

passing the torch

It's been an amazing year, filled with discovery, growth and new beginnings. As I end my tenure as Interim Dean, I've taken some time to reflect on where we've been and more importantly, where we are heading.

Looking back

Since I hadn't planned on being a law school dean, especially under such difficult circumstances, I really came to the position with no expectations. I felt obligated to respond to the University's request to step in and continue Howard Eisenberg's legacy after his death last June. It was an honor and a privilege and also very eye-opening. Until I walked in his shoes, I had no idea of the depth and breadth of the position Howard filled as dean. I found out quickly that he wore so many hats and was so many things to so many different people. I followed closely in his footsteps, but I also made my own. And when I look back at my life some day, I will view this time as Interim Dean as a very important and fulfilling part of the journey. Every day has been a bit of an adventure.

I thank all of you for your help in making this a smooth and successful year, despite our grief over the loss of Howard. The uncertainty about where we are going is over, and I just know Howard would say, "Enough already, get back to the tasks at hand."

What lies ahead

And so, it is my great pleasure to pass the reins to our new dean, Prof. Joseph Kearney. Joe will begin his term July 1. I hope for a while he will follow in the footsteps laid before him, but in time, I am certain he will make imprints of his own and continue to lead the Law School on to greater distinction. (Please see feature about your new dean on page 4.) The role of dean is one of a true multi-tasker. This means leading the law school, being the voice of the law school and ensuring good relationships inside and outside of the building. Joe is well suited for this, and I urge you to



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give him your complete support as he begins his own journey.

Moving forward

We have what it takes to keep moving forward—strong leadership, excellent faculty and bright students. What will help accelerate our efforts needs to come from you, our alumni. We need your support. We need you to be ambassadors for the school, to be mentors for our students, and to strengthen our efforts through financial support. We need to grow our endowed scholarship programs and make capital improvements to help the Law School look and function as well as it can in order to continue to attract top-level students and faculty.

Throughout the magazine, you will read about alumni, community attorneys and faculty who have already been generous with their time, their talent and their treasure.

The bottom line here, though, is not about money. It is about transforming our students into leaders. Please help us keep the momentum so that when today's students are out in the world, they will make their own significant imprints and we will proudly call them our own. •