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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer,

Greetings as we begin a new semester. When you emerge into the profession as lawyers, your primary professional obligations will not begin anew twice a year, as occurs on an academic calendar. In your time with us you have an extraordinary opportunity semiannually to seize upon newness—the courses, in particular, but also the other opportunities. I encourage you to do so.

My purpose here is to provide a brief update concerning activities inside Eckstein Hall. You evaluated the most important opportunities some weeks ago—through the course-registration process. The classes are so varied that it would scarcely be possible to summarize them here. So, in this regard, I wish simply to note three ways, beyond your reading of the course descriptions (and in the law more generally), for you to learn more about the curricular possibilities that should especially interest you: (a) meetings with individual members of the administration of the Law School, especially in the student affairs and dean's offices; (b) discussions with faculty with whom you have studied in the classroom; and (c) conversations with law students and lawyers whom you have come to know and to respect (perhaps, in the case of practicing lawyers, by working side-by-side with them at one of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics). These, of course, are all the same basic means: Let us not forget, in this world of "social media," the value of individual engagements. Nor is the foregoing list necessarily in order of importance: As much as we (e.g., administrators or faculty) wish to help, it is inevitable that you will find your own exemplars and mentors. That is an exciting part of the law, and it can be so even beyond law school—i.e., beyond your formal legal education. Yet never is it so easy as during these years.

Having thus promoted (broadly) my colleagues in the Marquette Law School administration, faculty, and student body and the wider legal profession and (indirectly) the pro bono possibilities available to you, I wish to speak also to some of our more-unusual initiatives at the Law School. We previously announced the creation of the Lubar Center, where we present programs ranging from the Marquette Law School Poll to the "On the Issues with Mike Gousha" newsmaker interviews to many aspects of our Water Law and Policy Initiative to our involvement in studying K–12 education. This is a unique collection of activities for a law school, and over the years it has brought Marquette University Law School considerable attention, even acclaim. We have been able to support all of this through donations to the Law School—whether from alumni and friends to the school's Annual Fund or through the endowment created last year by Sheldon and Marianne Lubar. To sharpen the point, from a

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student perspective, we have gotten benefits (including enhanced prominence for Marquette Law School) without costs (in particular, by not using student tuition revenues with which, instead, we support the direct program of legal education).

Through this support, we are able to welcome later this month, as program manager for the Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education, Rita Aleman. Ms. Aleman holds an undergraduate degree from Marquette University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin. She is well known to us from past initiatives (e.g., producing political debates that the Law School has hosted) and brings to us more than 35 years of experience in broadcast journalism, most recently as executive producer of *Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien*, a national Sunday-morning news show. We also have appointed John Johnson, who has served with us as Lubar Research Associate for the past two years, as Lubar Center Research Fellow, reflecting his enhanced role in support and expansion of our public policy research and civic education.

You are more than welcome at all of the many public programs that the Law School hosts. In addition to those especially associated with the Lubar Center, these include our distinguished lectures this semester: the Nies Lecture on Intellectual Property, presented in early March by Rebecca S. Eisenberg, who is the Robert and Barbara Luciano Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, and the Hallows Lecture, in mid-April, by David J. Barron, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and formerly the Hon. S. William Green Professor of Public Law at Harvard Law School. We will soon announce the precise lecture dates and topics. Our programs also include events primarily organized by or celebrating students, such as the Public Interest Law Society's annual "Howard B. Eisenberg Do-Gooders' Auction," the evening of Friday, February 16; the Jenkins Honors Moot Court Finals, the afternoon of April 19, where the Hon. Goodwin H. Liu of the California Supreme Court will preside; and the Posner Exchange and Pro Bono Society Induction Ceremony, the afternoon of April 27, where we will welcome James J. Sandman, president of the Legal Services Corporation (and, more importantly, where we will honor you or your classmates). You will receive details and invitations, whether directly or through Law News, for all these events.

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You may recall (although I wryly acknowledge it to be *unlikely*) my concluding my welcome to you at first-year orientation by telling you that we look forward to the process of your fashioning yourselves into Marquette lawyers, even as I also alluded to our helping you in this process. And each year at graduation I thank the students for entrusting us with helping to guide the beginning of their lives in the law. The theme, however indirect, is consistent. To guide you is pretty well all that we can do. To be sure, we all understand that this encompasses encouraging and occasionally evaluating you along the way. Mostly, though, we provide opportunities, examples, and advice. Please make the most of them during your time with us this semester.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law