



Dean Joseph D. Kearney, Hon. M. Joseph Donald, James T. Gray, Raeshaan D. Canady, Gregory B. Conway, Ralph J. Huiras, and Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J.

Examples of the Marquette Lawyer

Marquette University conferred its 2008 Law Alumni Association Awards on four individuals who have distinguished themselves in the profession, in the business and academic communities, and in service to the public. Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of the University, helped to present the awards, together with Dean Joseph D. Kearney and the Hon. M. Joseph Donald, then-president of the Law Alumni Association. Several hundred individuals attended the awards reception, which (as always) occurred on the fourth Thursday of April, as part of the University's Alumni Awards Weekend.

Dean Kearney noted the significance of the awards ceremony: "In addition to giving us an opportunity to honor accomplished individuals, the occasion reminds those of us at the Law School and at the larger University of the importance of what we do. We allow ourselves this evening to infer from the individuals we honor that—some 4 or 18 or 38 or even 67 years from now—our successors at this great institution will find in the careers of our current students much that is laudable, even worthy as a model. This is what we most need from our alumni: their examples."

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Gregory B. Conway, L'70, received the Law School's Alumnus of the Year Award. For almost four decades, the dean remarked, Conway has set the standard for excellence in the practice of law in Green Bay, Wis., and beyond. Even in the midst of extensive service to the profession and the larger society—including his election in 1984 as the youngest president ever of the State Bar of Wisconsin and his regular work on behalf of the United States Senators from Wisconsin in evaluating candidates for federal judgeships—there has been a professional constant.

Dean Kearney summarized it thus: “Greg Conway has been—is—a lawyer. He is unapologetic for, indeed proud of, the good that lawyers can do in society through their vigorous representation of their clients’ interests.” More broadly still, in the words of one of his nominators, “Through his dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of the legal profession, Greg’s life exemplifies the standard to which all Marquette lawyers should aspire.”

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ralph J. Huiras, L'41, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Huiras, who was born just as his father was graduating as a member of the Law School's Class of 1918, has had a remarkably varied career. Excused from his last set of exams in 1941 on account of having received a “summons” from J. Edgar Hoover to report to Washington, D.C., to join the FBI, Huiras returned to Wisconsin and his native Ozaukee County in 1948. For the ensuing six decades, he has practiced law (his office remains in Port Washington), successfully pursued business activities (running and expanding a set of banks in the area), and served as an elected official and otherwise engaged citizen (e.g., as a supervisor in Ozaukee County).

Yet it is Huiras's work within the past five years, as one of the earliest advocates for the construction of an entirely new law facility, to which Dean Kearney particularly pointed in presenting the award. As the dean remarked, “How easy it would have been for Ralph Huiras, who in recent years had underwritten important renovation and reconfiguration of the existing building, to oppose any proposal that might have had us walking away from it. But Ralph was, as I now know him relentlessly to be, focused on the future.”

ALL-UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD

At the Alumni National Awards Dinner marking the conclusion of the 2008 Alumni Awards Weekend, **Ray Eckstein, L'49**, and his wife, **Kay, Sp'49**, were honored with the University's Alumni of the Year Award. The award was presented by Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of Marquette University, who cited, to be sure, the Ecksteins' transformative \$51 million gift in support of the construction of a new law facility, but also their inspiring example as parents, grandparents, entrepreneurs, and dedicated Marquette alumni. In accepting the award, the Ecksteins reiterated their hope that their gift would inspire others to do more for Marquette than they might once have thought possible.



HOWARD B. EISENBERG SERVICE AWARD

The Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award, which annually honors a recent alum who has demonstrated a particular commitment to the Law School, the profession, or the underserved, was presented to **Raeshann D. Canady, L'04**. Canady started in the Law School's part-time program (whose opening the late Dean Eisenberg led) and now practices with the Office of the State Public Defender (which Eisenberg headed and substantially expanded in the 1970s). This follows Canady's work, upon graduation, as a volunteer coordinator for Kids Matter Inc., where she recruited, trained, and supervised community volunteers to serve as court-appointed special advocates for children in foster care.

A nominator described Canady's spirit and approach to the law: "Rae and I shared an office. If she overheard me on the phone trying unsuccessfully to find a volunteer attorney for one of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic's clients, she would always start asking questions about what kind of case it was and to let her know if I couldn't find anyone—in which case, she would help. The result was that I gave Rae several pro bono cases, and she has been relentlessly devoted to each of them. With all of her other big-picture endeavors in public service, Rae has that very personal, small-picture devotion to actual low-income clients that marked Dean Eisenberg."

CHARLES W. MENTKOWSKI SPORTS LAW ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

James T. Gray, L'90, received the Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumnus of the Year Award. Gray was present at the creation of the Law School's National Sports Law Institute (NSLI), in which the late Associate Dean Mentkowski participated in the 1980s. In fact, upon graduation, Gray was the first assistant director of the NSLI, while also serving as an adjunct faculty member at the Law School.

But Gray has done much more in and for the field of sports law. His law practice has included representing Olympic athletes in the areas of drug testing, eligibility, and nationality and advising local and international organizations on a range of other legal issues in sports. Even in the midst of this practice, he serves as a faculty member in the department of sport management and media at Ithaca College in New York and a visiting fellow in a sports law program in England. Gray shares his knowledge of sports law, coauthoring with Martin J. Greenberg, L'71, the two-volume set, *Sports Law Practice* and *The Stadium Game*, and teaching internationally. As the dean concluded, "Jim exemplifies the success that students in the sports law program can achieve upon graduation and entry into the profession." •



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

LAW SCHOOL

Please join us at the
Spring 2009
Law Alumni Awards.

Thursday, April 23, 2009
Alumni Memorial Union
Monaghan Ballroom

5:30 p.m., reception
6 p.m., program

Robert J. Berdan, L'75
Alumnus of the Year

Larry B. Brueggeman, L'69
Lifetime Achievement
Award

Kristi L. Schoepfer, L'01
Charles W. Mentkowski
Sports Law Alumna
of the Year

Robert E. Webb, Jr., L'97
Howard B. Eisenberg
Service Award

Once again, a Marquette lawyer—**Joseph J. Zilber, Bus Ad '39, L'41**—will receive the University's Alumnus of the Year Award at the National Alumni Awards Dinner, which will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**.

In addition, **Richard M. McDermott, Eng'91, L'94**, will receive the University's Spirit of Marquette Award.