

Marquette University is pleased to announce that Professor Joseph D. Kearney has been named Dean of the Law School. Prof. Kearney will succeed Distinguished Professor Janine P. Geske, a former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice who has graciously served as interim dean since the death last June of Dean Howard B. Eisenberg.

Prof. Kearney has been a member of the Law School faculty since 1997. Prior to joining the Marquette faculty, he practiced for six years at Sidley & Austin, Chicago's largest law firm. He also served as a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court and to Judge Diarmuid E. O'Scannlain of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Prof. Kearney is a nationally recognized scholar in the area of telecommunications law. He also has argued cases in the Wisconsin and Illinois Supreme Courts and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and has been the primary draftsman of winning briefs in the United States Supreme Court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court previously appointed him to serve on the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners.

Prof. Kearney is an honors graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School. He will assume the role of Marquette University Law School Dean on July 1, 2003.



Joseph Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law

“This is a critical and pivotal time for the law school as competition for students and professors continues to intensify. Joe understands the importance of challenging and invigorating the students while inspiring and attracting talented professors, all of which requires strong support from the law alumni. He is committed to continuing the vitally important process of change and growth Howard appreciated and pursued with such remarkable success. His professional credentials are impressive and the depth of his scholarship combined with his enthusiasm, energy and charisma make him ideally suited for the position as Dean.”

— Frank Daily
Senior Partner, Quarles and Brady
Jur '64, Law '68

“Joe Kearney is especially well-suited for assuming the role as dean of Marquette Law School because of his familiarity with Marquette; his understanding of the Jesuit tradition and Ignation philosophy which guides both the University and the Law School; his clear vision of the goals for the Law School shared by the administration, faculty, and students; his knowledge and experience gained through his outstanding academic career, high profile clerkships, and his work at one of the finest corporate law firms in the country; his outstanding performance as a member of the faculty at the Marquette Law School, which included very active associations with both the State Bar and various civic organizations; his people skills, which have allowed him to work effectively with students, faculty, administrators, and the Bar; and his character, integrity and outstanding work ethic.

“Like Howard Eisenberg, Joe Kearney understands and thoroughly supports the Jesuit philosophy and the commitment to graduate lawyers who are both competent and committed to the service of others. In filling a position such as this, it is always a benefit to both the organization and the employee when the individual is promoted from within. Joe’s time at Marquette University has given him the advantage of more clearly understanding what the job entails while it gives us the advantage of firsthand experience with his strengths and qualifications.

“Joe Kearney has distinguished himself at everything he has undertaken and has the talent, commitment, and energy to do an outstanding job as the Dean of our Law School.”

— Jim Janz, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer/Administration, Zilber Ltd., Law ‘64.

“I think Joe will be a great dean because he has vision, ambition and deep loyalty to the school. He wants to make this an even better place for students and is committed to improving the reputation and visibility of the Law School. He is well respected in the Bar and well liked by students. He is very astute about what needs to be done and works well with many different kinds of people. He also has a great sense of humor (which we all need!).

“Joe has excelled at every law-related task he has ever undertaken and I am certain that this will continue while he serves as dean.”

— Andrea Schneider
Professor of Law

On July 1, Prof. Joseph D. Kearney will assume the role as Marquette Law School’s ninth dean.

“Joe is not only a scholar, but also a great leader. He is the epitome of excellence. I can think of no one better to build upon the Law School’s tradition and, in particular, the legacy of Howard Eisenberg.”

— Janine Geske,
Interim Dean and
Distinguished
Professor of Law

“Joe is one of the most qualified lawyers I have ever met. On top of that, he has the personal and leadership skills to become a great dean. He is respected by the faculty, alumni and students. He is a very enthusiastic person with a wonderful future. As Howard proved, the right person in the Dean’s position at the Law School can make an enormous difference to all associated with the School. The Law School is a completely different place today than the day Howard walked in to it. Joe has the capability and the vision to take the Law School to the next level. He is very talented.

“It seems to me that the difference that Marquette offers to its students is values. Without that, Marquette would be just another law school. Your Law School teaches law while also helping students develop into leaders with a true sense of values. This keeps with the tradition of the teachings of St. Ignatius. Joe Kearney is a product of that education and carries these values with him in everything he does. He will be a great dean.”

— Louis J. Andrew, Jr. Law ‘66
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin