

Focus on Students

*Assistant Dean Joan Rundle
Dean Cliff Thompson*

In the fall, 1987 Gargoyle, four students of the class of 1989 contributed to an article on Profiles of Diversity, sharing their experiences prior to law school. They are now on the brink of their new careers, and three of the four now share with us a glimpse of their law school years and their hopes for the future. I think you will be delighted to read their reports.

KEITH BORDERS is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he was the recipient of numerous awards for his leadership and commitment to student government, including Chairman of the Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government. Keith writes:

As I await the May 20, 1989 commencement and the swearing-in ceremonies in June, my reflections bring me to these thoughts. The past three years have been filled with challenges and encumbrances which have tested and strengthened my ability to analyze, reason and solve. These experiences have reinforced my awareness of the need for diversity and cultural awareness in our legal system.

My legal education has been a journey leading to a more concise understanding of our legal system's influence on and control over our lives. In many ways I find myself caught in a crossfire between a system that once intentionally excluded blacks, yet ideally is built on principles for fostering diversity.

I have been able to benefit from some of the societal changes which have gradually surfaced because of the justice system. Those benefits include exposures to civil rights litigation through work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Julian, Olson and Lasker, a small Madison firm. I have also participated in private commercial litigation in Chicago. None of these internships and clerkships came easily. Competition is fierce, but at the same time I felt encouraged knowing this Law School had given me a solid foundation.

I have been fortunate in that I was exposed to another aspect of legal education which I believe is unique—the opportunity to research and work closely with visiting Professor Kimberle Crenshaw, former Hastie Fellow from this Law School, whose research deals with race and gender struggles for guaranteed rights, and Professor James E. Jones, Jr., in the area of affirmative action.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Professors Jim Jones, Vicki Schultz, Martha Fineman, June Weisberger, Joe Thome, David Trubek, Ann Althouse and Gordon Baldwin. Through their advice and course work I have been able to challenge and assess my preconceived



notions on equal protection, due process and civil rights while enhancing my ability to distinguish between the most effective approach for expanding and utilizing these legal doctrines. I also want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow BLSA colleagues for their endless support which is a crucial link in surviving law school.

The University of Wisconsin Law School provides a great opportunity to educate oneself in law and life. It has been a long, exciting, and very cold journey for this native Oklahoman. The past, hopefully, will complement my future challenges as I move on to Washington, D.C., to work in the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. The Division is responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, handicap, religion and national origin.

With this opportunity I realize a portion of my dream to dissipate discrimination. That makes me feel good particularly when civil rights issues have been placed on the back burner and "individualism" has been promoted to the detriment of social equality. I can only strive to positively infiltrate our way of justice with the diversity that I bring. The University of Wisconsin Law School has assisted in preparation toward this endeavor.

AARON BRANSKY Aaron came to the law school "after four years of working as an ice cream and frozen foods route salesman. . . ." He decided to change his career "to an indoor job with no heavy lifting." He reports:

My wife, Barb and I always get a laugh out of the monthly newsletter we get from a local fraternal organization. Why? Because the bowling columnist (a Mr.

Tucker) begins every single column, every single month, with the exact same lead, something like: "Already it is May. Where did the time go?" It's become a long-running joke with us, and I've wondered: "Why can't that guy come up with a better lead to his column?"

Now I'm in Mr. Tucker's shoes. I've been asked to look back over a period of time and report what happened. And as I consider what has happened over my three years at the Law School, the main thing that comes to mind is Mr. Tucker's cliché: "Already it is May. Where did the time go?" Maybe I ought to give Mr. Tucker a little more credit than I have in the past!

To begin: like most of my classmates, I survived my first year of classes. I then enrolled in the Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Program (LAIP), an excellent clinical program in which students gain experience while attempting to resolve legal problems of indigent clients. I very much enjoyed working under the supervision of Clinical Associate Professor David Cook. While Dave and I could not help all of the prisoners who wanted our assistance, we did provide useful service in a number of cases. For example, it was gratifying to help secure the release of a Mariel Cuban who had been detained in the Oxford, Wisconsin prison by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In addition, we had some success in a few family law cases. These cases inspired me to write an article on child support, and I'm told the article will be published in the Wisconsin Law Review quite soon.

times: trying to write an article, doing work at LAIP, lining up interviews for clerkships, and attempting to keep up with classes. Still, things fell into place well. I did line up a clerkship and a summer job. I did pass all of my courses, and I even found myself enjoying subjects I thought would be terrible snoozers, such as Trusts and Estates. Amazing!

Barb and I enjoyed a relaxed summer between my second and third years. We both were glad to have worked the summer days in nice, cool offices. although a room air conditioner at home would have been nice during the drought. I'm afraid I'm getting soft.

I must like clinical programs, because I have enrolled in the Legal Defense Project (LDP) for my last year at law school. LDP exposes students to the challenges and rewards of criminal trial practice (it also exposes students to a near-constant stream of bad jokes from Ben Kempinen, the Acting Program Director!) LDP students work under the supervision of experienced and dedicated attorneys, and represent indigent clients who have been charged with criminal misdemeanors. I have a number of cases that are set for trial this semester: maybe I should have tossed my cane over the goalpost last fall after all.

So, if all goes well, I will graduate in May. I still remain pleasantly surprised at the generally high quality of Law School instruction and at the decency of most of my classmates. I do regret, however, that there just hasn't been enough time to see friends and acquaintances (both in and out of law school) as often as I would have liked. Ah well.

After graduation, Barb and I will travel about the country, enjoy a few train rides, and have a good time not doing work. In July we move to beautiful East Central

Illinois, only 90 miles from Peoria (I still don't want to say anything unkind about Peoria). Barb will find a nursing position at a Champaign-Urbana hospital, and I'll clerk one year in Danville, Illinois for the Honorable Harold Baker, Chief Judge of the Central District of Illinois. After that, Barb and I go to Duluth, Minnesota, where I'll clerk two years for the Honorable Gerald Heaney, a Senior Judge on the 8th Circuit. I'm very much looking forward to the experience with these two fine judges.

So those are my career plans through September 1992. After that the crystal ball gets hazy. I like to think that by then I will have a line on a specific place to work, but if I don't, I can always send out resumes indicating my interest in an indoor job with no heavy lifting.

KIM ELLEN PATTERSON is a native of Milwaukee, and graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in elementary education and music. She worked for nine years prior to law school as a private investigator in the criminal defense field, and later as a key account sales representative for L'eggs hosiery. As graduation approaches, Kim states:

Time flies when you're having fun—and when you're going to law school. Not that law school hasn't been fun. It has been because of the people I have met, what I have learned about law, and what I have learned about myself.

I was fortunate enough to have a varied law school experience. I took classes, of course, had a clinical experience with LAIP which lasted all of my second year as well as the initial summer, and participated in Law School organizations such as the Equal Opportunity Advocates and the Wisconsin Law Review.

My work experience included a research assistantship with Professor Walter Dickey and a summer clerkship with a Milwaukee firm which continued on a part-time basis through all of my third year. Through these experiences I saw some of the differences between academic pursuits and private law practice. I also found that I was comfortable with both.

My "permanent" future is not yet determined. Next year I will do a one-year judicial clerkship with the Honorable Terence Evans, Federal District Court Judge, in Milwaukee. Through that experience I hope to improve my writing and learn from observing the attorneys who practice there. After that, who knows? I hope my career will include public service, as well as private practice.

I do know, though, that I would not trade my law school experience, the social side, or the academic side, for anything. I clearly made the right decision both coming to law school and coming to the University of Wisconsin Law School.

LINDA BENNETT, one of the original "four" featured in the Fall, 1987 *Gargoyle* graduated from Rutgers University with a major in communications. After graduation, she worked in the publications field for three years, and for two of those years she was on the staff of *Ms. Magazine*. Linda reports that she will be working for the Department of Labor in Washington D.C. in the Civil Rights Division.