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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

I hope that the beginning of the new semester finds each of you well. The past is always with us—especially in our profession, with its retrospective regard for precedents, statutes, transactions, and occurrences. Yet we care about these things because of their effect on the future. And the future, at least as a relative matter, we control. So I hope that, like me, you are looking forward with enthusiasm and optimism.

My purpose here goes beyond encouragement or exhortation. I wish to pass along some reflections and information concerning the work of Marquette Law School. To be sure, we also update you in Law News, which we circulate by email twice a week. You are not educating yourself about the Law School and the possibilities available to you if do not read Law News on a regular basis.

It is true that the middle of the academic year is less the time for new initiatives than is the fall: Thus, a number of you this past semester helped launch the Law School's new Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic. Some of you also have come into contact with the Water Law and Policy Initiative, newly expanded this past fall. And the Office of Public Service, from the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC) to myriad other programs, regularly has generated ways in which we all can provide pro bono service.

Yet there now are new things, even beyond everyone's most important work (i.e., your courses, which are new to you) and such other essential matters as the scholarship and service that our faculty provide. Each semester the amount of programming that the school offers to the community at large and to all of you (to invert the order of importance) is impressive—even rich. Often they are intensely practical offerings, such as the monthly brown bag CLE series that the MVLC offers in partnership with Legal Action of Wisconsin. This past month, for a representative example, the topic was "Small Claims: Filing and Collecting on Money Judgments." Next month it is "Minor Guardianships and Childcare Powers of Attorney." Join us as well for the various offerings in our "Speakers from Practice" series.

Sometimes the occasions are more formal. A most important part of our program is the twice-a-semester distinguished lectures. I hope that you will attend them: On Wednesday, March 2, at 4:30 p.m., the Hon. Albert Diaz, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, will deliver the Hallows Lecture, "Life Tenure on the Bench: Vice or Virtue?" On Tuesday, April 12, at 4:30 p.m., Ted Ullyot will deliver the Nies Lecture in Intellectual Property. Mr. Ullyot's most impressive career has included

service as Facebook's general counsel and his current work at Andreessen Horowitz, the leading Silicon Valley venture capital firm. You will learn much from these gatherings—even as you develop a habit, beyond what is required in your courses, of engaging with the law as a learned profession.

We often speak of “law and public policy.” The latter phrase goes back at least to Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who spoke of the importance of “intuitions of public policy, avowed or unconscious,” to judges in their rulings. In this regard, as you develop your own intuitions and come to understand those of others (all of which is part of a legal education), you should consider the perspectives of—and learn things from—intelligent and informed individuals in other walks of life. A most easy way to do so (as well as to get a sandwich) is to attend one of the noontime “On the Issues with Mike Gousha” sessions. Those this semester will include leaders of the civic group, Common Ground; the mayors of Waukesha and Racine, who will offer contrasting views on Waukesha's efforts to gain water from Lake Michigan; a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge, who will provide his take on the work of the courts, especially in ensuring public safety; a Harvard sociologist, whose forthcoming book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, is playing to substantial advance acclaim (the “American City” in the book's title is Milwaukee); the former staff secretary and a deputy staff secretary to a president of the United States; and a Yale historian, whose new book on the Holocaust and previous book on Eastern Europe in the run-up to World War II have occasioned international attention. All that is just to give a flavor.

Even as we thus look forward, we remember and are grateful to those who have provided so much. On an institutional level, this begins with Ray and Kay Eckstein, whose own memory and gratitude—and confidence—prompted the gift from which we all benefit every day. It includes Professor Michael Waxman, who has announced that this will be his last semester teaching at Marquette University Law School. For three and a half decades, Professor Waxman has been an essential part of the Law School. We expect that he will be with us even in retirement.

We shall enjoy our last semester with Professor (and Associate Dean) Matt Parlow and Professor Janie Kim. They head whence they came: their native southern California and, more specifically, Chapman University's law school. Professor Parlow taught at Chapman before joining us in 2008 and will return to it next fall as the dean. He has been the second-in-command here since 2010. We—especially I, but all of us—will remember their Milwaukee chapter with gratitude.

So we recall time past—the lengthy and excellent service of Professor Waxman, the important contributions of Professor Kim, the leadership of Associate Dean Parlow—but look to time future. The immediate future involves the reading, class discussions, lectures, clinics, guest speakers, incidental conversations with colleagues, and all else that will help us enrich our community this semester. My musings and announcements here are mere prologue to all this. On behalf of my colleagues, we consider it a privilege to be with you as you write the main text.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney  
*Dean and Professor of Law*