



joseph.kearney@marquette.edu
(414) 288-1955

August 24, 2014

Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

Please accept my best wishes at the beginning of a new academic year at Marquette University Law School. I especially welcome the newcomers among us, even as I also warmly greet all returning students. Beyond these sincere greetings, my purpose here is a brief update.

That update certainly should begin with the new students, who come from 34 states (and farther yet) and 98 undergraduate institutions. The first-year full-time class comprises approximately 191 students. The part-time cohort numbers some 16 individuals, of whom 11 are evening students. While this will be our final entering group of part-time evening students, we will maintain a part-time day option for first-year students in future years, and no doubt we will continue to offer a number of evening courses. This will necessarily be the case over the course of the next six years or so, as we fulfill our commitment to current part-time evening students. Finally, we welcome seven transfer students.

The great work of these and all other students—that is, of you and your classmates—is the study of law. We will help. My faculty colleagues, both full-time and part-time, are deeply knowledgeable in their fields. We are also joined this semester by Linda Edwards as our Robert F. Boden Visiting Professor of Law, so named after one of my predecessors as dean (1965–1984). Professor Edwards serves as the L. Cord Foundation Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a national leader in the field of legal writing, she will enhance our writing program—which at this point extends well beyond our legal writing and research faculty and reaches our entire school. The Boden Visiting Professorship has enriched our law school community over the years by bringing to us new individuals, new energy, and new ideas. So, too, will the efforts of Joseph A. Ranney, a longtime adjunct professor of law, who expands his work with us this year by serving as our first Adrian P. Schoone Visiting Fellow in Wisconsin Law, devoting his energies to writing a book on the evolution of American law with particular regard to the role of the states, including Wisconsin.

To be sure, some of your education occurs outside the classroom and away from professors. In this regard, we welcome back Katie Mayer, a Marquette lawyer (Class of 2011), who joins us as assistant director of public service. The work of the Office of Public Service, directed by Angela Schultz, facilitates our pro bono programs, ranging from our flagship, the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC), to various other vessels, including the Marquette Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC). Other personal or professional pursuits occasioned both Julie Darnieder, L'78, director of the MVLC, and Karin Werner, director of M-LINC, to conclude their leadership roles at the end of the past year, but we expect them to continue to be part of the Law School community. In all events, these great programs will continue, and I urge you to include pro bono work in the process whereby you form yourself into a Marquette lawyer.

August 24, 2014

Page 2

Law is not just a helping profession but also a learned profession, and opportunities to learn about the law itself extend beyond the classroom. Some of them are relatively formal (which is scarcely to say unenjoyable). Our annual Boden Lecture will welcome Professor Robert E. Scott, Columbia University's Alfred McCormack Professor of Law, on October 2, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. I am greatly anticipating his lecture, "Contract Design and the Goldilocks Problem." Professor Stephen Morse of the University of Pennsylvania Law School will deliver our annual Barrock Lecture in Criminal Law on November 6, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. Professor Morse is an expert in law and psychiatry.

Other means of learning about the law are less formal. In this regard, you should not discount the extent to which you can learn from one another. Whether it is the sort of incidental conversations among students that we designed Eckstein Hall to facilitate (in part simply by prompting you to want to be in the building) or the use of study groups that you assemble (it is helpful to have to explain things to one another before you must explain them on an exam), you have much discretion and control with respect to your legal education. Indeed, you have responsibility for it.

Much else happens in Eckstein Hall. The Marquette Law School Poll will announce its findings on several occasions between now and election day. The "On the Issues with Mike Gousha" series, even apart from the poll, will feature any number of interesting guests this semester, beginning with Michael R. Lovell, Marquette University's new president, and including Mark Murphy, president of the Green Bay Packers. The MVLC/Legal Action of Wisconsin Brown Bag Lunch Series will continue to offer monthly programs enabling both students and practicing attorneys to learn about discrete areas of the law likely to be particularly valuable to MVLC volunteers. Mass will be said in the Chapel of St. Edmund Campion on the fourth floor from time to time. Some of the individuals involved in one program or another have changed since the beginning of last semester: for example, Casey Manders, the first person whom you meet in the front office (Room 238), joined us last spring, and Jenny Radi is our new building superintendent as of this week. But our basic means of communication remains the same. Thus, in all of these instances—and countless others, including your being up to date about parking—the key to knowing of the opportunities is to read your email: in particular, the semiweekly announcements from "Law News" that you receive at your Marquette University email account. A lawyer in South Carolina was recently disciplined for not having an email account. I do not think this likely to occur anytime soon for someone's want of a Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr account. You get the point.

More affirmatively, please read the announcements so that you can be a full participant in the dynamic community that we have in Eckstein Hall and that—through your pro bono work in the community today, the scholarship of our faculty, and numerous other things especially including the work of your forebears (i.e., the work of Marquette lawyers)—is Marquette University Law School more broadly.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law