

## MEMBER OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONTINUES TO VALUE LESSONS LEARNED ON CAMPUS



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## Joseph J. Kadow

After spending more than two decades away from the University, Joseph Kadow, Esq. '78 felt the pull of his alma mater a few years ago—thanks in large part to an invitation from Rev. Joseph McShane, S.J., the former University president. Kadow's decision to become more involved led him to accept a position on the University's Board of Trustees last year.

The University of Scranton made an impression on Joseph Kadow, Esq. '78 long before he ever set foot in a classroom at the Jesuit institution.

As a youngster growing up in Scranton, Kadow vividly remembers attending a sports banquet and hearing one of the University's Jesuit priests address the gathered assembly.

"I can't even remember the priest's name, but I remember him saying, 'You can't be well-educated unless you study philosophy. You can be technically well-educated, but you can't be truly well-educated unless you study philosophy,'" Kadow recalls.

Although the message meant little at the time, it stayed with him, and "the older I get, the more I realize the value of that," he says.

After graduating from Scranton as an accounting major and then Dickinson Law School in 1981, Kadow practiced law in Philadelphia for two years before relocating to Florida. Soon thereafter, he joined a restaurant chain as its legal counsel.

The position eventually grew into his current post as Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for OSI Restaurant Partners, one of the largest casual dining restaurant chains in the world. The chain boasts more than 1,400 locations, featuring such popular establishments as Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill and Bonefish Grill.

Kadow's responsibilities include typical general counsel work, providing advice on a range of legal issues, but he also oversees the chain's human resources, government

relations and public relations divisions.

"I enjoy the variety of things I can be involved in, the combination of having an impact in both the legal and business aspects," says Kadow, who received an O'Hara Award in 2003.

He relishes the challenges and complexity of issues he faces leading the far-reaching operation.

In addition to his professional career, Kadow is a member of the University's Board of Trustees, the culmination of a recent return to the Scranton family after "drifting away" following the completion of his undergraduate studies.

In recent years, as he's settled into life as a husband, father and successful legal professional, Kadow has felt the pull of the University – even from his home in Tampa, Fla.

"The older I get, the more I value the non-technical aspects of my education there," he says. "The school certainly gave me first-class training in accounting and in my business subjects, but what has truly made the difference for me is the other type of education I received there. As more time goes by, the more I appreciate the philosophy, theology and history courses I was required to take. They have absolutely helped me achieve whatever measure of success I have had in my career."

It's quite a reversal from Kadow's college days when the accounting major admits he "griped as much as anybody else" about the general education requirements.

Kadow says he was fortunate to learn

under business professors like Daniel Houlihan, Esq., John McLean and Robert McKeage, Ph.D., now the director of the Business Leadership Program. Rev. Robert E. O'Donnell, S.J., professor of theology, was also an influential figure to Kadow during his time at the University.

"Dan Houlihan taught me things that I still use today, and that I teach to younger attorneys that I work with," he says.

For years Kadow explains he wasn't involved in the University, but his circumstances changed when Rev. Joseph McShane, S.J., the former University president, reached out to him while on an alumni trip to Florida.

It was an invitation Kadow accepted wholeheartedly.

"That started the process of me being more involved, and eventually Father Pilarz asked me to join the Board, which I'm humbled and honored to do," he says. "I feel privileged to be a part of the Board of Trustees and I hope I can contribute to the University."

Now Kadow will help promote Jesuit education, much like that priest did so many years ago. ✚

