



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

LAW SCHOOL

10-08

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Hon. Shirley S. Abrahamson  
Chief Justice  
Wisconsin Supreme Court  
Post Office Box 1688  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

**Re: *Pro Bono Activities at the Law School***

Dear Chief Justice Abrahamson:

Thank you for your letter this past December, inviting me to give the Wisconsin Supreme Court a sense of the pro bono activities and culture of Marquette Law School. My colleague, Professor Thomas J. Hammer, together with our fulltime Pro Bono Coordinator, Angela F. Schultz, has prepared the enclosed report, which I fully endorse.\*

Permit me in this cover letter a brief reflection. The development in our students of a pro bono ethic, so that they and we may serve indigents and others both during the students' tenure here and hereafter, is of *particular* importance to me. My mentor and predecessor as dean, the late Howard B. Eisenberg, personally embodied that ethic. Upon his death, under the leadership of the Hon. Janine P. Geske as interim dean and with my participation as then dean-designate (2003), the school undertook a substantial inquiry as to how, as Dean Eisenberg's successors, we could further secure that ethic as an essential part of our education.

Consistently with Dean Eisenberg's view, we eschewed a "mandatory pro bono" requirement, reasoning, along with Plato (not that Howard was apt to quote Plato), that no forced study resides in the soul. Rather, we concluded that we wanted to provide examples and opportunities, in order that our students would develop a *habit* of pro bono work. We now have four Law School employees dedicated, in differing respects, to this effort (and I am not including our public *policy* staff, such as Mike Gousha and Alan Borsuk, in this count). We will continue to look for appropriate opportunities to expand our programs, in conjunction with the courts, the state bar, and others.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this report. I have included sufficient copies for distribution to the full Court, should you deem that appropriate.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Kearney  
Dean and Professor of Law

\* Report available at Clerk of Supreme Court's Office.