



January 11, 2023

Dear Future Marquette Lawyer:

Welcome to a new semester of the formal study of law. We trust that you are finding your experience here to be intellectually demanding, time-consuming, and rigorous—after all, it is a legal *education* that you are pursuing. Those characteristics or circumstances (which you may recall my mentioning on your first day of law school) depend on all of us but especially on you—after all, it is *your* education. Yet we are in this enterprise with you. So, even as I wish to provide an update, please know as well that we are here for you in every sense—including that we are available to any of you who may need help in one particular respect or another, as all of us sometimes do.

The update will focus on comings and goings. Derek C. Mosley, L'95, has joined us, this very week, as the director of our Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education. He is the first such, although he will benefit from the example of Mike Gousha, who now has a sort of emeritus role as senior advisor for law and public policy. It would be accurate to say that the bulk of the twenty-seven (and a half) years since graduation found Derek Mosley as judge of the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court, after seven years as an assistant district attorney. It would also be incomplete.

Quite apart from his public service, Judge Mosley has had an *extraordinary* presence in the Milwaukee community, through his “extracurricular” efforts. Some of this participation is of a lighthearted type, including a social media following as a sort of foodie. Most of it has involved work of a professional nature. Service on the board of directors of organizations as varied as Froedtert Hospital, the Urban Ecology Center, the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, Safe & Sound, and Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, among others, has been an important activity (as has volunteer work leading to such service, I am sure). His contributions also have included a more direct educational role, through engaging with community members and organizations, in this region and beyond, on topics such as unconscious bias and Black history.

As for his work here, Judge Mosley will continue some of the Law School’s best traditions, whether of long standing or as established by Mike Gousha and others over the past fifteen years. He will also place his own stamp on the Lubar Center, aspects of which we may infer from his previous work. In all events, his service as Lubar Center Director will benefit all of us at the Law School and the larger community. It inspires me when a fellow native of the South Side of Chicago has come to stand for Milwaukee.

For a less happy development (a “going”), though one long planned for, this will be the last semester at Marquette Law School for Bonnie M. Thomson, associate dean for administration and registrar. Truly, this will be the end of an era, with Bonnie’s having joined the Law School thirty-eight years ago, in January 1985. The position then involved career planning, and her role evolved over the decades to encompass everything from scheduling and other traditional registrar functions to ABA accrediting

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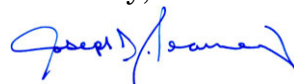
work to all manner of student counseling. To say that Associate Dean Thomson has been the glue holding the Law School together even longer than the going-on twenty years of my deanship *begins* to get at the matter. Beyond the particulars mentioned, so many of us have found her a kind friend available not just with a sympathetic ear but also for “above-and-beyond” help. For a memorable example, Bonnie’s tours of Milwaukee for prospective faculty members—at least as long ago as 1996 and as recently as this past fall—made an indelible and effective impression on many of us.

Sometimes an ending leads to a new beginning. I am glad to report that, as of last month, Jessica (Bacalzo) Fredrickson, L’99, has returned to the Law School and will succeed to some of Dean Thomson’s duties. Her title is registrar and director of curricular services, and she will work closely with Anna Fodor, assistant dean of students, and Nadelle Grossman, professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs, among others, to serve students and help fulfill the duties of the dean’s office (broadly defined). Ms. Fredrickson brings extensive experience to her work with us, including service as legal counsel at Walmart in Arkansas and, most recently, as a key administrator in the Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel’s office. I look forward to working with her, and I hope that you will join me in welcoming her.

A great deal will occur at the Law School during the coming semester, including events that are substantially social and even celebratory—which is hardly to say *not educational*. The annual Public Interest Law Society (Howard B. Eisenberg Do-Gooders’) Auction (Feb. 17), Hallows Lecture (March 7), Jenkins Honors Moot Court Competition (April 4), Nies Lecture on Intellectual Property (April 20), and the Posner Pro Bono Exchange and Pro Bono Society Induction Ceremony (April 28) all are upcoming. I encourage you to take advantage of each of them and the many other opportunities provided at the Law School (see the semiweekly *Law News*) and more generally in the local community.

Let “me end,” if not “where I begun,” with Bonnie Thomson (and with apologies to John Donne). Dean Thomson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in English, and not long after my arrival here as a faculty member in 1997, I noticed *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* in her Sensenbrenner Hall office. Certainly, it occasioned conversation(s) with me, whose father guarded his copy of the book and whose mother was an English teacher. My own sense, to borrow from the same poet (a favorite of both my parents and my colleague), is that Dean Thomson would want “[n]o tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests,” for her retirement. Yet, at the risk of coming off as maudlin (scarcely my interest), she certainly has demonstrated to all of us at the Law School that “[n]o man is an island.” Bonnie has brought us—faculty, staff, and students—together in an extraordinary way. I would say also that it was *unique*, and it was, but the larger point here is prospective: We must take up her work in service of individuals such as you: future Marquette lawyers. You have great things ahead of you—and much work. Those are related matters. Let’s get to all of them.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law