

Renaissance Man Wears Many Different Hats, Comfortably

In the 2008 movie *Taken*, kidnapers meet their match in the form of Liam Neeson's protagonist—a growling, intimidating, retired CIA agent with, as he says, “a particular set of skills.” Garner Kropp '16 doesn't growl. He doesn't intimidate. But he *has* acquired an intriguing set of skills and experiences on his path toward a dual degree (Berkeley Law JD and Master's in Public Policy).

Where to begin? An accomplished baker, Kropp earned three blue ribbons for his snickerdoodle, coconut chocolate chip, and triple ginger cookies at the Ventura County Fair. He plays five instruments, including three—mandolin, guitar, and ukulele—he learned on his own.

Then there's the speed and endurance department. Kropp ran 50 miles per week as a 1L and races a sub-90-minute half marathon. Need more? He taught waterskiing for two summers and has lived in a cabin once occupied by John Steinbeck.

Kropp's studies and work life have been almost as diverse as his outside interests. As a Stanford undergrad, he wrote his honors thesis on development economics. His winter term abroad at Oxford included an intensive 10-week course on James Joyce.

After graduating, Kropp worked for Medicare and found himself embroiled in a heated national debate on the Affordable Care Act. During that time, he co-authored papers in scholarly publications, including the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

“Being part of that environment sparked my interest in law and pub-



lic policy,” he says. “I chose Berkeley for the policy school's strength in quantitative analysis and for the law school's top-shelf law and economics program.”

Co-president of the Boalt Healthcare and Biotech Law Society, Kropp will pursue his passions this summer at King & Spalding in San Francisco. The firm specializes in law related to health care and pharmaceuticals. “Health is an incredibly dense area of law and policy, but I love it because it's very human,” he says. “Health care matters to all of us.”

Now halfway through his professional school experience, Kropp views his many paths as part of a

PRACTICE READY: Garner Kropp '16

single journey.

“I'm very thankful for all the opportunities I've had,” he says. “I've worked in education at the School of Public Policy, on legislation for the mayor of San Francisco, and in anti-trust for the Department of Justice. All these different topic areas may not seem like they have much to do with each other, but I can move easily among them, thanks to the toolbox of quantitative skills from Berkeley. To quote the movie *Margin Call*, ‘It's all just numbers really, just changing what you're adding up.’”
—Ben Peterson