

Three Cheers for Three Retirees

If it is ever acceptable to propose a toast in a law school magazine—and let's agree that it is—then this is the right time to do it:

A toast, filled with appreciation, warmth, and thanks, to three people who have been important parts of Marquette Law School and who are retiring from active duty (not that we don't continue to regard them as part of the Law School family). To mention them in alphabetical order, they are:

Jane E. Casper



In 16 years at the Law School, Jane Casper touched the lives of hundreds of students, from making the wheels of the system work for them to giving them personal boosts when they were in need. She was attentive to details but saw the big picture, whether the matter at hand was the mechanics of graduation ceremonies or the intangible pulse of the lives of both individuals and institutions. In recent years, Casper had the title of assistant dean for students. And students knew that she was, indeed, for them. The same was true during the rest of her nearly 40 years working for Marquette, including many years of work in undergraduate admissions.

Janine P. Geske



Janine Geske joined the Law School in 1998 as distinguished professor of law—or rejoined it, having graduated in the Class of 1975 and then having served on the faculty, among other professional positions. In the meantime, she was a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge from 1981 to 1993 and a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice from 1993 until 1998. Geske served as interim dean of the Law School from summer 2002 to 2003 and as acting Milwaukee County executive for several months in 2002. Geske, whose talents include bringing people together through mediation and otherwise, established the Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative (featured in the

Summer 2004 *Marquette Lawyer*) and has earned numerous recognitions for her positive impact in addressing needs in Milwaukee and across the world.

Phoebe Williams



Phoebe Williams, associate professor of law, grew up in the segregated South and has been a role model at every stage of her life. She has been a model of determination to get a top-notch education, which brought her north to Marquette as an undergraduate in the 1960s. She graduated from the Law School in 1981 and has been a model of service, including in private practice, in volunteer roles in Milwaukee, and, since 1985, on the faculty of Marquette Law School. She has been, throughout, a model of wisdom, caring, and dignity. (A profile of Williams appeared in the Fall 2013 *Marquette Lawyer* magazine.) Williams will assume emerita status. ■

All three retirees inspired the people with whom they engaged, especially students. As they step down, it is appropriate to think how magnificently each has lived up to something Jane Casper said a few years ago when she received Marquette's Excellence in University Service Award (as quoted then in the Spring 2009 *Marquette Lawyer*):

“Never forget the impact you have on a student, a colleague, an unexpected visitor. . . . Never forget the impact we have on each other. Be patient and kind, have faith in the basic goodness of the people around you, share your expertise and skills, be the professional you know you are. It's in those single moments of care and respect and service that we make a difference in the lives we touch.”

A toast