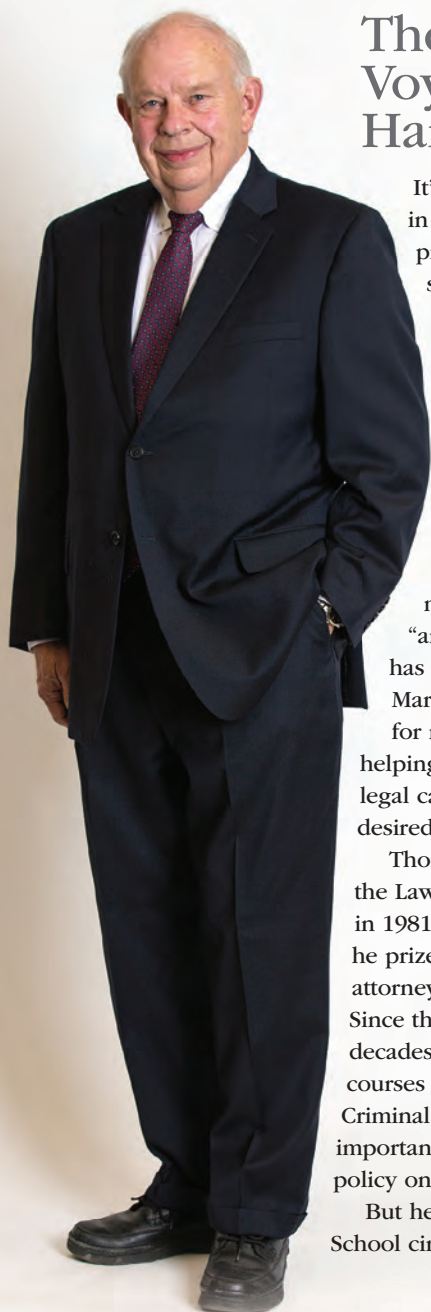


Comings and goings are always a major matter at a school. Yet two retirements and two appointments at Marquette Law School during the first half of 2023 merit particular attention. Consider the four short profile stories that follow as thank-you cards to two pillars of the Law School and warm welcomes to two people who we anticipate will help build the school even further.



The Great Voyage of the Hammership

It's one thing to be successful in building an academic program. It's another to be so successful that your name becomes associated with it.

In no other law school would the word *Hammership* mean anything. For Marquette Law School students across many years, the name needs no explanation; for others, the meaning may be given as “an internship program that has been a highlight of the Marquette Law School education for many hundreds of students, helping open paths for many to legal careers in the fields they most desired.”

Thomas J. Hammer, L'75, joined the Law School's full-time faculty in 1981, reluctantly giving up a job he prized as an assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County. Since then, in more than four decades on the faculty, he taught courses such as Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure and played important roles in charting Wisconsin policy on those subjects.

But he is best known in Law School circles for an assignment he

took up from the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg in 2001. Eisenberg asked Hammer not just to lead the internship program that gave students work experience in legal practice but to expand it by increasing the number of internships offered and students enrolled each semester. At the time, placements were quite limited in number, and the volume of student applications for internships was small and in decline.

While maintaining his classroom role, Hammer threw himself into the assignment. Internships with a range of nonprofit organizations and government agencies were added. Hammer wanted to see that “no matter what a student might be interested in, there would be an opportunity to have an internship.” To an impressive degree, he succeeded.

There are now more than 50 internship programs, and 90 to 100 students (approximately one-quarter of the upper-level law school enrollment) are involved in internships each semester. Among graduates in 2022, for example, 75 percent did at least one internship, and many did several, Hammer said.

Early on, students began calling the placements “Hammerships.” Of the eponym, Hammer said, “For quite some time I was unaware of this.”

Students receive academic credit for the supervised internships. They develop not only pure legal skills but also ways to deal with clients and

Great Appreciation . . .

colleagues—a host of things that make them more “practice-ready” when they graduate, something employers want, Hammer said.

All of this is separate from the Law School’s large pro bono program, in which a majority of students do volunteer legal work in many public service settings. Together, the internships and the pro bono programs show the large-scale commitment among Marquette law students to serving the public.

At the start of the Spring 2023 semester, Hammer told students, “The Hammership is sailing for the last time.” Hammer assumed emeritus status at the end of the semester.

Anne Berleman Kearney, an adjunct professor at the Law School since 1999 with extensive litigation experience in the region, has been named to succeed Hammer as director of clinical education. The ship will sail forward, a larger and more impressive vehicle as a result of Hammer’s years at the helm. ■

Bonnie Thomson: The Utility Infielder Who’s an MVP

Bonnie Thomson holds up two pieces of paper. One is a weekly schedule of Marquette University Law School classes from a semester in the 1970s. There’s quite a bit of white space on the page. The other is the weekly schedule of classes for the Spring 2023 semester. The page is full of entries—in small type on both sides.

A lot has changed since Thomson joined the Law School staff in 1985. She was hired as placement director to help students navigate the job market after graduation. For the past 25 years, her title has been associate dean for administration and registrar. What has that meant? For starters, she has overseen class schedules, exam schedules, room assignments,

and a host of other “academic logistics.”

More generally, it meant she has been nearly indispensable. For many faculty members and students, the answer to all sorts of questions was: Ask Dean Thomson. She described her role as “utility infielder.”

Beyond her listed duties, she was an advisor and confidant for innumerable students and staff, a big help with everything from navigating academic challenges to handling personal crises to advising on how to train dogs (especially her favorites, German shepherds—“I can’t imagine life without a dog,” she said). Thomson also has been the go-to-person for any student who wants to talk about University of Michigan football. “Go Blue,” she said.

How has the Law School changed over her 38 years? Thomson gave a few answers: The curriculum is much deeper, students have more electives and academic paths to consider, pro bono efforts have burgeoned, and the public profile of the Law School has grown, thanks largely to public policy and pro bono programs.

As Thomson retires, she is confident that she won’t be missed. Many of her duties will run to Jessica (Bacalzo) Fredrickson, L’99, newly appointed as the Law School’s registrar and director of curricular services. Yet it is plain to all familiar with the Law School that it will require teamwork to help replace Thomson when she retires this summer. As Dean Joseph D. Kearney said in a letter to students at the start of the Spring 2023 semester, “Truly, this will be the end of an era. . . . To say that Associate Dean Thomson has been the glue holding the Law School together even longer than the going-on-twenty years of my deanship *begins* to get at the matter.”

Thomson said, “I can’t imagine a better 38 years. It has just been such a gift.” She added, “I love the students. I just love the students.” ■



... and Great Anticipation

The Mosley Goal: Connecting People with One Another

Near the end of an “On the Issues” program in March 2023 in Marquette Law School’s Lubar Center, Derek Mosley was asked what gives him hope and what keeps him up at night.

“I’ll tell you what gives me hope,” answered Mosley, who began in January as director of the school’s Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education. “When I walk into this building every day, that gives me hope.” He sees young people who want to make a difference and make the world better. “I hear these conversations, and that gives me hope.”

“What keeps me up at night is that we’re going to continue on this trajectory where we don’t talk to each other—where we’re going to just silo ourselves so much that we don’t communicate enough to solve even the most simple problems we have.”

Mosley, L’95, was already a well-known figure, in the Milwaukee region and beyond, before taking the Lubar Center position. He was a citywide-elected Milwaukee municipal judge for 20 years, a frequent speaker on Black history and related subjects, a prominent “foodie” with a large presence on social media, a member of numerous nonprofit boards of directors, and an outgoing personality who knows tons of people.

Mosley said that he served long enough as a municipal judge to see defendants come before him who were grandchildren of people whose cases he had judged years before. It was disheartening, and, as much as he tried to be constructive, he could deal with cases only one at a time.

He hopes to have a bigger reach in the Lubar Center position, creating and leading programs that “put people into situations where we talk to each other.” He expects to lead the Law School in continuing the “On the Issues” programs that were built up so successfully over 15 years by Mike Gousha, the Law School’s distinguished fellow in law and public policy (and, since January 2022, the school’s senior advisor in law and public policy). In addition, Mosley wants to host more informal “Get to Know” programs with significant or interesting community figures, and he wants to convene events such as the “narrative tasting” in February (Black History Month) that drew more than 200 people to a program on popular American foods that were originated by Black cooks and chefs. At that program, people were intentionally seated with others whom they didn’t know previously.

Mosley wants to engage with community groups that are addressing community needs as he looks to bring people together in a wide range of ways. “This opportunity gives me so many options,” he said. ■





Mary Triggiano Tackles New Building Projects

Mary Triggiano's father was a carpenter. She said he wondered sometimes what she did as a judge.

"I build things, Dad," she told him. They weren't made of wood, but they were important and had impact on people and institutions.

As a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge since 2004 and as chief judge since 2020, Triggiano played leading roles in building a lot of things, including problem-solving courts, programs promoting awareness of the impact of trauma on people who came to court and people who worked in the court system, and solutions to complex administrative problems facing the court system.

Triggiano became chief judge a month before the COVID-19 pandemic hit with full force in March 2020. So she quickly had to design and lead the fast-track construction of ways to conduct court proceedings virtually. Then came building ways to return, over the course of two years, to in-person court operations, with tools including substantial federal aid to recover from backlogged proceedings and other problems.

Now Triggiano is taking on a new challenge: Building on the legacy of Janine Geske, L'75, as leader of the restorative justice program at Marquette Law School. Geske, a former

justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and a faculty member at the Law School, led the establishment in 2004 of the school's Restorative Justice Initiative, which seeks to help victims and communities heal and move forward.

In 2022, thanks to a \$5 million gift to the Law School from Louis and Suzanne Andrew, Geske returned temporarily from "retirement" to lead the launch of the school's Andrew Center for Restorative Justice and to help find her successor. Geske said she was "beyond thrilled" at the appointment of Triggiano. The latter traces her own involvement in restorative justice work to her experiences in programs Geske led at Green Bay Correctional Facility.

Triggiano wants to continue Geske's work while building on ideas of her own, including ways to expand efforts in children's courts and at the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center (formerly the House of Correction). She also wants to get more Marquette University faculty and students involved in restorative justice. In short, she wants the Andrew Center to be one of the premier centers anywhere for work of this kind.

"We have a great foundation, and I've got all sorts of ideas," Triggiano said.

Triggiano's father died in 2015. But one imagines he would be impressed by her building accomplishments and plans. ■