

Featured Alumni: John A. Kaiser ('76)

During his senior year in Law School, Jack Kaiser began his remarkable record of service to the School by helping to select the Dean. The experience must have been satisfying because he has been helping almost without interruption every since.

Born in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and with an undergraduate degree in economics from UW-Eau Claire, Jack returned to Eau Claire following graduation from Law School. He has practiced with a series of small, general practice firms, much to his satisfaction. "I began by emphasizing the general and valued the experience. It was only after about my fifth year of practice that I knew what I liked and didn't and what I was good at." Now Jack concentrates on personal injury, workers compensation, Social Security disability appeals and municipal law. Last year Jack merged his practice with several other lawyers to allow even more concentration in his practice.

Beginning about 1980, Jack began his service to the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association. He served two terms on its Board of Directors before joining the Board of Visitors. Last year he served as Chairman of the Board of Visitors and directed the visitation program, which was denominated "the Year of the Student." "The role of the Visitor has changed dramatically since my early involvement. We look more deeply into selected aspects of Law School programs, with more critical analysis of these areas. Because the Visits have been less general, the Visitors reports are more specific and the suggestions and critics are more meaningful to the faculty and administration."

Jack also observes that the entire Law Alumni organization has changed in the last ten years. He notes that the genesis for this change may have been the Law School's first Capital Fund Drive. "While the Fund Drive required organizing our alumni to succeed, it coincidentally discovered that alumni really are grateful for their legal education and anxious to serve their School." This, in turn, may have encouraged even more ambitious goals for the Alumni Association and its leadership.

Attending events not only in Eau Claire but also in Minneapolis, Jack observes that "alumni really enjoy themselves when they get together." These events help to strengthen ties to the School and alumni support for it. Jack has helped organized a number of these regional events.

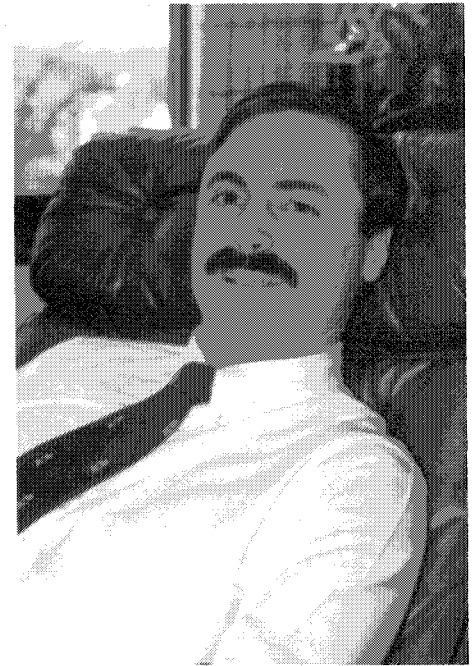
Four times Jack has put his own practice aside to join the teaching team for the Municipal Law portion of the General Practice Course. "Its not as much a burden on me because Municipal Law is only a two day section, not a whole week. It doesn't take as much time to vacate that alley each year." Nevertheless, few lawyers have taught as often as Jack.

"I have been glad to help the School because of all the talented, enthusiastic people I have grown to know. The Boards consist of lawyers, business people, and public officials from so many walks of life. It has been a golden opportunity to learn from others." Jack points out the Boards try to represent the vast variety of alumni, young, old, large firm, small firm, government, business, etc.

At home Jack is involved in activities too numerous to mention. Asked to pick a few more important to him, he named the Board of Directors of UW-Eau Claire's Alumni Association and treasurer of the Park School PTA, in addition to the Law School. "I am able to do what I do today because of the great education I received, and we owe it to our kid's generation to preserve the quality of our public education at all levels."

Jack obviously sees his role in life broader than serving clients in his office or in court. "Stu Gullickson told us in School that wherever we went after graduation, our communities would look to us for leadership. We are the problem solvers, we are trained to identify the solutions and get things done. Here in Eau Claire, few things get done in local government, civic affairs, charitable activities or in business that doesn't involve lawyers in some integral way."

Jack Kaiser already has a career of helping get things done, and he still has several careers left to accomplish even more.



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