

## **John A. Scanlan, Jr.**

*Professor of Law*

John Scanlan is the law school's Renaissance man. In addition to his law background, he has a Ph.D. in English and a lifelong passion for history, politics, and sports. Although he is best known for his work on immigration law, especially his award-winning book *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and America's Half Open Door*, he has written and taught about a wide range of other subjects that reflect his broad intellectual interests: sports law, political theory, constitutional law, and legal writing. He is an exceptional colleague and an eloquent contributor to law school discourse, whether the topic is football, the McCarran-Ferguson Act, the conflicts in the Middle East, or Thomas Hobbes.

John is descended from Irish Catholics who emigrated to America in the nineteenth century, and has a personal interest in that unique resettlement. The issues surrounding Irish immigration also bring together John's intellectual passion for history, law, politics, and justice. The mix of personal and academic interests has fueled his long fascination with immigration, especially how we respond to the tired, poor, and hungry masses of disadvantaged immigrants yearning to breathe American air. From the Irish in the nineteenth century, to Haitians and Mexicans in the twentieth, John has written, taught, and cared about the plight of poor immigrants coming to this country. He also practices what he teaches, and has handled a number of immigration cases in Chicago.

John was born in Milwaukee. When he was about 13, the family moved to Bergen County, New Jersey (home of the Sopranos), so that his father could better pursue his acting career. John continued to spend summers in Milwaukee with his grandparents. Milwaukee is a football town, specifically a Green Bay Packers town. The Packers played a few games each season at Milwaukee County Stadium while John was growing up, and he developed into a lifelong fan of the Packers, football, and sports in general. He still goes to occasional Packers games when colleagues have an extra ticket, and happily sits outdoors at Lambeau Field even in subzero weather. This passion for sports has found its way into John's academic life. He was originally hired at Indiana to be the director of our Law and Sports Center, and he has taught and written about the law of sports throughout his entire career.

For the past 34 years, John has lived in South Bend. He came to Notre Dame to go to law school from 1975 to 1978 and never left. He took several administrative and teaching positions at Notre Dame from 1978 to 1984, serving as editor of the Estate and Gift Tax Project, as an instructor, and as the assistant director for the Center for Civil and Human Rights. He changed jobs in 1984, when he came to Bloomington to be the director of our Law and Sports Center, but he did not change his residence. He has continued to live in South Bend and has undertaken a daunting weekly commute of almost four hours each way to teach here.

There are not many people who would put up with 20 years of commuting 400 miles a week, but John has never been like everyone else. He is deeply committed to his family: to being involved in the lives of his three sons, Christopher, Patrick, and Andrew, and to supporting his wife Margaret's career as a nationally respected professor and chair in the English department at IU South Bend. He is also committed to the South Bend community, where he has coached the high school trial competition team for many years and has been known to go to an occasional Notre Dame game. So, he drives back to South Bend every week.

John is equally committed to his law school family. He devotes countless hours to his students, giving them seemingly endless time to go over their legal writing. He involves them in his immigration cases so they can see the practical side of the subject. As one former student put it:

[The required brief in] Professor Scanlan's Immigration Law class . . . was a revelation. It was the first time in law school that I had a glimpse of what the law meant for real people—and the wrenching issues that we knew were facing real lawyers who worked in immigration law, including Professor Scanlan, and more importantly, their clients.

He has worked tirelessly for two decades to expand, improve, and advocate for the legal writing program, from developing our educational policy requiring that students participate in legal writing experiences throughout their three years of law school, to fighting to increase the professionalism and status of the legal research and writing instructors. He also takes seriously his collegial responsibility to attend colleagues' colloquia, read their draft manuscripts, help recruit new faculty, and attend faculty meetings. So, he drives back to Bloomington every week.

John has been a fixture at the law school for two decades. From his cluttered office to his occasionally unkempt hair (what little he has left), to his courage riding a bicycle on the deadly streets of Bloomington, John has been simultaneously unconventional and the model of the traditional academic. He is a modest and humble man with a keen and unhurried intellect, eclectic interests, and a sense of humor. He is always good company and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues when retirement and the four-hour commute make his visits here less frequent.

*~Alex Tanford*