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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

On behalf of the law faculty and my other colleagues, it is a great privilege for me to welcome you to a new academic year in Eckstein Hall. We are especially pleased to come to know those of you who are first-year students. You will find Marquette Law School to be a rigorous academic community that nonetheless has a supportive culture among staff and students. And, for a group whose members you will encounter more gradually over time, you will also enjoy meeting members of the bar, including any number of Marquette lawyers who have come before you (and who no doubt will tell you how hard they had it, before 2010, in the old building).

1. Comings, Going, and the Like. I wish to begin this update with two individuals who are well known to many of you but find themselves in new roles. Chad Oldfather, professor of law, is the new associate dean for academic affairs—the second-in-command in the Law School’s administrative structure. His primary responsibilities range from traditional curricular planning and support of the faculty to collaboration with our colleagues in career planning and in the technology group. Amy Rogan-Mehta is now associate dean for student development. In that position, she has a particular portfolio for working with current students and recent alumni in their professional formation, as they seek to integrate everything from their upper-level curriculum to their volunteer and pro bono work to (in some cases) their preparation for the bar exam in another state. In these various respects, Deans Oldfather and Rogan-Mehta will work with our talented and dedicated colleagues to support you and your fellow students. We are one administrative team.

A new member of the team is Anna Fodor, who starts early next month as our director of student affairs. Ms. Fodor is a recent (2014) honors graduate of Northwestern University’s law school; she has spent a year working in New York City at an international law firm and the past year clerking at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She has other professional experience as well, and we are glad to have recruited her to work with you and other students on matters ranging from student organizations to academic support.

Other developments of note: Paul Anderson, L’95, longtime associate director of the National Sports Law Institute, has been promoted to the position of director of the NSLI (Professor Matt Mitten has become executive director). We are looking forward to this next chapter in the history of the NSLI. In the law library, Megan O’Brien and Elana Olson have been promoted to associate law librarians, to reflect their accomplishments and their broader supervisory responsibilities within the library.

We are fortunate to be joined this semester by Nora Demleitner as Boden Visiting Professor of Law. This occasional professorship remembers one of my (and your) predecessors, Robert F. Boden, a Marquette lawyer (Class of 1952) and dean of the Law School from 1965 to 1984. Professor Demleitner is the Roy L. Steinheimer, Jr. Professor at Washington & Lee University School of Law, where she previously served as dean. She is an accomplished scholar of criminal law, and we are delighted that Professor Demleitner brings her teaching and research to us at Marquette Law School for the coming semester.

All of the foregoing is on the plus side of the ledger. Less happily, we are saying farewell—this week, even—to Casey Manders, who for the past several years has been the student services coordinator and administrative assistant in the main office of the Law School. Casey has secured a position for himself in Austin, Texas. We will miss his talent and professionalism: Only the most recent evidence of the latter has been his willingness to remain with us until he had helped deliver a successful orientation for new students and we have made it through the first week of classes.

2. Eckstein Hall Beyond the Classroom. We are a dynamic community in ways well beyond the comings and goings of individuals. Several years ago, upon our move to Eckstein Hall, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* characterized Marquette Law School as “Milwaukee’s public square.” Seldom, if ever, has that phenomenon been more in evidence than will be the case this coming semester. Here are a few details, in the hope that you will mark your calendar and join us for some of these events.

Let us begin with our distinguished lectures. We are fortunate to have four such each year, ordinarily divided equally between the two semesters. This year, because there is not enough otherwise going on during the first semester (you will take that as the wry comment it is meant to be), we expect to have three of the four during the next several months. Two are confirmed and can be described here.

Howard A. Shelanski, professor of law at Georgetown University and administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), part of the Office of Management and Budget, will deliver our annual Boden Lecture. For his lecture, on Thursday, September 15, at 4:30 p.m., he will discuss “Sound Policy in the Balance: The Uncertain Future of the Regulatory State.” Professor Shelanski is an economist as well as a lawyer, and has held numerous leadership positions in the federal government: these include, in addition to his current Senate-confirmed post of administering OIRA, work as chief economist of the Federal Communications Commission and, a number of years ago, senior economist for the president’s Council of Economic Advisers. Given the extraordinary importance of regulation (i.e., not merely legislation) to the law today and thus to the life of lawyers—consider, for simply one example, that the Affordable Care Act has generated about as much controversy and litigation for the regulations issued pursuant to it as for its statutory text—the topic is well worth an hour of your time. So, too, is Professor Shelanski more generally. Please join us.

Next up will be Rachel Barkow, Segal Family Professor of Regulatory Law and Policy at New York University: she also is a Senate-confirmed government official as a member of the United States Sentencing Commission. Professor Barkow will deliver our Barrock Lecture on Criminal Law on Tuesday, October 25, at 12:15 p.m. She will present a challenge to the way most criminal justice policies are developed, arguing for more of an administrative model than currently prevails. The Barrock Lecture is the newest of our four distinguished lectures, having been inaugurated in 2009, but it has developed a high-quality national reputation during that time. I hope that you will elect to attend it.

Like the lectures, the Law School's series of programs, "On the Issues with Mike Gousha," brings to Eckstein Hall engaging and influential individuals to share information and insights with our community. The programs are conversations in which the host (Mike Gousha, an accomplished journalist who is distinguished fellow in law and public policy here) converses with the guest, and the audience also has a chance to ask questions. The series begins on September 12 with DEAN STRANG, former federal public defender in Milwaukee and now a lawyer in Madison, perhaps best known for his work in the most recent Steven Avery trial. It includes conversations with KATHERINE CRAMER, author of a new book about the urban/rural divide in our state and its political and policy implications (September 14); SAM MIHARA, a Japanese-American survivor of a U.S. internment camp during World War II (October 4); KIMBERLEY MOTLEY, a Marquette lawyer (Class of 2003) with a fascinating legal practice in Afghanistan (October 6); REID RIBBLE, congressman from the Green Bay area who is standing down at the end of this term but whose opinions on matters from the federal budget deficit to the presidential election may be of interest (October 11); TIMOTHY SNYDER, the Housum Professor of History at Yale University, whose recent books tackle the Holocaust during World II and the slaughter of millions by communist and fascist regimes in Europe in the run-up to the war (October 19); and two members of the new Wisconsin Elections Commission, including the chair, MARK THOMSEN, a Marquette lawyer (Class of 1987) (October 26). There will be additional entries.

None of this is even to mention other events that will happen along the way, whether the various "On the Issues" featuring the acclaimed (the word is not too strong) MARQUETTE LAW SCHOOL POLL, the next of which is next week, Wednesday, August 31; our major conference, "PUBLIC POLICY AND AMERICAN DRINKING WATER," on Wednesday, September 7; other programming, related to the election, which is not yet ready for announcement; or events that we have agreed to host, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society's James Madison Lecture the evening of October 19, to be delivered by GORDON WOOD, the Alva O. Way University Professor Emeritus at Brown University. It is extraordinary that two of America's leading historians—Professor Snyder (mentioned above) and Professor Wood—will be in Eckstein Hall's Appellate Courtroom in a four-hour or so span on October 19. Or perhaps it is not extraordinary: After all, again, we are Milwaukee's public square. You are welcome to attend all these events, with registration available various places (some of the events fill up, to be sure).

3. (Y)our Most Important Work. These significant events are in addition to the most important work of the Law School. You do that every day, as you prepare for and attend class—and when you engage with the materials again afterwards, perhaps with a study group (as I would recommend). The faculty and others do it as well, in their daily professional affairs. There is the occasional important administrative work also, I should like to think: For example, this semester, as happens every seven years or so, a team representing the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools will conduct a site visit of the Law School, as part of the reaccreditation process. It has long seemed to me that there is no greater interest than our remaining an accredited law school: This even outranks the diploma privilege (though only because the diploma privilege extends to accredited law schools in Wisconsin). And even beyond these matters, much other work of members of the Marquette Law School community must go unmentioned in any particular welcome-back letter (as we are secure in the knowledge that there will be another letter next semester).

Yet I would be remiss if I did not specifically note the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic—or “Clinics,” as apparently we now must say, we have so many of them. The volunteer pro bono work, organized by our Office of Public Service, is only somewhat less a part of the formation of a Marquette lawyer than is the pursuit of academic studies. I hope that you will involve yourself in either the MVLC or another similar activity. Whether you will get more than you give, or vice versa, I cannot say, but you will be advancing the law as a helping profession—more directly, you will be helping people—even while you are in school.

Our society needs more good members of the learned and helping profession that we have claimed as our own. Perhaps we feel this especially in Milwaukee because of the events a week or so ago. Yet, as I recently maintained in another forum, Milwaukee is something of a stand-in for our communities more generally: In important respects, ours is the Great American City, presenting the challenges and possibilities also facing so many of our counterparts. In all events, whether you elect to stay here in this region or not in the long run, you have the opportunity, during your years at Marquette Law School and through the people and activities of the sort sketched out in this letter, to graduate not just as lawyers but as Marquette lawyers. As my mother used to say: Seize the day.*

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law

* Actually, she would say this: *Carpe diem*. Now you know why (and that) my letters often emerge with a Latin phrase or two.