Dear Fellow Alumni,

On May 22, 2008, hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Marquette University Law School, together with distinguished community leaders, gathered on Tory Hill to break ground for Ray and Kay Eckstein Hall. During the ceremonies, I paused to contemplate the enormity of the day: I could not think of a more exciting and proud time for us all to be alumni of Marquette University Law School.

While it is easy to understand the many benefits that this magnificent new building will bring to the lives of faculty, staff, and future students, I believe that the building is almost as important for the alumni, for several reasons. It is not merely that the groundbreaking reflects the extraordinary generosity of Ray and Kay Eckstein, Joseph Zilber, and other alumni who made the day possible, or that the finished product will reflect, one hopes, the support of hundreds of other alumni—although both these things are true.

But beyond the financial matters, the building is significant for alumni because of its capacity to serve as a national showcase for the substantive aspects of Marquette University Law School. The facility will enable us to cast a spotlight on the academic excellence, community leadership, and outreach efforts that are increasingly occurring at the school. In other words, I believe that Eckstein Hall will help Marquette Law School to be known better throughout the region and the country.

As president of the Law Alumni Association Board, I would like personally to invite you to get involved in the Marquette Law Alumni Association, even before Eckstein Hall opens in 2010. We serve as ambassadors for the Law School, assist with recruiting and mentoring of students, provide opportunities for alumni networking, recognize and honor distinguished alumni, and much more. In short, we do whatever we can as law alumni to support the University’s mission of Excellence, Faith, Leadership, and Service.

You can join in our mission by attending Law Alumni Association events, both in Milwaukee and other parts of the country, helping out on a committee, mentoring a student, submitting a nomination for our annual alumni awards, or in any number of other ways. Of course, with significant fundraising still needed for Eckstein Hall and with additional fundraising needs for scholarships, your financial contributions at every denomination are critically important and greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about the Law Alumni Association, we list here all of the current members of the Board. Please feel free to contact any of us or Christine Wilczynski-Vogel, Assistant Dean for External Relations, at (414) 288-3167 or christine.wv@marquette.edu for more information.

We Are Marquette!

Peter Kujawa, L’02
President
Marquette University Law Alumni Association
Marquette University conferred its 2008 Law Alumni Association Awards on four individuals who have distinguished themselves in the profession, in the business and academic communities, and in service to the public. Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of the University, helped to present the awards, together with Dean Joseph D. Kearney and the Hon. M. Joseph Donald, then-president of the Law Alumni Association. Several hundred individuals attended the awards reception, which (as always) occurred on the fourth Thursday of April, as part of the University’s Alumni Awards Weekend.

Dean Kearney noted the significance of the awards ceremony: “In addition to giving us an opportunity to honor accomplished individuals, the occasion reminds those of us at the Law School and at the larger University of the importance of what we do. We allow ourselves this evening to infer from the individuals we honor that—some 4 or 18 or 38 or even 67 years from now—our successors at this great institution will find in the careers of our current students much that is laudable, even worthy as a model. This is what we most need from our alumni: their examples.”
**Alumnus of the Year**

**Gregory B. Conway, L’70,** received the Law School’s Alumnus of the Year Award. For almost four decades, the dean remarked, Conway has set the standard for excellence in the practice of law in Green Bay, Wis., and beyond. Even in the midst of extensive service to the profession and the larger society—including his election in 1984 as the youngest president ever of the State Bar of Wisconsin and his regular work on behalf of the United States Senators from Wisconsin in evaluating candidates for federal judgeships—there has been a professional constant.

Dean Kearney summarized it thus: “Greg Conway has been—is—a lawyer. He is unapologetic for, indeed proud of, the good that lawyers can do in society through their vigorous representation of their clients’ interests.” More broadly still, in the words of one of his nominators, “Through his dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of the legal profession, Greg’s life exemplifies the standard to which all Marquette lawyers should aspire.”

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Ralph J. Huiras, L’41,** received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Huiras, who was born just as his father was graduating as a member of the Law School’s Class of 1918, has had a remarkably varied career. Excused from his last set of exams in 1941 on account of having received a “summons” from J. Edgar Hoover to report to Washington, D.C., to join the FBI, Huiras returned to Wisconsin and his native Ozaukee County in 1948. For the ensuing six decades, he has practiced law (his office remains in Port Washington), successfully pursued business activities (running and expanding a set of banks in the area), and served as an elected official and otherwise engaged citizen (e.g., as a supervisor in Ozaukee County).

Yet it is Huiras’s work within the past five years, as one of the earliest advocates for the construction of an entirely new law facility, to which Dean Kearney particularly pointed in presenting the award. As the dean remarked, “How easy it would have been for Ralph Huiras, who in recent years had underwritten important renovation and reconfiguration of the existing building, to oppose any proposal that might have had us walking away from it. But Ralph was, as I now know him relentlessly to be, focused on the future.”

**All-University Alumni of the Year Award**

At the Alumni National Awards Dinner marking the conclusion of the 2008 Alumni Awards Weekend, **Ray Eckstein, L’49**, and his wife, **Kay, Sp’49**, were honored with the University’s Alumni of the Year Award. The award was presented by Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of Marquette University, who cited, to be sure, the Ecksteins’ transformative $51 million gift in support of the construction of a new law facility, but also their inspiring example as parents, grandparents, entrepreneurs, and dedicated Marquette alumni. In accepting the award, the Ecksteins reiterated their hope that their gift would inspire others to do more for Marquette than they might once have thought possible.
Please join us at the Spring 2009 Law Alumni Awards.

Thursday, April 23, 2009
Alumni Memorial Union
Monaghan Ballroom
5:30 p.m., reception
6 p.m., program

Robert J. Berdan, L’75
Alumnus of the Year

Larry B. Brueggeman, L’69
Lifetime Achievement Award

Kristi L. Schoepfer, L’01
Charles W. Mentkowski Sports Law Alumna of the Year

Robert E. Webb, Jr., L’97
Howard B. Eisenberg Service Award

Once again, a Marquette lawyer—Joseph J. Zilber, Bus Ad ’39, L’41—will receive the University’s Alumnus of the Year Award at the National Alumni Awards Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

In addition, Richard M. McDermott, Eng’91, L’94, will receive the University’s Spirit of Marquette Award.