

CLASS | NOTES

1970



Andrew M. Rajec was named Slovak-American of the Year and honored by the Slovak Embassy and the Friends of Slovakia at a gala celebration in Washington, D.C. He is president of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada (FCSU). Under his leadership, FCSU activities have expanded into 27 states, and the organization's assets have substantially increased. Pictured above (left to right): son, Andrew P. Rajec; Andrew M. Rajec; Peter Kmec, Slovak ambassador to the United States; wife, Ida Rajec; daughter, Idka Rajec; and son, Daniel Rajec.

1973



Christine M. Wiseman has been confirmed by the Illinois Senate to serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the state's coordinating agency, which oversees colleges and universities.

Wiseman has served since 2010 as president of Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

1974

William C. Gleisner III was reelected to a three-year term on the Wisconsin Judicial Council. Gleisner, who practices in Waukesha County, has served on the council since 2008.

1976

Mark W. Schneider has been appointed a member of the board of directors of Littler Mendelson in Minneapolis. A shareholder and co-chair of the firm's traditional labor law practice group, he focuses his nationwide

practice on representing management in all phases of labor law and labor relations.

1977

Colonel John E. Kosobucki was named Investigator of the Year for 2013 for the Investigations of Senior Officials Directorate, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense, in Alexandria, Va. He is retired from the U.S. Army.

1978

Jack Lance has retired after more than 31 years as general counsel to the Rockdale County Public Schools, Ga. He and his wife, Glenda, have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

1979



Daniel T. Dennehy has been nominated and confirmed as a member of the five-person Milwaukee County Personnel Review Board. He was then elected the board's new chairperson. Dennehy is a shareholder

with von Briesen & Roper in Milwaukee, where he focuses his practice on employment, personnel, and labor matters.



Maureen H. Hoyle was recently appointed president for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), in Washington, D.C., after serving the organization for 31 years. In January, she presented at a

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee roundtable on strengthening federal access programs. Also in January, she rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on behalf of COE, for which Stefan Jekel, NYSE Euronext's New York-based team member, presented her with a medallion (above).

Steve A. Laraway, president and CEO of Laraway Financial Advisors, St. Cloud, Minn., recently earned the Chartered Financial Consultant designation from the American College of Financial Services.

1985



Kathy L. Nusslock has been chosen as the chief operating officer of Davis & Kuelthau Milwaukee. She is responsible for overall management of the firm's operations, including human

resources, facilities management, and oversight of accounting/finance, information technology, and marketing/business development.

1986

Thomas G. Cullen, managing attorney for Wisconsin operations for Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, has been promoted to vice president of Wisconsin operations. He serves as in-house legal counsel for the Wisconsin Realtors Association.

1987

Laurie J. McLeRoy has joined von Briesen & Roper as a shareholder in the litigation and risk management practice group in the firm's Milwaukee office.

1988

Janet C. Protasiewicz is judge of Branch 24 in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, having been elected this past spring.

1990

Noelle C. Muceno has been named as a shareholder in Crivello Carlson's Milwaukee office, where she practices in the areas of product liability, toxic torts, and general insurance and professional liability.

Opportunity and strategic vision underlie McEssy's

Bill McEssy was walking out of a bank in Fond du Lac, Wis., one day in 1969 when he ran into a guy he knew from playing recreational baseball. The guy told McEssy that he was managing a McDonald's but wanted to acquire his own franchise. He didn't have money to buy one and asked if McEssy would join him.

"It was a unique encounter," McEssy says—and it changed his life. McEssy had a successful practice in Fond du Lac that included family, real estate, bankruptcy, and criminal law. His father, also a Marquette lawyer, was a judge in Fond du Lac, ultimately serving on the bench for 34 years, and the family was well established there. "I wasn't possessed to give up law practice and go into McDonald's," McEssy recalls.

McEssy is not an impulsive person. He's loyal to his family, friends, and employees. He has an easygoing manner, and he's fun to talk to, but don't mistake the seriousness of his purposes. He's dedicated to his work and his involvement in the Catholic Church. And he thinks strategically—where should things head in the big picture, and how do we get there?

But bumping into his friend became a turning point in his life. In 1970, McEssy joined his friend in buying a McDonald's franchise in the western Illinois city of McComb. Through the 1970s, McEssy was a passive investor as the partnership grew to include five McDonald's stores in the Quad Cities region. But in 1980, McEssy sold his share to his partner, bought three McDonald's stores in the Chicago area, left his law practice, and moved to Lake Forest, Ill., to launch a business that became the successful McEssy Investments.



Step by step, he became one of the largest McDonald's owner-operators in the country, with 47 stores, generally in a triangle from north of Chicago to Milwaukee to Lake Geneva, Wis. He also became involved in several other business ventures—for one, he is the largest investor in the recent successful reopening of Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wis.

As his McDonald's roster grew, so did McEssy's involvement in charitable and community efforts. He made sure that his stores supported their communities. In their personal lives, McEssy and his wife, Lois, became deeply involved in supporting the work of the Archdiocese of Chicago and especially the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He has been chairman of the seminary's advisory board for nine years, and its 880-acre campus now includes the McEssy Theological Resource Center.

McEssy has earned recognition in both his professional and personal life this past year, his

career and work

50th since graduating from Marquette Law School. This includes the McDonald's Golden Arch Award, the highest recognition given to franchise owners by the food giant, and the Francis Cardinal George "Christo Gloria" Award, given to him and his wife by the Cardinal at the seminary's "Evening of Tribute" in Chicago.

Although it has been more than three decades since he practiced law, McEssy says that his success is grounded in what he learned in law school and in legal practice. "I wouldn't have grown to the largest operator in the region without my legal background," he says. "Whatever success I've had started with getting a law degree." His role leading an operation that includes more than 2,000 employees calls on skills in negotiating contracts, setting up and overseeing corporations, hiring top-notch people for key positions, and strategic problem solving—all skills he honed as a lawyer.

McEssy got his undergraduate degree from Marquette, where he met Lois, who was also a student. They married during his first year in law school and had the first of their three children during his second year. It was a demanding period, he recalls—in addition to law school and the baby, he was working full time at the Schlitz brewery. "But looking back, thank God I did it," he said. "It was a good learning experience."

McEssy has become involved again in Marquette Law School since a meeting with Dean Joseph D. Kearney during the first year of his deanship in 2003. McEssy encouraged the plans for what would become Eckstein Hall. "I was a bit skeptical initially that this young guy was going to be able to pull this off, but I told him that he should make sure that the building was monumental. He persuaded me that he could do it, but, even so, I wasn't prepared to be as impressed as I was when I took a tour of the Law School building."

Believing in your ability to accomplish great things, and then proving it—those are things that both describe and appeal to McEssy. "I've never worked for anybody since law school," he said. But, with vision, talent, and hard work, he turned a chance encounter 45 years ago into a launching pad for big success—both for himself and for serving others. ■

1991



Frank A. Gumina was named a co-leader of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek's health care law team. He is a shareholder in the firm's Milwaukee office and has worked with health care clients for more

than 20 years, developing strategies to meet business objectives.

1992

Jason Abraham, of Hupy & Abraham, recently assisted in obtaining a settlement, with payouts of more than \$4 million, on behalf of an Illinois biker who was severely injured in a crash with another motor vehicle. Abraham is managing partner in the firm's Milwaukee office.

1994



Barbara Kahn Boxer is managing director of Belle Capital USA, an early-stage angel fund focused on building companies, in underserved capital markets across the country, that have at

least one female founder or C-level executive or are willing to recruit top female talent to their C-suite and board. The fund is on track to raise \$25 million by 2016 and has invested in three companies since its inception in November 2012.



Heather L. MacDougall was sworn-in this summer as commissioner of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Nominated by President Obama and

unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, she will serve a term expiring in April of 2017. She is the fifth woman to be named as a member in the Review Commission's 43-year history. ▶▶



SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASS NOTES may be emailed to christine.wv@marquette.edu. We are especially interested in accomplishments that do not recur annually. Personal matters such as wedding and birth or adoption announcements are welcome. We update postings of class notes weekly at law.marquette.edu.



Sally A. Piefer of The Schroeder Group, in Waukesha, Wis., has been elected to the board of directors of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin (formerly America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin).

She will serve on the human resources and communications committees. The organization distributes food through a network of 1,000 hunger-relief programs.

Richard C. Rytman was recently appointed director of global security for Chrysler Group in Auburn Hills, Mich.

1995



Todd J. Schneider has become a partner in the firm of Froum & Garlovsky in Chicago. His practice is concentrated in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration,

charitable planning, and business succession planning, with a significant portion devoted to representing musicians, songwriters, entertainers, and recording artists.

1997



Daniel G. Radler, a partner in Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee office and the national chair of the firm's intellectual property practice group, has been elected to the firm's executive committee.

Bradley C. Fulton has assumed the role of president and managing partner of DeWitt Ross & Stevens in Madison.

1998

Laurie E. Meyer has joined the Milwaukee office of Davis & Kuelthau as a shareholder on the firm's labor and employment team. Her prior experience includes practicing labor and employment law and civil litigation at Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen.

1999

Kurt D. Dykstra is community president/senior vice president of Mercantile Bank in Holland, Mich.

Joseph T. Miotke is president-elect of the Wisconsin Intellectual Property Law Association. He was recently included in *Intellectual Asset Management* magazine's "IAM Patent 1000," which recognizes the world's leading patent practitioners. Miotke is in the Milwaukee office of Dewitt Ross & Stevens.

2000

Eryn M. Doherty has been promoted to vice president, labor relations, for Sony Pictures Entertainment, Culver City, Calif.



Rebecca Cameron Valcq was recently appointed as general counsel of Lammi Sports Management in Milwaukee. She was also recently named one of the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* "40 Under 40,"

an award recognizing Milwaukee-area individuals under the age of 40 who are making a difference in their professions and communities.

Elizabeth Westlake is with GE Healthcare, in Wauwatosa, Wis., working in commercial operations contracting.

2001

David Saucedo recently joined the Bonner Law Firm in Cody, Wyo. Before moving west last year, he practiced in Milwaukee in the areas of family, criminal, probate, and bankruptcy law.

2002



Thomas M. Hruz was appointed by Gov. Scott K. Walker to serve as an appellate judge on the District III Court of Appeals. He was previously a partner at Meissner Tierney Fisher & Nichols in Milwaukee.

George S. Peek has become a shareholder in Crivello Carlson's Milwaukee office, where he practices in the areas of commercial and business litigation as well as products liability and insurance litigation.

2003



Sherry D. Coley has been elected to a two-year term as secretary of the State Bar of Wisconsin. She is a member of the litigation practice group in the Green Bay office of Godfrey & Kahn, as well as a member of the firm's product liability and tort practice group.

Early steps and perseverance bring long-term success for O'Brien

Barbara O'Brien is a distance runner, both literally and figuratively. On the literal side, she has maintained a demanding exercise regimen for years; she's run five marathons. On the figurative side, her professional and personal lives are models of long-term commitment, determination, and dedication.

The professional side: When O'Brien was a student at Marquette Law School in the mid-1980s, she got a job as a clerk at Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, a firm in downtown Milwaukee specializing in defense work for insurance companies. Nearly three decades later, she is still with the firm, with a long record of success.

Her interest in insurance and in business law actually pre-dates law school. O'Brien grew up in Stevens Point, Wis., where her father practices business law. O'Brien got her undergraduate degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and decided to get a job before enrolling in law school. She became a claims adjuster for an insurance company. She liked the work and geared her law school course selection toward a career in the field. She credits Marquette University law faculty, including Professors James Ghiardi, John Kircher, and Thomas Hammer, with teaching her skills that have served her well.

The personal side: While she was a law student, she met a classmate, Brian Smigelski. They married, and, together, they've stayed on the same paths and in the same city since, and now have two grown children. Smigelski, also L'87, specializes in business, construction, and employment litigation for DeWitt Ross & Stevens, in its Brookfield office.

"I'm happy," she says of her career choice and, more generally, of the way life has worked out. She says that the Borgelt firm has treated her well, including when her children were young and she wanted time off or a schedule that allowed her, for example, to be there when they got home from elementary school.

The work itself appeals to her. "I do a lot of paper pushing," she says, but she likes wading into the details of insurance policies and finding things that might have been overlooked. A typical day for her means "taking a lot of phone calls from clients," handling depositions, and working on mediation of cases. The number of cases going to mediation has increased over the years, she says, as the costs and risks of trials have increased. "I always tell the clients that a successful mediation is when no one is completely happy with the outcome but the clients can live with the results," she says.

Six and sometimes seven days a week, O'Brien is working out by 5:30 a.m., usually at one of the two gyms to which she belongs, or going for a run with a woman from work. "I just feel so much better," she says of her workouts. "In my next life, I'd like to come back as an exercise teacher." She also loves to ski—a pursuit that interrupted her exercise regimen this year when she tore ligaments in a knee while skiing in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Now recovered from surgery, she has returned to running.

O'Brien is the president of the Marquette Law Alumni Association Board this year. She said that she has benefited from involvement in alumni matters, especially through meeting Marquette lawyers she didn't know previously. "The school has so much to offer everybody, and it's fun to be part of it," she said. One of her priorities: getting alumni who have not visited Eckstein Hall to see the Law School's four-year-old home.

You can expect she'll pursue that goal with the persistence of someone who is in it for the long haul. ■



PROFILE: Andy Shiffman, L'09

As agent, friend, fan, Shiffman is there for players 24 hours a day



You're a professional basketball player, it's 4 a.m., and your elbow hurts. Who will listen to you?

Andy Shiffman will. Twenty-four/seven—that's Shiffman's job. And he loves it. His title is director of basketball operations for Priority Sports & Entertainment. Less formally, he's an agent for professional basketball players, guys in the National Basketball Association, guys who want to be, guys playing in leagues overseas.

What will he do for them?

"Anything and everything," he says. When one of his draft prospects broke his nose, Shiffman arranged doctors' appointments, a schedule of workouts, ways of meeting the client's needs for food, massages, shoes, whatever. The heart of the job, of course, lies in getting good deals for his clients, helping them have good careers. "Every day I'm talking to NBA teams" on behalf of clients, Shiffman says.

Shiffman grew up in Memphis as a big sports fan. He wasn't good enough at basketball to play it at an elite level, but that was his number-one sport. He received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 2006 and then headed to Marquette Law School. Why? "Sports law was hugely important for me," and that was a specialty of Marquette, home of the National Sports Law Institute.

"I absolutely loved it," he says of his time in Milwaukee. His eyes were opened to understanding both law in general and sports law particularly, and he had close relationships with faculty members and students. He loved a job he got keeping statistics for the Milwaukee Bucks.

He graduated in 2009—and things got harder. He realized that it was very difficult to get a job working for the front office of an NBA team on its basketball operations side. He broadened his options and pushed in every way he could to get into the business. One

important step: He flew to Las Vegas, where the NBA summer leagues were under way. He talked to anyone who would listen to him.

On the last day of the summer leagues, an NBA executive told him to call the coach of the University of Memphis basketball team. That led to a job in the video room there. Shiffman kept talking to anyone he could reach. He lost out on some jobs he really wanted, missed some breaks, and got some breaks. He had passed the Tennessee bar and had started working at a law firm in Memphis when he met an executive of an NBA team on the street in Memphis. The exec told him he should contact Mark Bartelstein, CEO of Priority Sports & Entertainment. Shiffman did, and he called in help from anyone he could to talk him up to Bartelstein.

It took a few months, but it worked. In March 2012, Shiffman moved to Chicago, where the agency has an office. "It shows how far networking can go," Shiffman said. "I absolutely love my job; I love Chicago."

His law degree is an asset, he said, including his involvement in the firm's work on arbitration cases. A lot of skills he developed in law school—negotiating, making an argument, navigating complex procedures—are also important in his work, not to mention when he's helping players deal with speeding tickets.

As is evident, he does more for the players with whom he works than just get involved in business dealings. He even gives them his analysis of their play, especially using the skills he picked up in basketball teams' video rooms. He says he tells them, "I'm your partner in this; I want it as bad as you do."

He wants the players to have great careers—and, for himself, he's convinced that he is already launched on one. ■

Natalie R. Remington is now lead counsel, United States and Canada Service, for GE Healthcare in Wauwatosa. Her duties include reviewing and advising on changes to health care–related contracts, negotiating the parameters of contracts, reviewing marketing material, assisting with policy compliance, and helping resolve client concerns.



David J. Seno has been elected to a partnership in the Milwaukee office of Foley & Lardner. He focuses on assisting public and private companies with mergers and

acquisitions, strategic alliances, and various commercial transactions, including cross-border transactions.

Rebecca J. Roeker has been appointed by Governor Scott K. Walker as chief legal counsel for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

2004

Dawn Drellos-Thompson is practicing business and civil rights law in Naples, Fla. She and her husband are partnering with others in the construction and management of commercial and residential property around the country.

Kirk Pelikan has been promoted to partner in the labor and employment practice group of Michael Best & Friedrich's Milwaukee office.

2007



Angela M. Rust has been promoted to partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Appleton. Her practice focuses on health care providers in the areas of regulatory compliance, transactions and

affiliations among providers, bioethics, and value-based reimbursement contracts between providers and commercial insurers, employers, and other health care purchasers.

2008

Thomas E. Howard has been reappointed to the standing committee on mental health law of the Illinois State Bar Association. He is a member of the Peoria law office of Howard & Howard.

2009



Rebecca H. Mitich is this year's recipient of the Aspire (Emerging Leader) Award from Wisconsin Commercial Real Estate Women (WCREW). The Aspire Award recognizes a woman in the

commercial real estate industry who, in five years or fewer, through her work, accomplishments, and charitable involvement, has demonstrated that she will be one of the industry's leaders in years to come. Mitich is an attorney in Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek's Milwaukee office.

Charles R. Stone has taken a position as an associate in the Beijing office of Reed Smith. He is also an adjunct professor in the business school of Peking University's Market Economy Academy, where he teaches "Organizational Behavior East and West" in Chinese.

2010

Jason K. Roberts recently accepted the position of legal analyst within the international department of Thomson Reuters ONESOURCE Indirect Tax in Portland, Ore., where his responsibilities include monitoring and reporting on international tax law changes and trends.

2011



Jack Dávila and **Victoria David** are engaged to be married in August 2015. He is an associate on the litigation team at The Previant Law Firm, Milwaukee, and she is an associate at the

Milwaukee office of Pledl & Cohn. The couple would like to thank Professor Jack Kircher for his creative seating arrangement in the 2008 torts class where they first met.

Thomas I. Guz has recently taken a position with LB&B Associates, a diversified services company located in Columbia, Md., where he is the lead negotiator and arbitrator for more than 30 collective bargaining agreements. He and his wife, Kylie, have two daughters: Lilian, age 2, and Zoey, 1.

2014



Kenneth "Sam" Brooks is an associate in the intellectual property practice group of Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee office. A patent engineer, he focuses his practice on the preparation and

prosecution of patent applications, with particular expertise in the areas of electrical, mechanical, software, and computer engineering.



Hannah A. Rock has joined the law firm of Hansen & Hildebrand, Milwaukee, as an associate. She will concentrate on family law, mediation, and collaborative practice.


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