

CLASS NOTES



Kathleen Callan Brady



Agbai I. Obasi



Annette Kingsland Ziegler



Schuyler J. Baehman



John T. Reichert



Eric R. Wimberger

68 Joan F. Kessler was appointed a member of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission by Mayor Tom Barrett. Kessler is a retired Wisconsin Court of Appeals judge, retired partner at Foley & Lardner, and former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

71 James A. Spella received the Young Lawyers Division Mentoring Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin. The award is designed to pay tribute to a Wisconsin attorney who has made an exceptional contribution to the life and career of a young attorney.

74 Kathleen Callan Brady received the Distinguished Alumna Award from her alma mater, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind. Brady is currently the fund-raising and development consultant for Metcalfe Park Community Bridges in Milwaukee.

84 The Rev. Clifford R. Haggens, Jr., was appointed by the Roseville City Council (Calif.) to a four-year term on the Roseville Planning Commission. He continues to serve as secretary and board member of The Gathering Inn, a nonprofit organization serving the homeless throughout Placer County, Calif.

86 Agbai I. Obasi published a book, *Financial Independence: Lessons on Financial Freedom (Based on True Life Stories)*. He has also published *Nigeria: A Decade of Sycophancy, Waste, and Looting of Public Funds (1999–2009)* and *Nemesis: An Insight into the Root Causes of Bank Crisis in Nigeria*.

89 Annette Kingsland Ziegler was selected by the Wisconsin Supreme Court's justices as the new chief justice. Ziegler was first elected to the Supreme Court in 2007 and was reelected in 2017. The chief justice's term runs two years.

93 Greg I. Devorkin and his family developed All Star Health Center, a nonprofit organization based in the Milwaukee area, whose goal is to facilitate the mental, emotional, and physical health of individuals with disabilities while empowering each person to become a star.

Terry J. Gerbers started a new position as managing partner at DeWitt LLP's Green Bay office. He serves as corporate counsel to several small and midsize businesses.

Timothy S. Trecek, of Habush Habush & Rottier in Milwaukee, was awarded the Tommy Malone Outstanding Verdict Award by the Litigation

Counsel of America. The award is presented annually to recognize a trial verdict of an extraordinary nature, whether in the magnitude of amount or in the significance of the underlying law and facts presented. It was based on Trecek's having secured, on behalf of a client in 2020, a verdict of \$38.16 million from a Racine County jury—the largest single plaintiff's personal-injury compensatory verdict in Wisconsin history.

98 Kimberly R. Walker is the new chief legal officer at Racine Unified School District.

99 Mary T. Wagner's latest Finnigan the Circus Cat chapter book, *Finnigan the Lionhearted*, won first place in the "Book Design" category of graphics and design in the Illinois Woman's Press Association annual communications contest and third place in the National Federation of Press Women's contest.

00 Schuyler J. Baehman was named vice president of communications of Southern Equity Company. He joined the company in 2017.

02 John T. Reichert was elected to the board of directors of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Milwaukee. Reichert is a shareholder in the firm's banking and finance practice, where he provides a wide array of general

advice and counsel to banks, bank holding companies, and other companies involved in the financial services industry.

04 Raeshann D. Canady was named director of Nevada Impact for the nonprofit organization Leadership for Educational Equity, which aims to involve civic leaders in addressing educational inequity.

05 Laura M. Lyons, of Madison, Wis., joined SECURA Insurance as a claims attorney.

Eric R. Wimberger was elected a Wisconsin state senator, representing the 30th Senate District, in northeastern Wisconsin.

08 Melissa J. Papaleo was promoted to partner at Halling & Cayo, Milwaukee.

09 Alfredo M. Cantoral was named assistant general counsel and head of legal for the investments group at American Equity, an Iowa-based insurance company.

Ari B. Lukoff took a position as Corporate IP Counsel for the paint business of Sherwin-Williams, which is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio.



Dotun O. Obadina



Lindsey A. Kujawa



Makda Fessahaye



Kristen D. Hardy



Jared D. Widseth



Amanda P. Luedtke

Nathan A. Petrashek was appointed as staff attorney to District II of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, based in Waukesha, Wis. He also welcomed a son, Jack, on February 1, 2021.

10 Michelle L. Velasquez received the Dan Tuchscherer Outstanding Public Interest Law Attorney Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin. The award is presented to an attorney who has shown a lifetime commitment to working in the public interest and volunteerism.

11 Andrea L. Gage-Michaels opened the Gage-Michaels Law Firm in Green Bay, Wis. She helps seniors navigate crisis Medicaid planning, “silver divorce” proceedings, elder abuse concerns, and family mediation.

Dotun O. Obadina was named a partner with Jones Day, included by *The Deal* in its list of “Top Rising Stars,” and honored as one of “They’ve Got Next: The 40 Under 40,” *Bloomberg Law’s* award recognizing the accomplishments of “sterling young lawyers” nationwide. Dotun is partner at the Jones Day office in Minneapolis, Minn., specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

James D. Rael was named an assistant federal defender with the Federal Defender’s Office in Phoenix, Ariz.

12 Sabrina R. Gilman was spotlighted by Emerson for her LGBTQ + Allies work. She is a leader of the Europe chapter of the LGBTQ + Allies employee resource group. She has been with Emerson for 11 years, and her current role in Switzerland is as senior associate general counsel.

13 Derek A. Hawkins was named corporate counsel, IP, at Salesforce.

Lindsey A. Kujawa was named partner at Hansen & Hildebrand, Milwaukee. She has been an attorney at the firm since 2018.

14 Makda Fessahaye was named to *In Business Greater Madison’s* 40 under 40, 2021 Class. Fessahaye is director of the City of Milwaukee’s Department of Employee Relations.

Kristen D. Hardy joined Northwestern Mutual as assistant general counsel and assistant secretary.

Jared D. Widseth was named general counsel to Milan Laser Hair Removal in Omaha, Neb.

15 Joel M. Graczyk was named a managing associate in the litigation and dispute resolution group at Dentons US in Chicago.

Amanda P. Luedtke was named an administrative law judge for the state of Wisconsin.

18 David A. Richie joined Felhaber Larson in Minneapolis, Minn. He practices labor and employment law.

19 Hannah M. Compton joined Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, in Tampa, Fla., as a member of the employment law practice group.

Brayton M. Deprey is a corporate associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago.

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



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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.