

a collective enterprise

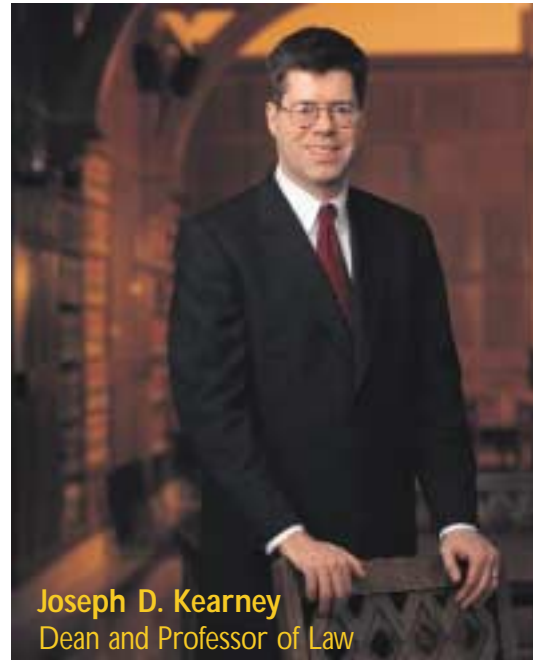
I frequently am heard to remark that Marquette Law School is on the advance. This is not an especially self-interested statement for someone starting only his second year as dean. Much of this momentum developed during the tenure of the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg and interim Dean Janine P. Geske.

I say it nonetheless because it is true, and because, as dean, I feel it important both to emphasize and to celebrate that the advancement of the Law School depends upon the effort and, most importantly, the initiative of all of the Law School's constituencies.

This is certainly true of our faculty. To take only the most obvious example, that of the Law School's curriculum, we offer a remarkable array of courses. This is not because a dean simply determined one day that the school should create particular courses in sports law, or intellectual property, or trial skills, or alternative dispute resolution, or health law, or criminal law, or any other subject. Instead, we have hired talented faculty who have invested deeply in the school and have proposed—indeed, championed—these ideas. Two such faculty, Professors Judith G. McMullen and Alan R. Madry, are profiled in the pages of this magazine.

Our students also are self-starters with respect to improving the Law School. The cover story in this issue concerns the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic. The idea for this most important service undertaking sprang, not from the dean, but from the proposal of several then-students during 2001. To be sure, it did not emerge Athena-like, fully formed from Zeus's head: the administration, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Law School helped to shape the proposal. But both the spark and important work came from the students themselves.

Finally, and most importantly for current purposes, our alumni have increasingly invested in the Law School. Financial contributions are the most easily quantified dimension of alumni support, and the Law School in recent years has gratefully received more alumni financial support than was the case during most of the school's history. We are not yet at the levels we need to reach, but the Law School's increased standing and, more importantly, its improved education are in part attributable to increased alumni support. Here, too, the initiative does not always come from the dean. This past year, for example, the goal of raising an additional \$100,000 for the Howard and Phyllis Eisenberg Loan Repayment Assistance Program originated with the president of the Law Alumni Association. We succeeded in this effort and also raised additional (and essential) discretionary funds for the school.



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law

But alumni contribute in numerous other ways as well, such as through their time, expertise, and advice. Indeed, over the course of the past year, I have benefited greatly from meeting alumni at events or hearing from alumni personally. Last year at separate "Meet the Dean" lunches, different alumni wondered aloud whether the Law School adequately teaches marital property law to its students. Upon my inquiry, the faculty on the Curriculum Committee concluded that we probably do not, and we have sought to remedy that deficiency. This is a small but important example of how the Law School benefits from everyone's participation.

I am constantly inquiring how we can improve Marquette Law School. To accomplish this, I require your help—your time, your talent, and even some of your treasure. I hope that you share my impression of the Law School's direction. I believe that this impression will be supported by this issue of the magazine, undoubtedly our longest ever—not because we set that as an independent goal, but because so many things are going on at the school. If you do share my impression, I look forward to bringing even more of you into the group of alumni actively working for the improvement of the Law School. But whether you share my impression or not (and perhaps especially if you do not), please do not hesitate to contact me. My address and direct-dial phone number are listed on the page opposite of this.

I thank you for your efforts on our behalf, and I look forward to your increased involvement in the future of our shared enterprise.

J.D.K.