



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

LAW SCHOOL

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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

I hope that the opening of our semester last week and the early days of your courses have been entirely to your satisfaction. The attention that you devote to these courses no doubt already occupies—as it should—the bulk of your time. Yet you must not simply engage in isolated studies. For not only do some of your courses (skills courses such as, say, Trial Advocacy) require you to work with your fellow students. It also is the case that your appreciation of precepts in traditional doctrinal courses (say, Advanced Civil Procedure) will benefit from your discussing them with fellow students outside the classroom. Through this you will emerge from Eckstein Hall with more than knowledge and skills—including values and relationships that will form an important part of your future success.

So I expect that you will attend to your own courses, whose mix for each of you (save first-year students) is distinctive, and that you will work, in your reading and writing but also in your conversations, to get the most out of them. In these circumstances, permit me in the balance of this letter to highlight a few activities inside Eckstein Hall this semester but outside of class, your attention to (attendance at) which can also be an important part of your education at Marquette Law School.

One is the series of “On the Issues” events. Let me highlight two in particular, which will dovetail with the University’s Mission Week. Rev. Richard Frechette, C.P., the 2012 winner of the \$1 million Opus Prize, will join Mike Gousha “On the Issues” at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, to discuss his work of the past twenty-five years as a doctor and priest in Haiti. Marguerite Barankitse, the 2008 Opus Prize winner, will be here over the noon hour on Thursday, February 7, conversing about Maison Shalom, her organization in Burundi. You may (and, if you wish to attend, should) register [here](#) (Frechette) and [here](#) (Barankitse) and will wish to keep an eye open as other “On the Issues” guests are announced (as some have been).

The annual auction sponsored by the Public Interest Law Society (PILS), to be held the evening of Friday, February 15, should be high on everyone’s list. It is not too much to say that this is our flagship extracurricular event for students, not only because it supports a valuable cause (summer public-interest fellowships) but also because it is, simply stated, a good party. I hope that you will be part of it, tickets being available [here](#).

Our distinguished-lecture series gives us an opportunity to bring to Marquette Law School individuals with extraordinary prominence in the law and related fields, as could be seen in last semester’s Boden Lecture (Eric Foner of Columbia University’s history department) and Barrock Lecture (Franklin Zimring of the University of California–Berkeley School of Law). This semester is no exception. Paul D. Clement, the nation’s leading Supreme Court advocate (even if his Midwestern sensibilities meant that he would not let me phrase it that way on the invitation), will deliver our annual Hallows Lecture on Monday, March 4, at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Clement, former Solicitor General of the United States, will speak on “The Affordable Care Act in the Supreme Court: Looking Back, a Year Later.” You can get further information and register [here](#). I am also greatly anticipating our fourth and final entry in this year’s series:

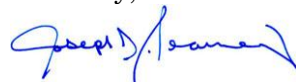
our annual Nies Lecture in Intellectual Property. Arti K. Rai, the Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law at Duke University, will speak on “Patents, Markets, and Medicine in a Just Society.” This Nies Lecture will occur on Wednesday, April 10, at 12:15 p.m. Find further information and register [here](#). These lectures, too, are among the most-important things that we offer outside our courses, and I hope that you will attend them.

You can learn something about appellate advocacy and honor Marquette lawyers of both the future and past through two events in April. One is annual: our Jenkins Honors Moot Court Finals will occur on Wednesday, April 3, at 6 p.m. Two teams, each comprised of two upper-level students, will argue before a panel presided over by the Hon. William B. Traxler, Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, who will be joined by the Hon. William M. Conley, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, and the Hon. Sara L. Darrow, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois. These students will have competed earlier in the semester against eighteen other top-performing students from last semester’s Appellate Writing and Advocacy, a gateway course to all upper-level moot court experiences at the Law School. So feel welcome to attend the semifinal or earlier rounds as well. The other event is more unusual: on Wednesday, April 17, at noon, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit will be in session in Eckstein Hall’s Appellate Courtroom. The court session will begin with a memorial ceremony for the Hon. John L. Coffey, a Marquette lawyer from the Class of 1948, who served as a judge on the trial bench in Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the Seventh Circuit for more than fifty years, until his death this past fall. For those of you (perhaps most) who have never been to such a court ceremony, do not be put off: it is memorial not funereal. I have no doubt that you will learn something about Marquette, Milwaukee, and the law through the brief (five minutes or so) remembrances. Then stay around and see practicing lawyers engaged in the art of oral advocacy before the Seventh Circuit.

The semester concludes with our annual alumni awards ceremony, held in the Zilber Forum the evening of Thursday, April 25. Four Marquette lawyers will be honored by the Law Alumni Association: Margadette M. Demet, L’50, with the Lifetime Achievement Award; John S. Shiely, L’77, as the Marquette Lawyer of the Year; Eryn M. Doherty, L’00, as the Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumna of the Year; and Kristin A. Occhetti, L’07, with the Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award. This is part of the University’s alumni awards weekend, which will culminate in the receipt by a Marquette lawyer, Donald W. Layden, Jr., L’82, of the University’s Alumnus of the Year Award. Our Thursday ceremony, partly in the nature of a reception, is a highlight of the year, as we honor these individuals *and* the ideal of the Marquette lawyer. The event is known for not only its warmth but its efficiency: the program, beginning at 6 p.m., lasts only forty-five minutes, thus not only helping you imagine the possibilities ahead in your own careers and giving you a moment to eat and socialize, but also leaving you plenty of time (or, at least, not much less time) to study for the next week’s exams.

And on your way to those exams, you are welcome to restore a custom that once marked the Law School, as I understand it, but fell into desuetude at some point. The opportunity presents itself in the form of the bust of the Hon. James G. Jenkins, former Seventh Circuit judge and first dean of Marquette’s law school, which we placed in the Zilber Forum last year, having brought it over from Sensenbrenner Hall. My understanding is that, in generations past, students on their way to exams would rub his nose for good luck. The option is yours—just keep in mind that I refer to the nose of the bust of a former dean.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law