

JOSEPH DINNEEN KEARNEY

EXPERIENCE

1997–present	Marquette University Law School Dean and Professor of Law (2003–present) Associate Professor of Law (2001–2003) Assistant Professor of Law (1997–2001) Activities as dean have included (a) leading the award-winning Eckstein Hall project, which included fundraising of more than \$100 million between 2007 and 2011 and the construction of a building nationally regarded as having set the standard for law schools (an account of the groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies can be found here and here); (b) building a budget, developing an administrative structure, and fostering a culture whose results prompted the American Bar Association to award the Law School in 2026 its Pro Bono Publico Award for the work of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, which since 2002 “have developed into a lifeline for unrepresented litigants facing civil legal challenges” (announcement here), only the fourth time in more than 40 years that a law school has received the award; and (c) expanding the Law School’s profile and reach through the establishment of initiatives and programs such as the Marquette Law School Poll, the Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education, and the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice. Active teaching portfolio includes Advanced Civil Procedure (spring semester each year) and Federal Courts and Supreme Court Seminar (alternating fall semesters).	Milwaukee
1990–1995, 1996–1997	Sidley & Austin Commercial and regulatory litigation, with emphasis on appellate practice	Chicago
1995–1996	U.S. Supreme Court Law Clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia	Washington, D.C.
1989–1990	U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Law Clerk to Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scannlain	Portland, Ore.

EDUCATION

1989	Harvard Law School J.D., <i>cum laude</i> Executive Editor, <i>Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy</i> 77th Annual Ames Moot Court Finals	Cambridge
1986	Yale University B.A., <i>summa cum laude</i> , in Classics Phi Beta Kappa Bishop Berkeley Award: given to that student in Berkeley College “who has best realized the intellectual potentialities of the University”	New Haven
1982	St. Ignatius College Prep Valedictorian	Chicago

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 *Lakefront: Public Trust and Private Rights in Chicago* (Cornell University Press, 392 pp.) (with Thomas W. Merrill)
- 2015 *The Supreme Court and Religious Liberty (Pallium Lecture)*, [99 Marquette Law Review 427](#)
- 2014 *A Truth About Career Law Clerks*, [98 Marquette Law Review 13](#)
- 2013 *Contested Shore: Property Rights in Reclaimed Land and the Battle for Streeterville*, [107 Northwestern University Law Review 1057](#) (with Merrill)
- 2012 *The Last Assembly of Interstate Commerce Act Lawyers*, [95 Marquette Law Review 1123](#) (foreword to 125 Years Since the Interstate Commerce Act: A Symposium in the Form of a Final Convocation) (symposium editor with James B. Speta)
- 2011 *Private Rights in Public Lands: The Chicago Lakefront, Montgomery Ward, and the Public Dedication Doctrine*, [105 Northwestern University Law Review 1417](#) (with Merrill)
- 2010 *Laying the Foundation*, 93 [Marquette Law Review 1257](#) (foreword to Legacies of Lincoln Symposium) (symposium editor with Daniel D. Blinka).
- 2004 *The Origins of the American Public Trust Doctrine: What Really Happened in Illinois Central*, [71 University of Chicago Law Review 799](#) (with Merrill)
- 2002 *Special Issue (In Memoriam Howard B. Eisenberg)*, [86 Marquette Law Review 187](#) (editor of special issue and author of foreword)
- 2002 *The Print Media and Judicial Elections: Some Case Studies from Wisconsin*, [85 Marquette Law Review 593](#) (with Howard B. Eisenberg)
- 2000 *Will the FCC Go the Way of the ICC?*, [71 University of Colorado Law Review 1153](#)
- 2000 *The Influence of Amicus Curiae Briefs on the Supreme Court*, [148 University of Pennsylvania Law Review 743](#) (with Merrill)
- 1999 *From the Fall of the Bell System to the Telecommunications Act: Regulation of Telecommunications Under Judge Greene*, [50 Hastings Law Journal 1395](#)

- 1998 *The Great Transformation of Regulated Industries Law*, [98 Columbia Law Review 1323](#) (with Merrill)
- 1998 *Twilight of the FCC?*, [1 Green Bag 2d 327](#) (reviewing Peter Huber, *Law and Disorder in Cyberspace: Abolish the FCC and Let Common Law Rule the Telecosm* (Oxford University Press 1997))

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, SPEECHES, NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, ETC.

- 2026 [Some Reflections on the Declaration of Independence](#) (remarks to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee)
- 2026 Lasting Lessons from Louie Andrew's Life as a Learner ([memorial remarks](#))
- 2025 The ABA's Proposal on Experiential Learning ([letter to the ABA Council as subsequently published](#))
- 2025 Embodying the Vision of Jesuit Education ([retirement tribute to John Novotny](#))
- 2025 America's Hidden Constitutional Dilemma (panelist for program at Rockford University discussing *The Constitution in Jeopardy*, book by Russ Feingold and Peter Prindiville)
- 2024 Some Observations on Jesuit Education, Law, and Even Commerce ([remarks at Loyola University Chicago's Quinlan School of Business, Honors Seminar](#))
- 2022 Celebrating a Colleague Who Hit the Right Notes ([retirement tribute to William Welburn](#))
- 2021 Pandemic (or War) Notwithstanding ([remarks to end-of-year gathering for the Marquette Law Review](#))
- 2021 *Lakefront* and the Public Trust Doctrine ([print version of five-entry blog post series](#))
- 2019 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Seventh Circuit ([acceptance remarks](#))
- 2017 [Remarks at the Investiture of Judge Timothy Dugan](#), Wisconsin Court of Appeals
- 2016 [Remarks at the Investiture of Judge Cynthia M. Davis](#), Milwaukee County Circuit Court
- 2016 ["Justice Antonin Scalia—Ave Atque Vale," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), Feb. 21, 2016, at J1 (op-ed)

2015	Faithful Servant Award, St. Thomas More Lawyers Society of Wisconsin
2015	<u>The Wisconsin Supreme Court: Can We Help?</u> , Keynote Address, Annual Meeting, Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association
2014	<u>Reflections on the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee</u>
2014	Nathan Fishbach Founder's Award, Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association
2014	Moderator, Panel of Judges, 360 Degrees of Appellate Ethics, CLE Session of Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin
2013	<u>Some Observations on the Future of Legal Education</u> , Remarks to the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation (presentation with Dean Margaret Raymond of the University of Wisconsin Law School)
2013	<u>Remarks at the Investiture of Judge G. Michael Halfenger</u> to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
2013	<u>Remarks at Memorial Ceremony for Judge John L. Coffey</u> in U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (special session held in Appellate Courtroom of Eckstein Hall)
2012	<u>Remarks at Memorial Ceremony for Judge Dale E. Ihlenfeldt</u> in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
2012	<u>Remarks at the Investiture of Judge Lindsey Grady</u> , Milwaukee County Circuit Court
2011	<u>Remarks in Accepting Award as Lawyer of the Year</u> , Milwaukee Bar Association
2011	<u>Remarks at Investiture of Judge James A. Wynn, Jr.</u> to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
2010	Participant in panels on "Choosing an Architect" and "Library Without Walls," at Bricks, Bytes and Continuous Renovation: Law School Facilities Conference, ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Philadelphia (March 2010)
2009	Remarks upon Accepting, on Behalf of Marquette Law School, Chair's Award from Jewish Family Services Milwaukee
2009	<u>Keynote Address</u> , Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin, Annual Meeting

2008–present	Contributor, Marquette Law School Faculty Blog
2008	Remarks, Loyola University of Chicago School of Law Annual All-Journal Banquet, 40 Loyola University Chicago Law Journal p. i
2008	Remarks, Rebecca F. Dallet Investiture, Milwaukee County Circuit Court
2008	Remarks, Eckstein Hall Groundbreaking, 91 Marquette Law Review 1237
2007	Introductory Remarks, Economic Forum of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation
2007	Remarks by the Dean, Law Review Annual Banquet, 90 Marquette Law Review 1069
2007	Remarks, Governor’s Conference on Economic Development (Madison, Wis.)
2006	Eulogy for Professor Emeritus Charles W. Mentkowski, 17 Marquette Sports Law Review 9
2006	Remarks on the Career (to Date) of Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, at Honoring a Remarkable Justice, Celebrating the Wisconsin Judiciary (Madison, Wis.)
2005	Remarks on the Wisconsin Court System, Keynote Address. Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association Annual Meeting
2005	Remarks upon Receiving Award of Excellence in the Field of Law, 24th Annual St. Ignatius Law Luncheon (Chicago)
2004	Remarks, Paul Van Grunsven Investiture, Milwaukee County Circuit Court
2004	Remarks , Diane S. Sykes Investiture, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
2004	Remarks, Joan F. Kessler Investiture, Wisconsin Court of Appeals
2004	Remarks upon Accepting , on Behalf of Marquette Law School, Special Service Award from the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association
2004	Presentation on Effective Brief Writing, Continuing Legal Education Program of the Seventh Circuit and Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Associations

2003	<u>Some Reflections on the Law's Institutions</u> , Remarks to the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation
2003	<u>Presentation</u> , State Bar of Wisconsin Continuing Legal Education Seminar on "Attorney Professionalism—Pious Platitude or Practical Aspiration?"
2003	<u>Remarks</u> , Dedication of Classroom 325 in Sensenbrenner Hall in Honor of Ralph J. Huiras
2003–present	Dean's Column, <i>Marquette Lawyer Magazine</i> <u>"Beginning, But Not Anew"</u> (Fall/Winter 2003) <u>"A Collective Enterprise"</u> (Summer 2004) <u>"The Physical Future of the Law School"</u> (Spring 2005) <u>"Why Can't Legal Education Be Like Major League Baseball?"</u> (Fall 2005/Winter 2006) <u>"Building the Law School"</u> (Summer/Fall 2006) <u>"The Law School and Marquette University"</u> (Spring/Summer 2007) <u>"Who Will Stand with the Ecksteins and Zilbers?"</u> (Spring/Summer 2008) <u>"Stewardship, the Law School, and You"</u> (Spring 2009) <u>"Laying the Foundation"</u> (Fall 2010) <u>"Bringing the World to Milwaukee"</u> (Summer 2011) <u>"Another Form of Work with Students"</u> (Summer 2012) <u>"The Lawyer as Public Citizen"</u> (Fall 2012) <u>"Seeking Excellence, in This Magazine and All Else"</u> (Summer 2013) <u>"An Old Medium in the Midst of the New"</u> (Fall 2013) <u>"Lectures and Magazines—and Communities"</u> (Summer 2014) <u>"Lovell, Lubar, and the Law School More Generally"</u> (Fall 2014) <u>"How It Ought to Be, as I See It"</u> (Spring 2015) <u>"Milwaukee—The Great American City"</u> (Summer 2016) <u>"A Reflection on a Law Faculty"</u> (Fall 2016) <u>"Announcing the Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education"</u> (Summer 2017) <u>"The Various Great Work of Marquette Law School"</u> (Fall 2017) <u>"Eckstein Hall—and Its Architect—Ten Years After"</u> (Summer 2018) <u>"Of Reason, Experience, and Politics"</u> (Fall 2018) <u>"Of Human Nature—and Thus of Both Law and Culture"</u> (Summer 2019) <u>"The Company We Keep"</u> (Fall 2019) <u>"A Most Instructive Semester"</u> (Summer 2020) <u>"Bringing the National Academy to Milwaukee—and Sending It Back Out"</u> (Fall 2020)

	<u>“What Does—and Should—a Judge Do Today?”</u> (Summer 2021) <u>“Meeting People in a Pandemic”</u> (Fall 2021) <u>“Let Us Tell You a Story—or Many Interconnecting Ones”</u> (Summer 2022) <u>“Letting Time Hang Heavy on Our Hands”</u> (Fall 2022) <u>“Leadership and Mission at Jesuit Schools Today”</u> (Summer 2023) <u>“Drawing on—Even Dwelling in—the Past”</u> (Fall 2023) <u>“In Celebration of Progress and Continuity”</u> (Summer 2024) <u>“Speaking Just for Myself”</u> (Summer 2025) <u>“Collecting Exemplars, or Building One’s Roster”</u> (Summer 2026)
2003	Memorial Address, Milwaukee Bar Association
2002	Eisenberg—A Hero for Justice, <i>Milwaukee Journal Sentinel</i> , June 6, 2002, at A19 (op-ed)
2002	State High Court Also Culpable in County Pension Mess, <i>Milwaukee Journal Sentinel</i> , April 21, 2002, at 3J (op-ed)
2001	An Overview of the Tobacco Litigation: Its Development, Propriety, and Public-Policy Implications, State Bar of Wisconsin Annual Meeting, Government Lawyers Division, Health Law Section, and Public Interest Law Section
2001	A Discussion of Frivolous Actions in Wisconsin, Dane County Bar Association (with Hon. Janine P. Geske)
2000	The Potential Impact of the Fall 2000 Election on the Supreme Court, Marquette Women’s Council (with Peter K. Rofes)
2000	The Future of Federal Telecommunications Regulation, at The Global Reach: Telecommunications in the New Century (conference cosponsored by Marquette University)
2000	Whither the FCC?, University of Colorado Law School Telecommunications Symposium
1999	Regulation of Telecommunications Under the AT&T Consent Decree, Hastings College of the Law Symposium
1999	Why I Came to Marquette, Woolsack Society of Marquette University Law School (Alumni Group)
1999	Do Amicus Briefs Have an Effect on the Supreme Court?, American Law Institute, Wisconsin Chapter
1998	Effective Writing of Legal Briefs, Seventh Circuit Workshop for Court-Appointed Attorneys

1998 The Influence of Amicus Curiae Briefs on the Supreme Court,
American Politics Workshop at the University of Chicago (with
Merrill)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2008–2016 Trustee, Faith in Our Future (nonprofit corporation created to
conduct capital campaign and operate in support of Catholic
education and faith formation in southeastern Wisconsin)

2002–2012 Member, Board of Directors, Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar
Association

2003–2009 Chair/Co-Chair, Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission
(appointed by Senators Herbert H. Kohl and Russell D. Feingold to
evaluate possible nominees to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit and U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin)

2009 Member, Task Force Appointed by Senator Herbert H. Kohl to
Advise Him Concerning Supreme Court Nomination of Judge Sonia
Sotomayor

2002–2008 Member, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Rules
Advisory Committee

2002–2007 Member, Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners (appointed by the
Wisconsin Supreme Court)

2005 Member, Task Force Appointed by Senator Herbert H. Kohl to
Advise Him Concerning Supreme Court Nomination of Judge John
G. Roberts, Jr.

1999–2000 Member and Reporter, Multidisciplinary Committee of the State Bar
of Wisconsin

MISCELLANEOUS

Profiles available by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ([Nov. 26, 2011](#)) and Urban
Milwaukee ([Oct. 19, 2012](#))

Dean's Beginning-of-Semester Letters to Marquette Law Students ([2003–present](#))

Not listed here: various pro bono and other litigation matters

Born in Chicago on December 28, 1964

Admitted to the practice of law in Illinois, Wisconsin, and various federal courts

Married to Anne Berleman Kearney, three children