

## beginning, but not anew

In 1996 the faculty of Marquette University Law School endorsed my being hired as a new colleague beginning the following year. Although I had some initial hesitancy about leaving the full-time practice of law and my hometown, I elected to do so, in no small measure because I knew that the Marquette Law School had historic strengths and that Dean Howard B. Eisenberg had infused its students, faculty, alumni, staff, and others with a sense of enthusiasm about the institution's future.

It was the right decision, and for the right reasons. Indeed, I would have preferred that Howard remain as my dean for the entirety of my career here, however unlikely that might have been. And when a colleague or two would ask me from time to time whether I wished ever to be dean myself, my response invariably was, "The last thing that one should wish to be is the dean who succeeds Howard Eisenberg. That person's work will be too difficult. One should want to be the dean who succeeds the dean who succeeded Howard Eisenberg." Anyone who doubts the essential truth underlying that statement—specifically, that Howard was an unusually gifted leader—may wish to review the memorial issue of the *Marquette Law Review* that I edited last year in honor of Howard. It is an issue that I have made required reading for all entering first-year students.

And yet, whatever my initial hesitation in this second instance at Marquette, I found myself in September 2002, three months after Howard's death, applying to be the successor to my friend. I did so both because the school had made much progress during his tenure and because there is much yet to do. And when, after a national search and head-to-head competition with numerous outside candidates, I received first the endorsements from the faculty and from the search committee of faculty and alumni, and then the appointment as dean by Provost Madeline Wake and the President, Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., I made clear that continuing to lead the school in the essential direction in which Howard had led us would be my main goal. Surely this has been made easier by the extraordinary leadership that Distinguished Professor Janine P. Geske provided during the past year as interim dean.

Of course, there should be no misimpression that I will seek simply to emulate Howard. Even leaving aside that we were from



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different parts of Chicago (a small point perhaps to most of you, but a large point, I assure you, to us), there were differences between us based on our backgrounds, our faiths, and some of our interests and points of emphasis.

But there was entire agreement on the two points that I regard as the most important goals of the Law School: to graduate attorneys who have received a rigorous legal education and thus are well grounded in legal fundamentals and to graduate individuals who, to a greater extent than when they arrived, are prepared to seek to fulfill the historic Jesuit mission of being "men and women for others." I do not think that Howard Eisenberg invented these principles, and some of them I am sure I learned in my own previous experience at a Jesuit institution in attending St. Ignatius in Chicago for high school. Yet, at the same time, I do think that I have benefited both personally and professionally from having had the opportunity to learn from Howard Eisenberg's example.

There is much more that I wish to tell you about Marquette Law School. And I will do so in the future—using columns such as this and other fora to make the case for the school—for I anticipate being dean for a while and serving throughout as a vigorous advocate for the Law School. But however much else there may be to say, the foregoing should suffice for now, for it is the heart of the matter. •