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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

I hope that the middle of the year finds you well. Perhaps, instead, you regard it as the beginning, as it is not only by the calendar but also in terms of each of your courses. The latter respect—i.e., the fact that there are no two-semester courses marked by a single exam at the end—was for many decades different here and at other law schools. The current setup encourages us all to make a fresh start.

To be sure, my purpose here is not to muse so much as to inform, and there are a few new things worth noting concerning Marquette Law School midyear. I shall begin with our development of a Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic, as announced last month in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Nathan Hammons, previously an adjunct professor of law, has joined us on a full-time basis to direct this clinic. This is an exciting, even important, venture: it will advance our engagement with the local community, as the clinic's external reach will focus on potential businesses not likely otherwise to be served by counsel, and it will integrate with and support the larger initiative, led by President Michael R. Lovell, in which Marquette University will help develop a greater culture of entrepreneurship and innovation in this region. Yet the dominant motivation for the Law School here is to enhance the education that we offer to Marquette law students in the area of legal practice generally denominated as transactional (as opposed to litigation). Let no one say that my curricular interests as dean do not extend beyond my Advanced Civil Procedure course.

There have been other changes on the personnel front as well. Janine Geske, distinguished professor of law and former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice, has retired from the faculty, as has been her plan. She will remain involved with us in a variety of ways, and the Law School will continue to explore respects in which the Restorative Justice Initiative, established by Professor Geske, can benefit our students. I am grateful to Professors Andrea Schneider and Michael O'Hear for their work in continuing the Green Bay prison visit component of the program. For another development, Professor Vada Waters Lindsey has assumed additional responsibilities this year as the Law School's associate dean for enrollment, even as she continues to teach. Whatever we may do well in Eckstein Hall, it remains true that the intellect, diversity, and values of the incoming class each year form the fundamental building block of the future community of Marquette lawyers.

I say what "we" do because, as a *graduate* professional school, Marquette Law School offers much to its students not just through the faculty and staff but *through other students*. More than anything else, it seems to me, this points to the genius of Eckstein Hall, as is even more apparent as we approach the end of our fifth year since Justice Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, and Archbishop (now-Cardinal) Timothy Dolan helped dedicate the building in 2010. That is, this is a place to which students come, and at which you stay, even at times when the schedule of classes does not strictly require it. The incidental conversations among students unfolding right outside my office, in the Huiras Lounge, often in

the stray hour or so before a class begins, can be as essential a part of your development as a lawyer—of your education—as your work in the classroom. And then there are other parts of the building and other activities. Consider, for example, the Robert F. Boden Suite, housing in particular our law journals: In this regard, let me note that the faculty approved this past semester a proposal in which the *Marquette Elder's Advisor* will shift its focus (and accordingly change its name) to become a journal of social welfare and benefits law. There will be a further announcement along these lines in the coming months.

The Howard B. Eisenberg Suite, home of our public service activities, also comes to mind. In this regard, I put the emphasis on the other adjective: i.e., our work as a graduate *professional* school. Part of the legal profession includes an emphasis on pro bono work. The development of Marquette University Law School on this front in recent decades has been nothing short of extraordinary, and it has often been led, in important ways, by students. I encourage you to embrace the opportunities that we provide—for the professional connections that they will help you make, for the lawyering skills that they will help you develop, and, not least, for the *good* that they will help you do through the profession even while in law school.

You can see the great work of the profession and of civil society more generally in other forms in Eckstein Hall over the course of the semester. One example is the “On the Issues with Mike Gousha” series: just in the next month or so, we will welcome important and interesting figures, local (the mayor of Milwaukee, the superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools, and the archbishop of Milwaukee), national (a senior fellow from the Pew Research Center who has authored *The Next America: Boomers, Millennials, and the Looming Generational Showdown*), and international (an official of Catholic Relief Services and formerly of UNICEF who is deeply involved in water resource development around the world). Other guests will be announced as the semester unfolds. Another example is our series of distinguished lectures: this semester we will host Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, for the Hallows Lecture on Tuesday, March 3, and Harvard Law School’s Professor Henry Smith, for the Nies Lecture in Intellectual Property Law on Thursday, April 16. A more unusual learning opportunity will occur when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces visits Eckstein Hall on Tuesday, April 14. I hope that you will attend the oral arguments and take the opportunity to converse with the judges that will occur over the noon hour that day.

In short, Eckstein Hall—i.e., Marquette University Law School—will place boundless opportunities before you in the coming semester. I encourage you to seize them. For a beginning of sorts (i.e., beyond your classes of the first week), I hope that each of you will join us in the Zilber Forum for a welcome-back reception this coming Thursday afternoon (between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.). As Associate Dean Matthew Parlow has described for you by email, we intend nothing more than to provide an opportunity for some hot beverages, other refreshments, and food—and for us to spend some time together as a community. But we also intend nothing less than that. I hope that you regard this sort of thing as part of your education. Even after twenty-five years since graduating from law school, I find my own education continuing about the learned and helping profession of which we are all privileged to be part.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law