



cc: Walbman
Cerde

File:
Crime-
Outreach

Municipal Court, Branch 1
City of Milwaukee
951 N. Seventh Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

286-3800
FAX 286-3617

Judge John Siefert

July 29, 1993

Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy
The Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 216
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Police Corps Provisions Of Any Omnibus Crime Bill

Dear Mr. Reed:

Good talking with you on the phone Wednesday afternoon.

Enclosed is the clipping from today's Milwaukee Journal that I mentioned. As you can see, I have an interesting background - having gone into police work in a big city after graduating from law school.

I have met with Adam Walinsky in New York concerning the Police Corps legislation. Adam thought that I could be an effective advocate for the bill.

Feel free to use me in any way you think helpful in advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely

John Siefert
Municipal Judge
Branch One

JS/gtk

Bases covered: Law degree lets officer see front end of process

But he says lawyer's pay won't lure him from police job

By LAWRENCE SUSSMAN
of The Journal staff

Shorewood — In a career reversal of sorts, Gregory Rahoi graduated May 23 from Marquette University Law School and on Monday started work as a rookie officer with the Shorewood Police Department.

It's not often that an officer can cite not only the law you broke, but how the courts have interpreted it.

Donning blues instead of pinstripes will not be as big a financial loss as is commonly believed — at least for the first year, anyway. Rahoi expects to earn slightly more than \$32,400 in his first year on the beat. The average first-year salary for 1992 Marquette law graduates was \$34,140.

Rahoi is 24 and single. He reasoned that a law degree would give him the opportunity to work up through the police chain of command, as well as teach criminal justice on the side.

"The more you get into police administration, especially in the larger departments," he said, "the more people you find who have law degrees."

Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola earned a law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1985, but that was after 20 years with the Detroit Police Department. Alvin Berndt, Shorewood public safety director, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison law school in 1972.

Nor is the career path Rahoi has

chosen unique to him. Milwaukee Municipal Judge John Siefert, for example, worked about seven months as an assistant district attorney in Portage County after he got his law degree in 1974 from UW-Madison. Siefert quit that job to become a Milwaukee police officer.

"I found that the starting salaries for assistant DAs in the rural counties were not competitive to what an urban police officer earned," Siefert said.

The salary difference then? Siefert earned slightly more than \$11,000 as an assistant DA and \$14,000 as a police officer.

Many of Rahoi's law school colleagues reminded him that, over the long haul, he was taking the financial road less traveled.

Rahoi, though, thinks other benefits make the trade-off worthwhile.

"There are various forms of being compensated for what you do," he said. "Out of all those forms, money is just one. The self-satisfaction that you get from doing a job and helping others, and the gratitude that you get, sometimes is worth more."

It cost Rahoi \$31,160 in tuition to attend three years of law school. That does not include his books nor living expenses. He said he and his mother joke that his next goal is to go through four years of medical school.

Rahoi paid his law school tuition by working as a paid-on-call firefighter with the Town of Brook-

field Volunteer Fire Department. A trained emergency medical technician certified to run a defibrillator, he also worked for a private ambulance company.

He also worked as an incident investigator for Summerfest and during his last summer before graduating from law school, Rahoi was employed on a felony team with the Milwaukee County district attorney's office.

He never has worked as a law clerk, adding "I never looked for a legal job."

Rahoi first became interested in police work when, as a freshman in high school, he joined a law enforcement Explorer's post, started by his local police department. He is originally from Hudson, Ohio, a small community 10 miles north of Akron.

His great grandfather was a US marshal for southeastern Wisconsin when Franklin D. Roosevelt was president. Several of his second cousins are police officers.

Rahoi received his undergraduate degree from Marquette University, with a double major in criminology and law studies plus sociology.

With his legal background, Rahoi believes he has a better understanding of the entire criminal justice system, starting with the arrest through the conviction and sentencing.

"That understanding is important in the use of your discretion," he said, "and the implications of your decisions."

That's from an officer who — for now, anyway — prefers gathering evidence firsthand, rather than arguing the rules of evidence later on.



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