

Meeting People in a Pandemic

Carpe diem, my mother used to say. She took the phrase from Horace, of course, and she gave it a different spin or interpretation from some. For her, “seize the day” was no Epicurean imperative but, rather, a reminder that each day brings with it opportunities—often in the form of new people to meet.

This has seemed to me among the many great challenges of the COVID era. It is hard to meet new people. Ordinarily, for example, Eckstein Hall, the extraordinary home of Marquette University Law School, is full of visitors coming to us for distinguished lectures, civic discussions, continuing legal education programs, or brown-bag lunches associated with our pro bono programs (not to exhaust the list). Eckstein Hall is, as promised from the earliest beginnings of the building project, both open to the community and designed to foster a sense of community.

Now, of course, in the temporary constraints on these opportunities (and even as we are gradually reopening to the public), one has to work harder to meet new people, to learn about them and their careers, to gain insights from their experiences. To an extent, yes, it is easier, in that a Teams or Zoom meeting can be done from one’s office or even home, but no one doubts that such a remote format also has considerable downsides, with respect to the relative quality of the typical interaction.

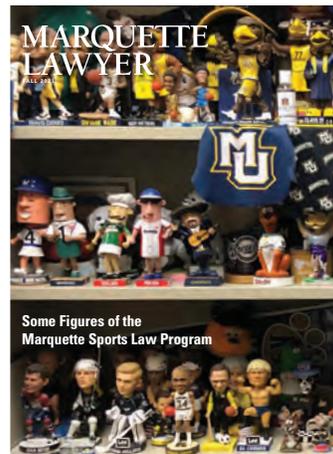
Thank goodness that one constant in this challenging time has been the availability and importance of reading. Surely, this is a good thing in general for legal education, whose central building block remains the study of legal doctrine and which places great emphasis on helping students develop the closely associated skill of legal writing. Indeed, it is without apology that I tell first-year students that they will largely teach themselves the law, beginning with their reading. (You will not doubt that it is *with apology*, in an older sense of the term, that I defend and clarify the statement to them.)

This brings us, then, to the latest issue of the *Marquette Lawyer*. It is our sure hope that we will

give you here, as a reader, the opportunity to learn something—about our alumni and students in the sports law program; about our faculty and their work, particularly in sports law and criminal law; about two of our emeritae faculty; about individuals who formed our community during World War II; and about a number of others. All of this is to say that, in an imperfect sense, we give you here an opportunity to *meet* people.

Many of these people may be new to you. In the lead story, for instance, we chronicle the unfolding career journeys of a number of our graduates and students who studied or are studying sports law here. Space constrains us greatly, and I regret the absence of so many other engaging figures from our sports law program.

Besides not running the story, the only way for our editor not to make choices among actual people might have been to profile the bobbleheads in Professor Paul Anderson’s office. We got ready just in case (see the alternative cover to the left), but that idea didn’t seem a particularly good one.



* * * *

My mother made the point other ways. The question each evening was less likely to involve what one had done that day and more likely to concern *whom one had met*—on the bus, at school, or otherwise. Any encounters thus recounted would have had the advantage of involving two-way communications—conversations. A magazine cannot do *that*, but there are people of ours to meet here.

Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law