

# No Horse Race? No Problem, as Marquette Law School Poll Focuses in 2015 on Policy Issues

The Marquette Law School Poll has been hailed across the country for its extraordinary accuracy over multiple primaries and elections, as recently as the November 2014 election. But Charles Franklin welcomes an odd-numbered year such as 2015 less as a lull than as an opportunity to dig more deeply into issues.

“Absolutely! Life does go on between elections,” said Franklin, the school’s professor of law and public policy and director of the poll. “We have important policy issues, including the state budget, here in Wisconsin. And we are also pursuing some special projects.”

Although news media coverage of polling tends to focus mainly on the “horse race”—who is leading in high-profile elections—the Marquette Law School Poll has always been about more than that for Franklin and Mike Gousha, the Law School’s distinguished fellow in law and public policy.

“There’s a natural tendency to fixate on the horse race numbers,” Gousha said. “But every poll contains a lot of different subject matters, and we poll on many, many different questions in virtually every poll we do. So I think this does allow people to focus on things other than the horse race, and it allows people to get a sense of the questions we’re asking on a pretty regular basis.”

The Law School is pursuing two special projects in 2015: a poll on public attitudes toward regional economic cooperation across Milwaukee, Chicago, and northwest Indiana (the “Chicago Megacity,” as it is sometimes termed) and a national survey on perceptions of Catholic K–12 education. Both grow out of conferences that Gousha, together with Dean Joseph D. Kearney and with support



Charles Franklin and Mike Gousha

from the Law School’s Lubar Fund for Public Policy Research, convened at the Law School in recent years.

To be sure, even in 2015 the horse race is part of the poll. This includes keeping an eye on early developments in the race for president, especially with Wisconsin’s Gov. Scott Walker shaping up as a major Republican candidate.

“How the public comes to see the candidates, the potential presidential contenders, I think is right in the middle of the kinds of questions that we’re always interested in,” Franklin said. “If Governor Walker does get into the race, that will add another element of local interest to it, but we would explore it in any event.”

Gousha urged the creation of a poll shortly after coming to the Law School in 2007, but it was not until 2011 that the idea gained traction when he found the right partner. He acknowledges that the Marquette Law School Poll’s success and acclaim have exceeded anything that he anticipated. “I’m really grateful to Charles Franklin,” he said. “If he weren’t so good, I’d be in trouble with the dean.” ■

2014	Final MU Law Poll Margin	Result Margin	Difference
Wis. Governor	Scott Walker +7%	Walker +5.7%	1.3 points
Wis. Attorney General	Brad Schimel +4%	Schimel +6.2%	2.2 points
2012			
U.S. President	Barack Obama +8%	Obama +6.9%	1.1 points
U.S. Senate	Tammy Baldwin +4%	Baldwin +5.5%	1.5 points
2012			
Wis. Governor recall	Scott Walker +7%	Walker +6.8%	0.2 points

## “Guiding Hands” Bolster Skills and Confidence of First-Year Students

It's not that hard to get into law school, Joe Poehlmann says. But once you're there—well, especially in the first semester, it can seem a challenge to get on a successful path. In particular, what's expected of a student is much different from undergraduate work. And who has more recent experience with the transition than upper-level students?

“It helps to have a guiding hand, even apart from the faculty,” Poehlmann says. He benefited from such help as a first-year student. And as a second-year student, he has provided it as one of the presenters in Marquette Law School's innovative Supplemental Success Program (SSP).

The program is part of the Law School's broader Academic Success Program (ASP), which offers students several voluntary ways to improve their opportunities to succeed in law school and the profession. A core part of ASP is a series of sessions outside of class time in which upper-level students, functioning in the nature of teaching assistants, help first-year students understand the content of their courses. It is similar to programs to boost academic success at many law schools. Individual tutoring in legal writing for some students and the opportunity for one-on-one academic counseling sessions are also part of ASP, as is true at a number of law schools.

The more distinctive Supplemental Success Program focuses not on the specific content of classes but on skills and coping mechanisms for students as they deal with the challenges of law school.

For example, Anne-Louise Mittal, an SSP presenter in the 2014–2015 year, says that many students don't know from their undergraduate years an effective way to take and maintain notes. In one of the SSP sessions, Mittal showed how she does that and offered advice.

Much of law school course work is bound up in final exams, says Ashley Sinclair, who also was an SSP presenter. How to deal with exams was one of her subjects. SSP “prepares you to know what to expect,” Sinclair says.

Rachel Mather, another SSP presenter, says, “It's nice to hear someone say, ‘This is how I do it.’ We're helpful in laying the groundwork.”

Matt Parlow, associate dean for academic affairs, and Amy Rogan-Mehta, director of student development and academic success, say that participation in both ASP and SSP is voluntary, but about 80 percent of first-year students take part.

At the opening session in August 2014, Parlow told students, “Without a doubt, going to ASP, you will learn more than if you don't go to ASP.” And the same is true, he said, for SSP.

The critical tools necessary for success as a lawyer involve not only the content taught in a course but also the ways to deal with the day-to-day demands of being a lawyer, Parlow said.

At that session, Rogan-Mehta said, “No matter what kind of attorney you become, you're going to need to be able to talk about the law. You're going to need to answer questions, and you're going to have to think on your feet.”

Those skills may not be in the title of any individual class. But learning them has become an important component of the development of lawyers at Marquette Law School even outside the formal course work. ■



Amy Rogan-Mehta (second from left) is joined by Supplemental Success Program leaders (from left) Ashley Sinclair, Joe Poehlmann, Anne-Louise Mittal, and Rachel Mather. Rogan-Mehta is the Law School's director of student development and academic success.

## Hammons Named to Lead New Entrepreneurship Clinic

Entrepreneurs can face a wide variety of challenges, from the basics of forming a business entity to the details of obtaining licenses and permits. A new resource from Marquette Law School offers help.

The Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic is the first program in the Milwaukee area to offer free legal services to start-up businesses and entrepreneurs; its focus is on clients who cannot afford qualified legal counsel.

The clinic will be staffed by law students under the supervision of Nathan Hammons, a new clinical faculty member and director of the clinic. Hammons previously served as an adjunct professor while operating a private practice focused on tech start-ups.

“I’m honored to be a part of the Marquette community and excited to help launch the clinic,” Hammons said. “The clinic will help train students to become top-notch business attorneys, while giving them yet another outlet to answer the university’s call to serve others and enhance our community.”



Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell, left, and Professor Nathan Hammons

The clinic advances the vision of Marquette President Michael R. Lovell, who has called upon the campus community to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship.

“The Law School was quick to respond to that call,” Lovell said. “Entrepreneurs always need more time to spend on their ideas and innovations, which is exactly what the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic will enable them to do. In return, our students will learn how to have a direct impact on the next wave of start-ups. Together, we’ll advance the region’s reputation as a place where great ideas become great realities.” ■

## Greenberg Wins Sports Law “Master of the Game” Award

A few years after he helped found the Law School’s National Sports Law Institute (NSLI) in 1989, Martin J. Greenberg was searching for a way to honor a friend for his contributions to the sports industry. With brainstorming help from his wife, Greenberg eventually settled on the idea of creating the NSLI’s Master of the Game Award.

“The award is special because my wife and I created it,” Greenberg says. “And the first honoree was Al McGuire, who was a good friend of mine.”

The most recent honoree: Greenberg himself, who received the award as part of the NSLI’s 25th-anniversary celebration. Greenberg dedicated the honor to the students he has interacted with over the years, many of whom he introduced at the awards ceremony.

Greenberg no longer runs the National Sports Law Institute, as in its early days, but remains active in the Law School. He brings real expertise: his law office specializes in real estate and sports law—two subjects that he has taught as an adjunct professor at the Law School for some 40 years.

A quarter century ago, Greenberg encountered skepticism about sports law as a serious academic subject. Today, the public attention to legal aspects of the sports world—together with the job opportunities for attorneys in the industry—shows how times have changed.

“The program has grown tremendously, through the efforts of Professors Matt Mitten and Paul Anderson,” Greenberg says. “And it is the very best sports law program in the United States. To have been part of that at the beginning and throughout has been a great joy for me.” ■



## Proud Albanian, Proud American, Law School Standout

**X**heneta Ademi has two cultural identities.

“I’m Albanian,” she says—as Albanian as the language spoken in her home, as the traditions her family observes, and as the places she lived during the first 14 years of her life.

“I’m American,” she says—as American as her citizenship, as her diplomas from Manitowoc High School and the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, and as the hamburgers served in her family’s restaurant.

“I belong to both places, and I embrace both places,” says Ademi. That’s what her parents have urged her to do—respect and take part in both of the cultures that shape her life. She agrees with them.

More recently, there’s a third “culture” that has shaped Ademi’s life—Marquette Law School. As she heads toward graduation this spring, Ademi is completing a growth process that took her from being a struggling first-year law student to president of the Student Bar Association.

“I’m really glad I came here,” Ademi says. “It has helped shape me into the person I am today.”

But first Albania. Xheneta (pronounced *Je-ne-tab*) remembers her childhood as “a blast,” offering close-knit communities where everyone knew each other and there were lots of kids to play with. While parts of the Balkan region were



Xheneta Ademi

violent and unstable during Ademi’s 1990s childhood, she says that she was never exposed to that directly. In addition to Albania, her family lived in places including Turkey, Kosovo, and Serbia.

During those early years, her father lived in the United States, although he came back to the Balkans frequently. About 25 years ago, he and one of his brothers were living in Chicago, and they liked to go for long drives, Xheneta says. On one of those trips, they saw a restaurant for sale in Manitowoc, about 80 miles north of Milwaukee. They bought it. They continue to operate that family restaurant today.

When Xheneta was 14, the family joined her father in Manitowoc. Xheneta, then in eighth grade,

knew almost no English, and the culture was very different. But she adjusted quickly. “I was forced to speak English, and I think that really helped me,” she says. “It took a while for me to feel comfortable and make friends.”

She did well in college in Stevens Point, but she says that she didn’t need to study much. That didn’t work at Marquette Law School. She struggled in her first semester, but she remained determined: “I’m not the kind of person who’s going to give up.” She committed herself to succeeding—and she has.

“Law school built me into a fundamentally different person, for the better,” she says.

In her role as Student Bar Association president, Ademi has been active in helping launch a mentoring program that partners first-year students with upper-level students. Involvement in the bar association has helped her develop her own professional skills, she says.

Ademi has developed an interest in intellectual property law, and she hopes to focus on that in her career. She credits Professor Kali Murray as a mentor.

Now 25, Ademi says that her parents supported her in getting a good education. But their broader advice is a continuing gift: “Work hard every day, and you’ll be okay.” ■