



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

---

LAW SCHOOL

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

August 16, 2019

Dear Future Marquette Lawyer:

Welcome to a new academic year—number 10 for Marquette Law School in Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall. As students, you are unlikely to count things the same way that we on the faculty and staff do. Yet because we are steeped in traditions, some time-honored and others more recent, we inevitably pass on to you our accumulated experience, just as you will challenge us with your fresh questions and interests. In all events, whether you are a new student or have returned to us—in either case expecting never to number your own Marquette Law School years in double digits—it is our privilege to be with you. Let me provide a brief update.

The faculty are at the center of your experience at Marquette Law School. Three faculty members—Professors Vada Waters Lindsey, Kali N. Murray, and Nadelle E. Grossman—all have been promoted to the rank of professor of law. This action by Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell, as recommended by our faculty and Acting Provost Kimo Ah Yun, recognizes not only these professors' service to the Law School and its students but also their national reputations in their various fields. Warm congratulations to each.

For a change that we will especially feel in the dean's office, Professor Chad M. Oldfather has completed his term as associate dean for academic affairs, the second-in-command in the Law School's administration. The custom is to say that he has returned to the faculty, and there is truth in the statement, as Professor Oldfather will teach multiple courses both semesters this year. The statement may also be misleading, for he never really left the faculty, as any of you can attest who were enrolled in his recent Criminal Law or Constitutional Law courses, while he was still "Dean Oldfather." A tradition at this law school is for those of us faculty with administrative roles never to be too far from the classroom (would this be a good place, in another custom of sorts, for me to plug my Advanced Civil Procedure course to you?).

I benefited immensely from Dean Oldfather's counsel and collaboration over the past three years, and I look forward to similarly drawing upon the talents of Professor Nadelle Grossman, who now has succeeded him as associate dean for academic affairs. She has been part of the Law School since 2007, and you likely need no introduction to her, whether you were in one of her courses in recent years or find yourself in one this year. All of us in the faculty and administration of the Law School are grateful to Dean Grossman for taking on this role.

Future Marquette Lawyer

August 16, 2019

Page 2

It is a privilege as well to introduce a visiting faculty member this semester: Professor Emily Cauble of DePaul Law School. Professor Cauble, a native Milwaukeean, is a widely recognized teacher and scholar, especially with respect to tax law. Her courses with us will be Business Associations and Tax Practice. Please join me in welcoming her.

Of course, our greatest interest at the Law School is *you*, our student. All of us, in our different ways, wish to help you develop yourself into a Marquette lawyer. We work primarily in the classroom, and you progress in your out-of-class studying, but we offer many other enriching experiences. These include distinguished lectures such as the Boden (Sept. 25) and Barrock (Nov. 4); “On the Issues with Mike Gousha” programs (the semester’s first to occur on Aug. 29); Constitution Day (Sept. 17); and, more frequently, the pro bono programs involving the Office of Public Service, including the various Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics. Many of these events and programs attract scores of outside visitors and participants, but you are always especially welcome. I encourage you most strongly to read the semiweekly “Law News” email, containing both substantive information and details about registering for events and programs—as well as much else of importance.

I look for wisdom everywhere, especially in my outside reading, which tends toward the short form, and I have been known on occasion to borrow in this semiannual letter from a poem, ancient or modern (but not too modern). This year, my mind cannot shake a recent newspaper column by Alan J. Borsuk, senior fellow in law and public policy here at Marquette Law School. The column described a schoolteacher who, to leave no doubt about her vision, put up a sign in her classroom: “*Let this be your place of hope.*” Such a message often goes unstated, perhaps because it seems so basic.

Yet a message of hope for you—and correlatively of caring from us—is genuine and important, and there can be value in the explicit statement. Even as you may have several sources of support—preexisting, such as family, friends, and religious communities, and new, such as study groups, student organizations, and bar associations—I wish to emphasize our interest. Law school can be a challenging time, and we are here to lend a hand, from the Career Planning Center and the Office of Student Affairs to, more generally, *all* faculty and staff throughout Eckstein Hall. Please embrace the possibilities and seek us out beyond the classroom. Your personal and professional growth is at the heart of our work.

To engage in professional education is necessarily to point—indeed, travel—toward the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of your journey.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney

*Dean and Professor of Law*