don’t have laptops to give your staff when you’re requiring them all to go home and do work. One of the things the Legal Services Corporation did was to make sure that they received increased funding specifically so that they could give legal aid organizations the money that they needed to address the technology gap that they had. All of these challenges existed that first year of the pandemic, yet the hours in pro bono went through the roof.

“It is our duty to give back”

Gousha: I’ll give you a moment or two to talk about your advice for law students as they continue on with their careers.

Runyon: So, two things. One, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was quoted at the start of the program, by Josh Gimbel, and she was an amazing justice. We had the pleasure at PBI of having her come and speak to our lawyers a number of times. She was very inspirational and shared her belief that we as a profession have an obligation to give back. Regardless of what you do as a lawyer, whether you’re a corporate lawyer, whether you’re a public interest lawyer, we have a unique skill, and it is our duty to give back to those who are underserved. The wonderful thing that I’ve seen in my job at PBI is that no matter what you’re interested in, no matter what community you wish to serve, no matter what you think the barriers are to pro bono, there is an opportunity that is right for you, that will be meaningful to you, and that will be life-changing for the individual that you’re serving. That’s the first bit of advice that I’d give.

The other speaks to my career path. I started off at a big corporate law firm, doing really fascinating energy work, and ended up as a public interest lawyer. What you do in your first year of practice may not be what you’re doing in your fifth year of practice or your tenth year of practice. And that’s fantastic because this is a journey. I would encourage you to always seek to learn and to challenge yourselves and to look for new opportunities to grow, to be proactive about your career. No one’s going to care more about your career than you are, so be proactive. Pro bono is a great way for you to grow as a lawyer. I would encourage you to look for those opportunities.


Michael J. Cohen received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and medal from the Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, in ceremonies at the Mark Center, Alexandria, Va., in July 2022. Kosobucki serves as a senior official investigator conducting noncriminal investigations of senior Department of Defense officials.

Diane M. Donohoo received a Racine County Sheriff’s Office certificate of appreciation for her work on the cold-case homicide trial of Linda Laroche.

Derek C. Mosley received the Robert H. Friebert Social Justice Award from the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.
Frank C. DeGuire, Jr. has joined Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee as a partner. His practice focuses on business and corporate law and public finance.

Kurt Dykstra was named president and CEO of Independent Colleges of Indiana, based in Indianapolis.

Thomas J. Watson was named president and CEO of Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company in Madison, Wis. He has been with the company since 2005.

Tara R. Devine, managing partner of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard’s office in Lake County, Ill., is president of the Lake County Bar Association.

Christopher R. Smith joined von Briesen & Roper as a shareholder in the Milwaukee office. His practice focuses on real estate development, eminent domain, and property tax.

Jeffrey R. Ruidl was promoted to senior vice president at Hammes Partners, a real estate private equity firm, in Milwaukee.

Malinda J. Eskra, a Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren shareholder in Milwaukee, was elected to the board of governors for the Seventh Circuit Bar Association.

Susan M. Roth was named a court commissioner for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Raphael F. Ramos was featured in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for his work at Legal Action of Wisconsin’s Eviction Defense Project. A national report examining innovative volunteer eviction defense programs has identified the project as a model for the country.

Stephen P. Boyett has been promoted to equity partner at DuFour Conapinski Ha, in Irvine, Calif. His practice encompasses a range of corporate and real estate matters.

Christina A. Katt has joined Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson & Vliet, in Waukesha, Wis.

John G. Long is a partner and member of the sports, entertainment, and media practice group at Lewis Brisbois, in the firm’s Houston, Texas, office.

Peter B. Baran is associate athletic director for compliance at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

Laurie C. Frey was named director, risk management, at Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp.

Sarah J. Knutson was named partner at McCarty Law in Appleton, Wis. Her practice concentrates on corporate and business transactions, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions.

Ioua Alen Marcyn B. Lagazo was promoted to senior counsel at CNH Industrial in the Chicago area.

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