

1 Justice Paul Anderson ('68), jurist-in-residence, speaking to Rajesh De at a reception following De's public lecture in November

2 Tony Fernandes ('93) speaking to a Humphrey Fellow class in April

3 Judge James Rosenbaum ('69) and Judge Marilyn B. Rosenbaum with Gary Haugen ('74) at the Judge Jed Rakoff reception in November

4 Alumni gather at the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C., for a reception and discussion in December

5 U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. and Stephen A. Peterson ('67) at the Verrilli reception

6 Members of the class of '65 at the Minneapolis Club during Spring Alumni Weekend



enjoys most about entrepreneurship was once illustrated by his business partner at MaSeR as they walked into a new 50,000-square-foot facility. "He looked around and said, 'It's not just a PowerPoint anymore,'" recalls Johnson. "I'm very lucky because I'm also proud of what we're doing here at Greene Lyon. Obviously we're in it to make money, but what we're doing is good, greener, better. That helps a lot when I wake up at 4 a.m. worrying about making payroll."

This, his last venture (he promised his wife), remains all-consuming. The company is on the cusp of "large deals with major players in different industries. This is going to be a breakout year for us," he says. "The spirit lives on."

MARY JANE WEAVER

Class of 1989

How did Mary Jane Weaver become an immigration lawyer? Easy question. "Anna Shavers changed my life," Weaver says of the associate clinical professor who helped shepherd her career. Shavers ('76) established the Law School's first immigration clinic



during her 1986–89 tenure and now teaches citizenship law at Nebraska College of Law.

"In her class we discussed so many fundamental themes—what it means to be from somewhere, who is in, who is out," Weaver says. "Immigration law is at the intersection of family law, criminal law, constitutional law—it's a little bit of everything, which suits someone with a liberal arts background and an interest in the way people interconnect. It's fascinating."

Encouraged by Shavers, Weaver clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice in Miami and San Francisco before joining Berry Appleman &

Leiden in 1992, just as Silicon Valley was emerging as an incubator of new technologies. She learned a lot, but the bread-and-butter clients who engage large firms interested her less than small startups, which secured funding for big ideas but scrambled to find immigration counsel.

Weaver began meeting monthly with two immigration lawyers she'd met through a professional organization. "We called it our stupid question dinner, where we could ask questions we were afraid to raise with our bosses," she says. The three soon hatched plans for Weaver Schlenger Mazel, which they launched in 1996. That taught Weaver a lot, too. "Attorneys starting a practice see the revenue side but not the cost side. They don't see how hard it is to operate a business," she says.

With a current staff of 18, the women-owned firm works with universities and companies of all sizes and types, from biotech and medical research to advertising and financial services. "Immigration law has only become more complex and difficult, so the need for good lawyers contin-

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ues to increase,” she says. “We deal with complex statutes and regulations, and in many ways, neither has kept up with the times. Immigration is such a hot-button issue—like abortion rights—that no one wants to touch it.”

Weaver relishes the challenge of understanding how a business works and why a foreign hire is important, then seeing the process through. “When it works, it makes people happy, with some nice rewards along the way.”



LIZ FOWLER

Class of 1998

“I ended up in law school on a whim,” says Liz Fowler, who wrote in her application essay that practicing law was not her goal. Health policy claimed her heart during sophomore year at the University of Pennsylvania, when she learned that the U.S. was the world’s only developed country without a national health care system. She abandoned her pre-med path, earned a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and, two weeks after defending her dissertation, began law school. She favored constitutional and tax law, which proved extremely valuable in her future endeavor: helping to craft the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“I feel incredibly humbled and honored to have been part of an important initiative. Whether you like it or hate it, you have to admit the system was broken and needed to be reformed,” says Fowler, who is now vice president for global health policy at Johnson & Johnson.

The ACA wasn’t her first Capitol Hill achievement. She’d worked with Sens. Daniel Moynihan and Max Baucus and Rep. Pete Stark, and helped draft the Medicare Part D

prescription drug program—she was, in fact, the only staffer to work on both Medicare and ACA legislation. She left for a private-sector stint as a vice president at WellPoint Health Networks (now known as Anthem Inc.), then re-joined Baucus in 2008 as chief health counsel for the Senate Finance Committee, ready to tackle reform once again.

“We held a number of hearings and summits that summer, and even if John McCain had been elected, we were ready to launch. Our approach would work no matter who was elected,” says Fowler, emphasizing the team’s commitment to bipartisanship. That the ACA has become such a lightning rod is regrettable, but it was “the best policy that could have passed Congress,” she says.

Fowler served as deputy director for policy at the Department of Health and Human Services and special assistant to the president for health care and economic policy at the National Economic Council. In 2012 she left behind—at least for the time being—the high stress of government service. Her current position aligns with her vision of providing sustainably financed universal coverage to the world’s citizens. Studying other systems, especially in China and India, has provided a “greater appreciation for the system we have, with flaws and shortcomings but also incredible innovation and quality. I can see how we ended up where we are.”

JOSHUA A. NEWVILLE

Class of 2012

Born to parents who married as teenagers and lived in a trailer in rural Wisconsin, Joshua Newville knew what the KKK was by the time he was 4. By second grade he knew he wanted to be a lawyer (but spelled it L-A-Y-E-R). By high school he knew he was gay but was petrified to tell anyone in his small hometown.

“In a weird way, it propelled me. It changed the trajectory of my life,” says Newville, who focused instead on academics, becoming class and student body president, and athletics. By college—he was the first in his extended family to attend—he was



out and impassioned about pursuing social justice. Today, the associate attorney at Madia Law in Minneapolis is handling the country’s last two gay marriage ban challenges, representing 13 same-sex couples in South and North Dakota.

During law school he’d clerked, initially for no pay, at Madia. “That first summer I worked on amazing employment discrimination and civil rights cases, exactly the kind of work that drew me to law school. The next summer I got to do litigation. I wanted work that was meaningful and important to me, and that was exactly what happened,” he says.

A Law School colleague referred him to a South Dakota couple, Jennie Rosenkranz and Nancy Robrahn. “They couldn’t find anyone to take their case, which didn’t fit the ACLU national strategy. I’ve never been in awe of other human beings as I am of these two people,” Newville says. Others joined the case, which hovers in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals while the U.S. Supreme Court gay marriage ruling, due in June, looms. “I’d be really surprised if I get a cooler set of cases in my entire career,” he adds.

As he predicted early on, his career path is set. “The fascinating thing to me is that we may have marriage equality shortly, if I’m right, but in over half the states in this country you can get fired for showing up for work with a photo of your same-sex partner. You can get married, but you won’t be protected from discrimination on the job,” he says. “I’ll continue to challenge the government and private employers, and I’ll always be passionate about fighting discrimination in all the forms it can take. What an incredible opportunity.” ■