions. To reverse the phrasing and thereby to state another truth, we bring Wisconsin to the world in issues of this magazine and elsewhere, not least in the persons of those Marquette lawyers who practice throughout the United States and in many nations of the world. And we help the nation understand itself, as this year once again our Marquette Law School Poll surveys public understanding and opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States (a national poll already released and to be featured in the next issue). That particular poll not only received a substantial amount of national attention the morning after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, but also established baseline information about public opinion on a potential effort to expand the size of the Court beyond nine justices for the first time in more than a century and a half.

In that regard, I myself am reminded of past *Marquette Lawyer* magazines. These include both the summer 2020 issue, which discussed the inaugural national Marquette Law School Poll on public opinion of the Supreme Court, from the previous fall, and the cover story in summer 2017: The latter featured the Hallows Lecture by Judge Albert Diaz of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which advocated eighteen-year terms for members of the Court.

No doubt I mark the calendar or think of public policy issues by reference to the *Marquette Lawyer* rather more than do most people. Yet there can be no question that this issue reflects, once again, our bringing the world to Milwaukee and, in a sense, our sending it back out. There is some consistency in that. We invite you to read the issue and thereby to spend some time here, in Milwaukee and in Eckstein Hall, with us.

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