Try as we might, the *Marquette Lawyer* magazine cannot altogether capture the greatest work of Marquette University Law School. That work consists of the study of the law by individual Marquette law students and their formation of themselves into Marquette lawyers. Whether it is in quiet reading (and, one hopes, rereading) or in discussion with classmates (advisedly sometimes in study groups) or in practice sessions preparing for the culmination of a Trial Advocacy course, this work extends well beyond the classrooms, in the other extraordinary venues of Eckstein Hall, including the Aitken Reading Room, Zilber Forum, Huiras Lounge, and Boden Publications Suite. It also occurs late at night in coffee shops and apartments—and in just about any other place where a Marquette law student may be found.

To be sure, other great work, even of our law students, can be glimpsed here. Pages 6–7 of this magazine provide some snapshots or statistics concerning the contributions in the community—in particular, the pro bono work—that the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics and other law school programs coordinate but that only individuals directly provide. The preceding entries (pages 4–5) give a sense of some of the professors—experienced (Professor Andrea Schneider) and new (Professor Alex Lemann)—and may hint at why some of our students are inspired in particular directions.

The magazine provides news about other, less-intuitive contributions of Marquette Law School. For example, the new Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education is the topic of the cover story (pages 8–13). The article traces the essential history of our public policy initiative—our Lubar Center, as we now call it—over the past decade or more and should be of wide interest. We are grateful that part of our history includes the interest of Shel and Marianne Lubar in associating with us, and we try to capture parts of their story as well (pages 14–21).

The magazine also promotes our mission through its direct exploration of important issues of law and public policy. Howard Shelanski, the former “regulatory czar” in the Obama administration, expands upon his Boden Lecture last year in an essay here (pages 22–33). He provides a powerful assessment of the challenges that today’s politics pose to policy making in the regulatory sphere. With support from the Law School’s Adrian P. Schoone Fund for the Study of Wisconsin Law and Legal Institutions, we take up (pages 34–43) the question raised on the back cover of the recent issue of magazine: What does the extraordinary decline in the incidence of civil trials mean for the profession and the larger society? Chief Justice Patience Roggensack also sets forth an important question: In her Hallows Lecture (pages 45–51), she asks the Wisconsin legal community to consider and discuss whether some of the criticisms directed at courts these days are more harmful than helpful.

The final pages of the magazine, in their own way, do the most to reflect the Law School’s greatest work. From the short Class Notes, the longer profiles of two alumni, and the remarks at the judicial investitures of two others, we can peek into the careers of individuals who, at the beginning of their time in the profession, found their home—and perhaps some inspiration—in Marquette University Law School.

We offer you such glimpses, news, and essays in this latest issue of the *Marquette Lawyer.*

Joseph D. Kearney
*Dean and Professor of Law*