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MJC QUARTERLY

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

MJC Volunteers Recognized at MBA Pro Bono Publico Awards

O'NEIL CANNON HOLLMAN DEJONG & LAING S.C.

Nicholas Sulpizio
MARQUETTE LAW SCHOOL 3L

Two more major contributors to the Milwaukee Justice Center have been recognized by the Milwaukee Bar Association's *Pro Bono Publico* Awards for 2016.

The law firm of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing S.C. has been a long time supporter of the MJC. OCHDL Attorney Laura Lavey was one of the original founders of the ever-growing MJC5k Run for Justice, and remains the Chair of the event's Race Committee.

At the same time, Marquette University Law School 3L Nicholas Sulpizio has racked up 140 hours of *pro bono* work over his first two years at MULS, most of them at the MJC. Sulpizio also serves as a member of the MULS *Pro Bono* Honor Society, and the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Student Advisory Board.

Everyone at the MJC thanks the people of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing S.C. and Nicholas Sulpizio for their outstanding work here!

OUR MISSION:

The Milwaukee Justice Center is a collaborative endeavor between Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Bar Association, and Marquette University Law School. The MJC provides services to self-represented litigants with civil court matters. Self-represented individuals have a fundamental right to access the justice system even if they cannot afford an attorney, or do not qualify for legal aid.

Upcoming Events

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8, 2016
Find your polling place at www.myvote.wi.gov

MJC 2016 Holiday Closures
Thursday, November 24-Friday, November 25 (Thanksgiving)
Thursday, December 22-Monday, January 2, 2017 (Winter Holidays/New Years)
Monday, January 16, 201y (Martin Luther King Day)

Milwaukee County Court 2016 Holiday Closures
Thursday, November 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving)
Monday, December 26, 2016 (Christmas, observed)
Monday, January 2, 2017 (New Years, observed)
Monday, January 16, 2017 (Martin Luther King Day)

MJC Welcomes New Leader to Law Library: Meet Jennifer Haas

"I always wanted to be in public service," Jennifer Haas said. "But nothing opened up before now. It's surprisingly hard to find work in public service with a law degree and a library degree in the City of Milwaukee."

However, five years after beginning her career as a law librarian as a part-time tech under former librarian Lynne Gehrke, and working as a digital law librarian for both Weiss Berzowski Brady and Quarles & Brady, Jennifer is back where she started.

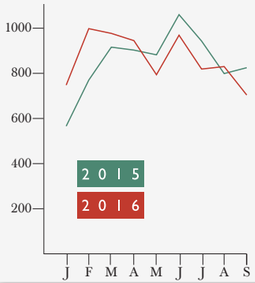
"I wanted to be a librarian more than a lawyer," Jennifer said. "But I thought law school would be a good idea since I could do more interesting research. That and I had professors at [Marquette University Law School] that supported me."

A native of Franklin, Jennifer now lives in Muskego ("my high school rival!"), and prides herself on being "good at finding things," both physical and information. And she already has goals for where she would like to see the Milwaukee Count Law Library expand service.

"I'd really like to see the library offer some sort of easier process for patrons to do electronic real estate transfers," Jennifer said. "Currently, it's very a difficult and tedious process, even if someone wants to just chane the name on a property."

When she's not at the library finding things, she's swing dancing, quilting, and reading non-law books, and travels. A lot. Next on her travel bucket-list: Estonia.

"It's where my family originally came from."



Q3 2016 at a Glance...

Clients Seen

Q3 2016:	2,353
vs. 2015:	(8.3%)
YTD:	+1.2%
vs. Hist. Avg:	+15.2%

The Milwaukee Justice Center keeps in positive territory for the year so far in 2016.

A strong August and September kept us at 101.2% versus last year up to this point, and 115.2% versus our historical average.

We also have experienced gains year-over-year every fourth quarter except for one, so we're looking forward to topping out with helping more than 10,000 clients helped in a year for the fourth year!

Thank you for all you contribute to the Milwaukee Justice Center, and here's to another strong quarter of helping *pro se* litigants!

Tip of the Scale: Split Forms for Orders (or E-Filing is Coming!)

New versions of a number of forms have been released recently by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. A number of forms have had their orders separated into separate forms for a judge or court commissioner to sign.

This has largely been the result of the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) needing to split the order off into a separate file so that judges and court commissioners can electronically sign or otherwise complete the order forms in their Judicial Dashboard.

If you use these kinds of forms (including Fee Waivers, Findings of Fact - Conclusions of Law, Stipulations, Temporary Orders for divorce cases, etc.), stop by the MJC site (www.MilwaukeeJusticeCenter.org) to find the updated versions. For non-family forms that have been affected by this change, visit the Clerk of Circuit Courts page (www.MKECourts.org) or the Wisconsin Supreme Court page (www.wicourts.gov) to find them.

All this is in anticipation of the upcoming switch to mandatory e-filing, which is already being slowly rolled out across the state.

Volunteer Spotlight: Dennis Milbrath

Dennis Milbrath, an attorney for Levy & Levy, S.C., is a seasoned pro in family law. A graduate of the New England School of Law in Boston, Dennis started practicing family law in Wisconsin in 1987, after spending a few years in Idaho.

What first brought you to the MJC?

Somebody showed up at the [Leander J. Foley Matrimonial Inns of Court] and talked about it. I thought it sounded like a good way to spend a Friday afternoon.

Now I come two Fridays per month. I've enjoyed doing all the different kinds of cases I get here, but I mostly do family law.

What keeps you coming back to the MJC?

It's enjoyable!

I've worked with a lot of legal aid programs and Ive said, if it could, the MJC model should be spread everywhere.

When I leave here, I feel like I've changed a life. Some people just need things explained to them, and a lot of legal service organizations don't have time for that.

You practice family law both daily and here. What's your interest in family law?

The thing about family law is you're generally dealing with good people going through a really terrible period in their life. So you're seeing good people at their worst.

You have to help them understand they'll get through it. Life will get better. It can be both very frustrating and very rewarding.

What's been your most challenging experience at the Milwaukee Justice Center?

One day I was paired with a student that had just finished his secure transactions class, and *everything* that day turned out to be a secure transactions issue.

One woman came in and said she'd been wronged by a place that changed her oil, but didn't put the oil plug back in. Her engine seized up and it was ruined.

She took it to small claims court and won, but the place never paid. It was hard news to give her that she probably wouldn't get the money, but she was happy just to be able to move on.

What else interesting should we know about you?

I love to kayak!

This summer the whole family did a trip down the Menomonee River in the U.P. It was flat water, steady current, just really nice and peaceful. Having the whole family there was part of it.

Long-time Volunteer Becomes MJC's Next Legal Director: Meet Kyla Motz

If you've volunteered at the Milwaukee Justice Center at any time over the past four years, chances are you've met Kyla Motz. Kyla started as a volunteer at the MJC in the summer of 2012, right after her 1L year at Marquette University Law School, and with a few exceptions, she's been here ever since.

"I don't remember exactly why I began volunteering at the MJC. I know I was looking for an opportunity to get legal experience and had an interest in family law, so the MJC was a fit with my professional interests," Kyla said. "I do remember, though, why I stayed. I love getting the opportunity to empower people to help themselves. Clients come to the MJC with problems, sometimes very complicated problems, and we work with them to find solutions. I love the feeling you get when a client leaves better off than when they came in."

Kyla went on to graduate with her Juris Doctorate from MULS in 2014, volunteering most of that time. She also spent some time interning with the Hon. Pamela Pepper, who was Chief Judge of the Eastern District Bankruptcy Court at the time. That led her to a stint as an attorney with Freund Law Office's bankruptcy practice in Eau Claire, before returning to Milwaukee, and the MJC.

"I initially became interested in bankruptcy work after I interned with Judge Pepper," Kyla said. "I appreciated that bankruptcy, like the MJC clinics, is a discipline where your client usually leaves you better off than they were."

Elsewhere in her career, Kyla took on cases as a private attorney, handling small claims cases where she was often up against a pro se litigant, giving her particular insight into how cases turn out when one or both parties are unrepresented.

"Seeing how judges, commissioners, and attorneys interact with pro se litigants helped me better understand the challenges our clients face in the court system and how we can go about tackling them," Kyla said.

And if you don't see Kyla at the clinic or the courthouse, you may just catch her on the lanes.

"I've bowled a 300 before. Although, maybe you already know that since I'm fairly certain I used that in a Volunteer Spotlight back in the day," Kyla said (she did, back in the Autumn 2014 edition of the MJC Quarterly). "I also see, or try to see, all of the Oscar-nominated moves in the theaters every year."

Family Law Forms Assistance:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the MJC Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
Sign in at 1:30pm

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Family Law Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
Sign in at 1:00pm

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