



August 19, 2005

Dear Marquette Law Student,

Welcome to a new school year. All of us at the Law School look forward to collaborating with you this coming year as you think, study, and work at fashioning yourselves into Marquette lawyers. Permit me to share with you a few developments at the Law School.

I shall begin with the new students among us. Joining the Marquette Law School community this year, as first years, are 166 new full-time students and 49 new part-time students. They assemble from 26 states, as well as the District of Columbia and two foreign countries. I hope that returning upper-level students will particularly reach out to welcome to the Marquette Law School community the five transfer students who have enrolled at the Law School this year. As Justice Janine P. Geske, L'75, exemplifies, these transfer students, no less than the rest of you upon graduation, will be Marquette lawyers.

There are faculty developments as well. I am pleased that Julian R. Kossow, who was with us last year as the Boden Visiting Professor, has returned, now a member of the faculty. Professor Kossow's extensive experience in real estate as a lawyer, developer, and professor means that his appointment will further enhance aspects of our curriculum that are transaction-oriented. This year's Boden Visiting Professor—so named in memory of the late Robert F. Boden, Dean of the Law School from 1965 to 1984—will be Mark S. Umbreit of the University of Minnesota. Professor Umbreit will teach concentrated courses associated with the Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative, a program developed and led by Justice Geske, our Distinguished Professor of Law. We will also be joined throughout this year by Professor Chad M. Oldfather, a visiting faculty member who will teach a number of courses, including both Criminal Law and Evidence this semester. I am delighted as well that Professor J. Gordon Hylton has returned to us following a two-year stint teaching at his law school alma mater, the University of Virginia.

There are new curricular opportunities as well. In particular, the new moot court program commences this year, with the Appellate Writing and Advocacy class as a gateway to both an intramural program this spring and, in future years, national competitions. It is one of the faculty's highest priorities to provide you with opportunities to achieve excellence in writing and arguing about the law, and we encourage you to embrace the opportunities, with Bluebook and red pen in hand.

When I speak to Marquette lawyers, current and future, I frequently emphasize that the law is both a learned profession and a helping profession. The former is clear from the curriculum; the latter is less easily seen in the law books and the classroom. We therefore have made a considerable effort in recent years to develop and promote opportunities in which students can participate and work with individuals in society who are in need of help.

Our largest program in this regard is the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, which operates every Tuesday afternoon at the House of Peace at 17th and Walnut. The MVLC,

developed and operated by students and alumni of the Law School, enables students to work with lawyers in providing legal services to individuals in need. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, in which Professor Vada Waters Lindsey works with students in the spring, is another example. Other possibilities exist, and still others are under development. Indeed, we have retained, on a part-time basis, Elizabeth Conradson Cleary, L'05, as the school's first Public Service Administrator. I anticipate that Beth will work with other administrators and faculty to facilitate involvement of interested students in volunteer programs. As a faculty, we practice what we preach, as many of us have extensive involvement in pro bono and public service work.

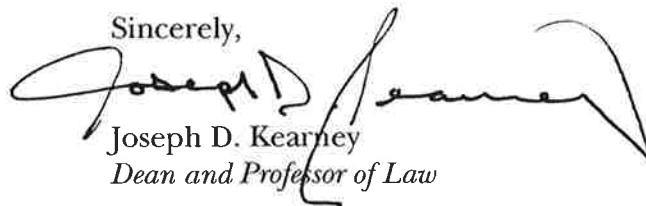
You will find some physical changes as well, directed (we hope) at enhancing your experience at the Law School. One is a redesigned lower level, including such things as new carpeting, a new television, (coming soon) limited food service for the first time, and other matters mundane but important (please do note that the men's room and women's room in the basement have been switched). Another change is in the library, where we have established a library technology center (Room 210 of the library, which somewhat confusingly is not Room 210 in Sensenbrenner Hall), which should serve as a single point of contact for almost all technology service needs at the Law School. You will find some renovations to a couple of classrooms (Room 245 in particular) and one faculty office complex (Room 209). We are engaged as well in an intensive effort, assisted by the University, to explore long-term facility needs and possible solutions, but our long-term goals will not cause us to ignore our short-term needs, as these improvements demonstrate.

Finally, I would encourage you to take advantage of some of the opportunities that the Law School presents to observe, listen to, and at times interact with members of the legal profession or other leaders, even outside the curriculum. We will have a number of "named" events, such as the Boden Lecture by Professor Umbreit on November 16 and the E. Harold Hallows Lecture (after Marquette Law School Professor and Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Hallows), which Judge Diane S. Sykes, L'84, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, will present on March 7, 2006. There are numerous other such opportunities, variously offered by such diverse groups as the National Sports Law Institute, our Intellectual Property Program, the Career Services Center, student groups such as the Federalist Society and Public Interest Law Society, and individual faculty members. These events are almost always intellectually engaging, but more importantly, they will make you a better lawyer. And that, of course, is what you and I are all about.

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A final note, somewhat personal in nature: I wish you to know that a number of these changes were prompted by suggestions from members of the Law School community, including students; please feel free particularly to put suggestions in the box outside my office. Demanding of myself nothing less than what I urge upon you, I am constantly seeking to improve. I believe that this is, in part, why, as I enter my seventeenth year in the profession and my third in this privileged position, I find so much still to learn and enjoy about the law and the education of Marquette lawyers. Thank you for entrusting us to work with you in your legal education.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law



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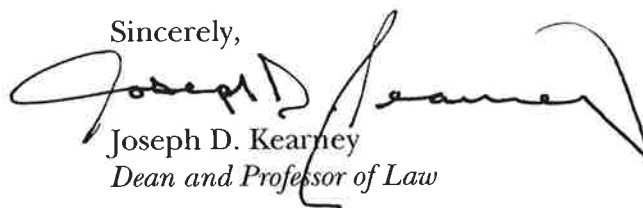
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