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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

Welcome to 2019. The midyear break may seem but a brief respite in the midst of the academic year, but the “spring” semester is a new and exciting beginning, to be sure. Permit me to relate some updates about the Law School and, no doubt, a reflection or two.

Eckstein Hall may be beautiful, and its elegance may have real and helpful practical implications, but legal education, generally, and Marquette Law School, specifically, are human endeavors. It is thus a great privilege for us to welcome Nancy A. Welsh as our Boden Visiting Professor of Law. She is professor of law and director of the Aggie Dispute Resolution Program at Texas A&M University School of Law. Professor Welsh is recognized across the country for her teaching and scholarship, and we are grateful that this semester she will contribute to Marquette Law School’s nationally ranked dispute resolution program.

Professor Michael K. McChrystal has assumed emeritus status on the law faculty. The late Professor James D. Ghiardi, the legendary professor in our past, once suggested to me that *emeritus* was Latin for “uncompensated.” That may be functionally true, but one does not need to have been a classics major to appreciate that the word connotes “distinguished”—and quite rightly here. Professor McChrystal has been part of the Law School since he arrived as a student in 1972. To speak only of my own time as dean, he has helped envision and lead every major initiative and advance at the Law School for more than a decade and a half, and I am grateful that he will continue to work with us on strategic planning, budgeting, and the like. There are lessons in this for you, from the importance of institutions (Professor McChrystal’s continuing belief) to the value of holding close to talented people (my constant effort).

Newer colleagues—to be with us longer than Professor Welsh, even if with no promises on their part to surpass Professor McChrystal—include Ben Manske and Emily Rodecap. The former you may have already met, as he has succeeded Bev Franklin at the Welcome Desk (you may recall my describing Bev’s longtime service in last semester’s letter), and Emily, a critical link between the Law School and University Advancement (UA), supports our alumni-relations efforts here in Eckstein Hall. I note also that John Novotny, himself part of UA and someone who helped lead the fundraising for Eckstein Hall, bears a new title: assistant dean for development. I have learned a good deal from John over the years. Another lesson, if I may: The sources of learning are many and varied, even within the walls of Eckstein Hall.

Without doubting that your *great* work this semester involves your classes with our faculty, I wish to promote for your consideration additional activities. Let us jump to the end of the semester, when Professor Rebecca L. Sandefur, a sociologist at the University of Illinois, will join us on Friday, April 26, for two events, including the Posner Exchange, which is part of the Pro Bono Society Induction Ceremony for students who have completed 50 (and in some cases 120) or more hours of pro bono work. Professor Sandefur is an expert on the challenges that many in our society face in access to civil justice—and some possible solutions. I mention this because for some of you (particularly in your final semester) you may wish to set as a goal

January 10, 2019

Page 2

completing the hours required for the honorary and praiseworthy accomplishment of admission to the Pro Bono Society. Angela F. Schultz, assistant dean for public service, and Katie Mertz, director of pro bono work, would welcome a conversation with you.

Our distinguished lectures are a point of particular pride for the Law School. This semester will feature the Hallows Lecture on Tuesday, March 5: Lee H. Rosenthal, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, will speak on “Ambition, Aspiration, and the Art of Judging.” For the Nies Lecture in Intellectual Property, on Thursday, March 28, we will welcome Mark P. McKenna, the John P. Murphy Professor of Law at Notre Dame, who will take up “The Rise of Property and Decline of Equity in Trademark Law.” Whether it is these lectures (at 4:30 p.m.), the multiple “On the Issues with Mike Gousha” events (usually over the noon hour), the occasional conference of our Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education, or any number of other possibilities, much is available inside Eckstein Hall but outside your classes. Seize some of it for yourself.

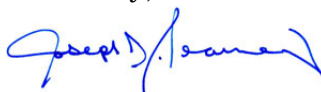
More specifically designed for you as a student are the sessions provided by our office of student affairs, led by Anna Fodor, assistant dean of students. This semester, these include both entries for first-year students and, for the first time, sessions welcoming upper-level students. Specifically, I draw your attention to the Student Success Program—or “SSP for All.” It will focus primarily on wellness and mental health, with the first such session on Monday, February 18, over the noon hour. Other entries, in the Academic Success Program (ASP) and in the SSP for first-year students, will also be available. All these various sessions are entirely voluntary but well-designed and quite instructive, in my estimation.

Of course, you know (or will know) about all these and many other events *if* you read the semiweekly *Law News* email. It is not wild conjecture to say that some of you do not read it. This is a mistake—as a matter of law, as we say in our profession: The Law School communicates any number of important deadlines there. Yet my interest here is more hortative than admonitory: The Marquette Law School community has much to offer you, and a good deal of it will escape your attention if you do not read the “local newspaper.”

This reference to our being a community introduces my final reflection, concerning professionalism. Professor Chad Oldfather, associate dean for academic affairs, was among those urging me to make this point, and I cannot improve upon his note to me: “My core point is that they should bear in mind that they will be the professional colleagues of their fellow students, in ways that they cannot fully anticipate and for longer than they likely appreciate, and that their conduct toward one another now will reverberate throughout their careers.”

This is not to suggest that we regard *ourselves* as in any sense perfect: We at the Law School, individually and collectively, at times fall short of the norms or expectations to which we hold ourselves and others. Where this occurs, it is appropriate to take corrective action: Sometimes that can be formal, but more often the response will be relational or even individual. In developing relationships and forming your reputation, truly you are the master of your own fate. At the same time, we are eager to help—well beyond the classroom. Indeed, while my schedule is extraordinary, I would be pleased to meet with you in groups or even singly to discuss your own professional development. For, as I say in welcoming new students and at graduation, *you are Marquette*—as you will continue to be hereafter. That is why we care so deeply about your making the most of your time with us *at Marquette*.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law