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Dear Future Marquette Lawyer:

For all of us at the Law School, welcome back. Whether we agree that this new year ends rather than begins a decade, it will be common ground that “2020” has a ring to it. Permit me to provide an update and a reflection as the semester commences.

It is my custom to note any comings and goings in Eckstein Hall since I last wrote you. Carol Dufek, our longtime events coordinator, retired this past semester after thirty years at Marquette University, and Chris Monroe has balanced her last book as our budget director for almost twenty years. They have begun new pursuits, the one with the South Milwaukee School District and the other in St. Louis. Even as we shall miss them, we have welcomed Jourdain LaFrombois, formerly with the Milwaukee County Zoo, as our new events coordinator, and Phil Plestina, from the Medical College of Wisconsin, as our budget director. They do not instruct you in the classrooms, but staff members here make significant contributions to the Law School’s operation and work. I myself have learned much from all these colleagues.

The concerns of Marquette Law School extend well beyond Eckstein Hall. With respect to the curricular program, for example, our reach goes west to Madison and south to Chicago, in the form of judicial internships and supervised field placements for upper-level students. Our Public Interest Law Society’s summer fellowships, administered by the school’s Office of Public Service, extend to other cities across the nation, mostly according to the imagination and initiative of individual students: Please seek out Assistant Dean Angela Schultz if you have interests or questions about PILS fellowships, for which all non-graduating students may apply. The Marquette Law School Poll also plants the school’s flag across this great country: Typically this is because of both the importance of Wisconsin to national politics in recent decades and the extraordinary record and reputation of the Marquette Law School Poll for accuracy and insight into Wisconsin voters. Yet we are an ambitious place, even restless. Consider the survey that we released this past fall concerning public understanding and opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States. Our first *national* poll, it has offered insights that are of interest to lawyers, judges, academics, and policymakers—and, given the topic and unusualness of the focus, that will continue to be of interest for many years to come. Still farther from 12th and Michigan, but grounded by our curriculum, the Law School’s program each summer in Germany, at the University of Giessen, offers interested students the opportunity to study internationally. Watch for announcements of deadlines for that program.

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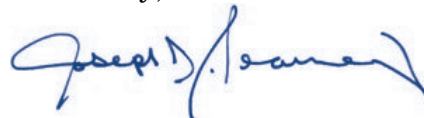
All of that having been said—and it is a good deal—our primary home outside Eckstein Hall is *Milwaukee*. In this we are most fortunate. To be sure, our city has its challenges—*our* challenges, but also opportunities for us to be of service. One form of such service is especially prominent at the Law School: the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics, with sites from the House of Peace on the near north side, to the Milwaukee Justice Center in the Milwaukee County Courthouse, to the United Community Center on the near south side, to the Veterans' Service Office in West Allis—to wherever the Mobile Legal Clinic happens to be. Like your predecessors as law students (themselves now lawyers), a great many of you participate in the Law School's pro bono opportunities, and this is impressive. You have not merely succeeded to, but are building on, the legacy of the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg and the best traditions of Marquette Law School and the legal profession more generally.

In other respects, Milwaukee is a dynamic and invigorating place. Some of it involves sports, including the teams at Marquette University and professional sports teams such as the Milwaukee Brewers and the Milwaukee Bucks. Cultural opportunities abound here as well: The museums, theaters, and more-unusual venues such as the Mitchell Park Domes provide opportunities for leisure and recreation. All eyes will be on our city this summer, as the quadrennial Democratic National Convention will be in Milwaukee, and then on the state itself when—even beyond the mayoral, county executive, and state supreme court elections this spring—the presidential campaign unfolds this fall. Our Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education will engage with all of this, and we warmly encourage you to participate in its programs.

Without doubt, this letter has ranged broadly, from Eckstein Hall to Germany, and beyond the curriculum to other opportunities available to you in Milwaukee. Here is a simple reason: Whether or not it is your intention to do so, this coming semester, in your earliest days in the legal profession, you will be developing *habits* that, for better or worse, will help form you long after the word “future” has been dropped from the description of you as a “Marquette lawyer.” These habits involve your approach to reading the law, the sorts of conversations that you have with friends and colleagues in the profession, whether you make productive use of small openings in your day and schedule, and the extent to which you have interests—a life—beyond the legal profession. Relying on no perfection of my own but repeating the same advice that I give myself, I encourage you to make them *good* habits.

Let's make this a great semester together.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law