



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

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LAW SCHOOL

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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

It is a great privilege for me to welcome you to a new academic year, the first in more than a century where the Law School's address does not include Wisconsin Avenue (or Grand Avenue, as it once was known). The routine fact of a new school year should not obscure the hard work that all of you have done in the last twelve months, whether to return or to join us in the first instance. Our new address—1215 West Michigan Street, reflecting both Milwaukee's past and Anglo-American legal history—also reflects an extraordinary amount of work.

My purpose here is not to recount all of the work or even many of the decisions that have shaped our new home, Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall. It rather is, in addition to warmly welcoming you on behalf of my colleagues on the faculty and staff, to ask you, both now and hereafter, to be somewhat self-conscious as you enter the building. For Eckstein Hall reflects both a premise and a promise.

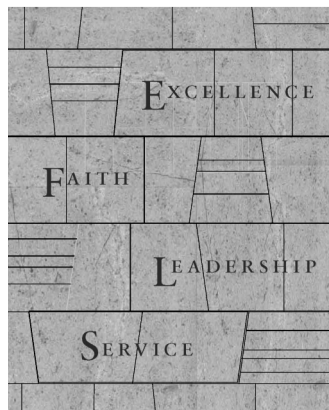
The premise is that we—you, especially—are doing something important. The premise can be amply proved: the proof might begin with examples of the work of lawyers, Marquette and other, over the decades to help individuals in doing deals, righting wrongs, and protecting freedoms. Two members of the profession whose work and lives many of us greatly admire—the late Deans Robert F. Boden and Howard B. Eisenberg, who personified the learned and helping natures of the legal profession—have their names carried forward from Sensenbrenner Hall to specific spaces in Eckstein Hall. I hope that they and other exemplars, whom you will find for yourselves, will inspire you.

You inspire us. This is the promise to which I earlier alluded. You are pledging, in the short run, to immerse yourself in the legal doctrine, discourse, and culture, to a point where you will emerge as competent beginning professionals in the law. Eckstein Hall will facilitate your work. It is intended, from the spacious Zilber Forum to the relaxed Huiras Lounge to the magnificent Aitken Reading Room (to say nothing of the underground parking or the Tory Hill Café or the chapel), to be a place to which you will wish to come and stay, even at times when there is no requirement that you be here. For, as important as our classes are (consider, in particular, Advanced Civil Procedure), they are but part of your education in the law.

Your promise now is perhaps only implicit. It will be made explicit—indeed, an oath—upon your graduation and admission to practice. Yet it is the habits that you develop today that will—*more than anything else*—ensure your future success. I hope that they will be especially habits of industry, humility, and curiosity—broad habits that my experience suggests to me to be indispensable attributes of good lawyers. They should be more-specific habits as well: promptness, politeness, and fitness are relevant to success. To be sure, I do not hold myself up as a model in each of these respects.

There is so much more that I wish to tell you. Some of this concerns the activities of Marquette University Law School, among others those extending beyond helping you form yourselves into Marquette lawyers and reflected in our research and our public conferences and forums. Some of it has to do with the operation of Eckstein Hall, such as the preference that we will give to visitors in the parking structure or the commons table—the Wiggle, we may elect to call it—where perhaps we will meet one another in the Tory Hill Café. It is not necessary for me to relate all of this here, as we have the whole year—and other media, such as the website and the faculty blog—to deploy.

Permit me therefore to close, with a bit of an exhortation. From time to time, find yourself in the Eckstein Law Library's Aitken Reading Room (no specific habit is more important than that of reading) and look at the four great words carved in stone above the fireplace, as seen in this artist's rendering:



These are, of course, the succinct form of Marquette University's mission statement. I ask simply that you so comport yourselves that, if the need should arise hereafter to build a replacement for Eckstein Hall, our successors will be inspired by the work of their forbears as Marquette lawyers—e.g., you—to carve those words in stone again. Let these values, which are your inheritance, also be your legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joseph D. Kearney'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'K'.

Joseph D. Kearney  
*Dean and Professor of Law*