



August 23, 2021

Dear Future Marquette Lawyer:

I hope that the new academic year finds you well. In this particular welcome-back letter, my focus is on chronicling, or at least noting, the work of a number of people important to our law school community. To be sure, I encourage you to see and to take a broader point here.

Two of our law faculty have assumed *emeriti* status: Professor Patricia Bradford and Professor Alan Madry. Professor Bradford has been a member of our faculty since 1983. Her enthusiasm for the law and the classroom have led her to teach an unusually wide-ranging array of courses, including Torts and Criminal Process in relatively recent years, even as her expertise in Taxation has provided a mainstay for the Law School since the very beginning of her tenure. She has taught more than students: Professor Bradford was my “faculty mentor,” in the Law School’s parlance of the time, upon my arrival in 1997, and I learned much from her.

Professor Madry’s teaching also has had a broad range, during his service on our faculty of more than thirty years. Whether in Constitutional Law, Property, or Jurisprudence, to take only a few of his courses, he has helped our students appreciate that the law is not some mere technical skill but that it has important philosophical underpinnings, well worth understanding. I myself especially have admired the way Professor Madry has embraced the intellectual community available to us as part of a great university and the example that he has provided.

To say *emerita* of Professor Bradford or *emeritus* of Professor Madry, or the like with respect to any faculty member, is scarcely to suggest a particular path ahead for her or him. Some *emeriti* faculty continue their research; others elect to teach occasionally. Some do both, while others follow new or continued pursuits outside—or perhaps I should say *apart from*—the law. The late Professor James D. Ghiardi once wryly suggested that it can be this way because the word *emeritus* means *uncompensated*, confident that my schoolboy study of Latin would ensure my knowing otherwise and getting his joke. Our own selfish interest is that Professors Bradford and Madry continue to regard themselves as part of our community, as they evidently do—as reflected in their doing us the honor of taking up the new title upon retiring.

Some evidence of the strength of our community can be seen in the *return* this year of Professor Steven M. Barkan. Professor Barkan is *emeritus* as well—at the University of Wisconsin, where he served as director of the law library and professor of law for more than two decades beginning in 1995. This was after his service on *our* faculty from 1987 to 1995. I myself did not join the Marquette law faculty until 1997, and yet I soon came to know and appreciate Professor Barkan as among the many people who, over the years, helped welcome me to the Wisconsin legal community. He is a past chair of the Board of Bar Examiners, but it is his expertise in Torts, which he has taught for decades, that sent us his way again. Professor Barkan will travel regularly from Columbus, Ohio, to teach, three days each week, a section of this important first-year course. We are delighted to welcome back Professor Barkan.

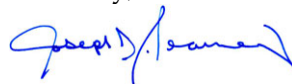
While my references in this particular letter have primarily concerned our full-time faculty, our strength is seen also in others who help form our community and who maintain any number of connections with it. Mike Gousha, who has served during the past fifteen years as distinguished fellow in law and public policy, has elected to conclude his full-time service with us at the end of this semester but will continue as senior advisor in law and public policy (as I announced today in a blog post). Our commitment to the Law School's serving as a public square for this region will continue, as the establishment of our Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education reflects. On another important external front (our Office of Public Service), Mindy Schroeder has chosen to conclude her service with us on September 30, in favor of being home with her family. To say that, as the program assistant for the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC), Mindy has been a mainstay of our pro bono work—*your* pro bono work, in the case of many Marquette law students—is rather an understatement. We are most grateful, and we hope that she will consider herself still to be part of our community.

These are all individuals whom you would find primarily in Eckstein Hall. Even beyond our faculty and staff, full-time and part-time, we claim for our community, and enable you to meet, so many *other* interesting people also. It is a very large group, including the attorneys in the community who work with upper-level students in our supervised field placements; the attorneys who volunteer alongside you in pro bono opportunities such as the MVLC; and the members of bar groups (e.g., the Milwaukee Bar Association) and “fraternal” or “affinity” organizations, including the Association for Women Lawyers, the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers, and the St. Thomas More Society, just to name a few, who mentor our students.

Yet the Law School can do only so much: We give you opportunities, and you must decide what, *if anything*, you will do with them. If you *seize* them, we have a hope as to how things will play out. Perhaps reflecting too much time watching sports as we hunkered down for the pandemic, the phrase that runs through my mind comes from the television commercials featuring “Jake from State Farm”: *Things are going to go surprisingly great*. You might think me embarrassed to refer to Jake. After all, looking back at past welcome-back letters, I see that I have had occasion to invoke or allude to any number of great poets, including John Donne, William Butler Yeats, W. H. Auden, and Joseph Mary Plunkett, as well as some legendary figures in the law. And the advertising reassurance does not always hold, as Chris Paul (or his team), to whom Jake spoke, found out at the hands of our hometown professional basketball team—the world-champion Milwaukee Bucks. Yet, whatever the precise result, there is great importance or honor in the process or the *effort*, as lawyers especially know, and I believe that support and encouragement can be found in many places, some of them unconventional.

In all events, let's largely leave aside the allusion or indirection, in favor of emphasizing the point: the ball is in your hands.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law