

## Let Us Tell You a Story—or Many Interconnecting Ones

One cannot know how things will unfold. When I arrived at Marquette University Law School as an assistant professor, a quarter-century ago, I hardly expected now to be about to enter upon my 20th year as dean. Nor would anyone have expected that for about half of that time (since 2010) the Law School would be found not at our historic location in Milwaukee, 11th and Wisconsin, but a block away at 12th and Michigan, in the new and magnificent Eckstein Hall. Those of us involved in the building project have never forgotten that it was the Marquette University of the 1940s that helped inspire Ray (L'49) and Kay (Sp'49) Eckstein to make their historic \$51 million donation in 2007 (or Joe Zilber, L'41, that same year to give \$30 million, primarily for scholarships).

Our new Andrew Center for Restorative Justice has its own rich backstory. Janine Geske, upon arriving here in 1973 as a second-year law student, scarcely could have anticipated what her new affiliation with Marquette would bring—beyond the J.D., at any rate—such as her “stints” at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, as Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge, and as Wisconsin Supreme Court justice (to allude to the first 25 years). Still less would the future Justice Geske have foreseen her arrival back to the Law School as distinguished professor of law (1998–2014), her retirement (of a sort) and service on the university's Board of Trustees beginning in 2015, and her return to the Law School now, in 2022. Professor Geske is helping us launch the Andrew Center, whose purpose quite explicitly is to perpetuate her work in restorative justice, as sketched out on pages 4–8 of this magazine.

Professor Geske's story intersects quite compellingly with the story of Louie (L'66) and Sue (Sp'66) Andrew.



Louie Andrew, Janine Geske, and Joseph Kearney, in the Law School's Howard B. Eisenberg Suite

Indeed, this magazine (pages 8–9) hints at some of the latter—from Louie and Sue's education at Marquette to their many years together in Fond du Lac, Wis., to their connecting with Howard B. Eisenberg during his remarkable deanship of the Law School, from 1995 to 2002. There all of us came together.

We all have an affinity for stories. Even in my *law* courses each semester, such as Advanced Civil Procedure or Federal Courts, even as we parse various statutes of limitations in chapter 893 of the Wisconsin Statutes or scrutinize the text of Article III of the Constitution, we keep an eye out for the individual stories. It is hard to understand what the law is—or, at any rate, *why* it is what it is authoritatively said to be—without an appreciation of the stories, such as in *Hansen v. A.H. Robins Co.* (Wis. 1983) what the late discovery of the side effects of the Dalkon Shield would have meant, for not just the plaintiff but many others, under *traditional* interpretations of the statute of limitations, and in *Marbury v. Madison* (no court or date being necessary to note) how the newish chief justice of the United States had an interest in establishing a broader principle of judicial review even while he led the Court in denying the petitioner any relief.

And it is certainly hard without stories to understand an *institution*—as is part of the purpose of this magazine, both this issue and the larger run. I consider myself very fortunate to be part of some of the stories of Marquette University Law School. I hope that, whether near or far in place or time, you may feel a similar connection. Our mission is timeless—helping people form themselves into Marquette lawyers—and aspects of our work scarcely change. Concerning 1892, the year commonly cited for the school's origin (before it became part of Marquette in 1908), a standard account of our history says, “Mr. Churchill was the regular lecturer on Torts and related subjects; Mr. Spies taught Contracts.” Torts and Contracts have been a timeless part of the story; by contrast, programs such as restorative justice and sports law have been part of us for only a generation, give or take.

How will it all look a quarter-century from now—or 56, or 73, or 130 years hence, to allude to a few of the dates in this musing? Chapter 893 of the Wisconsin Statutes will look different; Article III of the U.S. Constitution quite possibly will appear the same as ever (on its face, anyway). And Marquette Law School? Some of both, surely, with many more stories—so many of them bound to have been transformative—along the way.

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