Rabas is New Alumni Relations Director

Jini Rabas, a University of Wisconsin Law School alumna of the class of 2004, has been selected as the Law School’s new Director of Alumni Relations. Rabas succeeds longtime director Edward Reisner, who retired after 30 years of service.

Rabas, who grew up in Minnesota, graduated from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, with a major in political science. Following graduation, she worked as Citizen Services Representative for former U.S. Congressman Bill Luther of Minnesota.

At the UW Law School, Rabas was active in organizations spanning the wide range of available opportunities. She was articles editor of the Wisconsin International Law Journal and participated in the clinical Neighborhood Law Project. She was also Community Services Chair for APALSA-SALSA (Asian-Pacific-American and South Asian Law Students Association), which named her Student of the Year; and served as a legal intern for the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

As a law student, Rabas co-founded the Wisconsin Asian Bar Association. She received both the Bruce Beilfuss Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Service to the Law School, and the Ray and Ethel Brown Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Service to the Law School and the Community.

Following Law School graduation, Rabas served as a clerk for the Honorable M. Joseph Donald of the Milwaukee Circuit Court, and most recently was an associate at Kasdorf, Lewis & Swieblick in Milwaukee.

In announcing the selection of Rabas to join the Law School as Director of Alumni Relations, Dean Kenneth B.avis, Jr., characterized her as “a person of boundless energy, and a very deep affection for this school and what it stands for.” Davis added, “With Jini at the helm, I am looking forward to continuing to build our alumni relations program and strengthening the national profile of the school.”

Lefkow Lecture a Tribute to Judge Fairchild

Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow, who was one of Judge Fairchild’s clerks, spoke in honor of her mentor, titling her talk, “Thomas E. Fairchild: A Judge’s Legacy.” The talk took the form of a “walk down memory lane,” in which Judge Lefkow shared her own memories of working with Judge Fairchild as well as the memories of her fellow clerks, who had sent their contributions to her in advance.

Judge Lefkow’s two current clerks, Jordan Russell and Jed Roher, stood with her as the three of them gave a dramatic presentation, taking the voices of Judge Fairchild and his clerks, many of whom were in the audience at the well-attended event. Roher, who read the lines of Judge Fairchild, was a visiting third-year student at the UW Law School.

As the lecture was about to begin, Judge Fairchild himself entered the room to a standing ovation from the assembled alumni, students, faculty, and other friends of the Law School.

The Fairchild Lectureship was established at the Law School in 1988, as a tribute to Judge Fairchild, a 1937 UW Law School graduate, former Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, later Chief Judge and now Senior Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

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